

The Arc WI County Summary Report

Information about the Applicant

The Arc Wisconsin is a state office of The Arc of the United States (The Arc) and has served individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families since 1960 by promoting and protecting the human and civil rights of people with IDD and their families. The Arc Wisconsin's mission is to improve the quality of life, expand opportunities, and secure full inclusion and participation of people with IDD in the community throughout their lifetimes in partnership with families and supporters. We strive to promote awareness and respect for the value, contributions, and rights of all people with IDD and have served individuals and their families through our locally affiliated chapters across the state. The Arc Wisconsin works to develop programs and advocate for public policy changes giving people with IDD the opportunity to learn, live, and work inclusively in their communities.

Over the past year with the support of the Wispact Foundation, The Arc Wisconsin implemented The Arc Wisconsin Academy and successfully completed a round of learning opportunities that helped people with IDD increase their leadership skills, improved their well-being, and learned to advocate for themselves and others. Built upon the principle of self-determination, these courses were designed by experts in the field of IDD for effective learning for self-advocates and for residents of Wisconsin and delivered alongside self-advocate trainers.

Building on this success, The Arc Wisconsin is requesting funding from the Wispact Foundation, as a champion of self-determination, to launch a new series of learning opportunities for people with IDD devoted to The Art of Storytelling. These virtual trainings will be developed and provided in partnership with self-advocates and will be responsive to identified needs through informal surveying at the October 2022 Self-Determination Conference. We know that effective storytelling moves hearts and minds. Self-advocates sharing their lived experience through a story tailored to achieve awareness, knowledge and understanding is a gamechanger. Storytelling is empowering for self-advocates and once mastered, is a useful tool to influence stakeholders, policymakers, and potential employers.

Statement of Need

People with IDD are often not given a voice even though their lived experience is essential to inform public policy around issues that impact their lives. This is at the heart of the adopted rallying call of "Nothing About Us Without Us" among the disability self-advocate community and their essential voices in the disability rights movement. Recent polling conducted by The Arc suggests that the general population lacks understanding about IDD and underestimates what people with IDD are capable of in living a fulfilling life as valued members of their community. To increase visibility and understanding, The Arc Wisconsin is committed to working with people with IDD and their families to amplify their stories, call for recognition of

their human dignity and the day-to-day challenges they face, affirm their abilities and contributions, and advocate for change.

Storytelling is key to this success. Experience teaches us that you don't have to know the intricacies of Medicaid and the law to be an effective advocate. Telling the story of your lived experience is impactful, memorable, and influential. By guiding, mentoring, and strengthening storytelling skills through these proposed workshops by self-advocates and with self-advocates, The Arc Wisconsin will elevate the voices to better prepared and empowered to advocate for themselves and promote positive public policy changes to improve their lives.

The Arc Wisconsin is requesting the support of the Wispact Foundation as a trusted partner invested in promoting and furthering self-determination of individuals with disabilities. We have also submitted a request to CUNA Mutual Foundation to support the funding gap for The Art of Storytelling project. At this time, there is no other funding committed to this project.

Project Goals and Expected Benefits

Empowerment, leadership development, and advocacy led by and for people with IDD		
Goal	Short term objectives	Measurement
Build a team of empowered activists confident in their ability to effect change and better prepared to engage in advocacy for themselves and others with IDD through effective storytelling.	Generate buzz excitement, and awareness among the IDD community about the art of storytelling as a vehicle to promote change for the better.	Reach of Facebook posts and engagement, engagement in private Facebook group for self-advocates, visits to dedicated website, conference survey engagement
	Develop workshop around the art of storytelling with compelling content that participants find helpful in framing their stories of lived experience	Pre- and post-survey of participants
	Recruit 30-40 self-advocates to participate in the workshop (15-20 per workshop)	Registrations for workshops and attendance documentation
	Goal setting among workshop participants to use their new skill set to take one advocacy action of their choice	Responses to workshop goal-setting prompts and commitment to action forms

Project Implementation Plan

The State Director of The Arc of Wisconsin, Deb Sybell, will work with identified self-advocates on developing the course and promoting enrollment. Deb is a seasoned government relations professional with more than ten years of experience as a lobbyist, grassroots organizer, and trainer. Deb and identified self-advocates will teach the course, and work with the Social Media Assistant to recruit participants and disseminate program impact.

Date	Activity	Responsible
December 2022	Recruitment and enrollment of participants	State Director & Social Media Asst.
Jan-Feb 2023	First round of workshops will be conducted	State Director & Self-Advocates
January 2023	Pre-Survey of participants	State Director
February 2023	Post-Survey of participants	State Director
March 2023	Follow up with participants related to goals	State Director
April-May 2023	Workshop curriculum modified based on feedback	State Director & Self-Advocates
June-July 2023	Social Media Promotion of second round of workshops	State Director & Social Media Asst.
August 2023	Recruitment and enrollment of second round of workshops	State Director
September 2023	Pre-Survey of participants	State Director
October 2023	Post-Survey of participants	State Director
November 2023	Follow up with participants related to goals	State Director
December 2023	Final Report submitted to Wispact Foundation	State Director

Evaluation Plan

In collaboration with self-advocates, Deb Sybell will document interest and engagement in storytelling through surveys, Facebook interest and visits to dedicated website. Pre- and Post- surveys of workshop participants will be used to track progress as well as goal-setting and anecdotal stories.

Budget

Project Budget

Revenue

Wispact Foundation (requested)	\$10,000
CUNA Mutual (pending)	\$ 7,625
Total Revenue	\$17,625

Project Budget

State Director (Program Lead)	\$5,874
ZOOM Subscription	\$ 200
Self-Advocate Stipends	\$3,000
The Art of Storytelling Scholarships	\$4,000
Program Operating Expenses	\$1,033

	\$ 957
Indirect Expenses @17%	<u>\$ 2,561</u>
TOTAL Project Budget	\$17,625

Staff Recommendation

The grant application can be recommended for approval but with some adjustments to the amount. The line items for Self-Advocate Stipends and Art of Story Telling Scholarships directly benefit the persons with disabilities and a grant in the amount of \$7,000.00. These costs align with the initiatives of the foundation.