

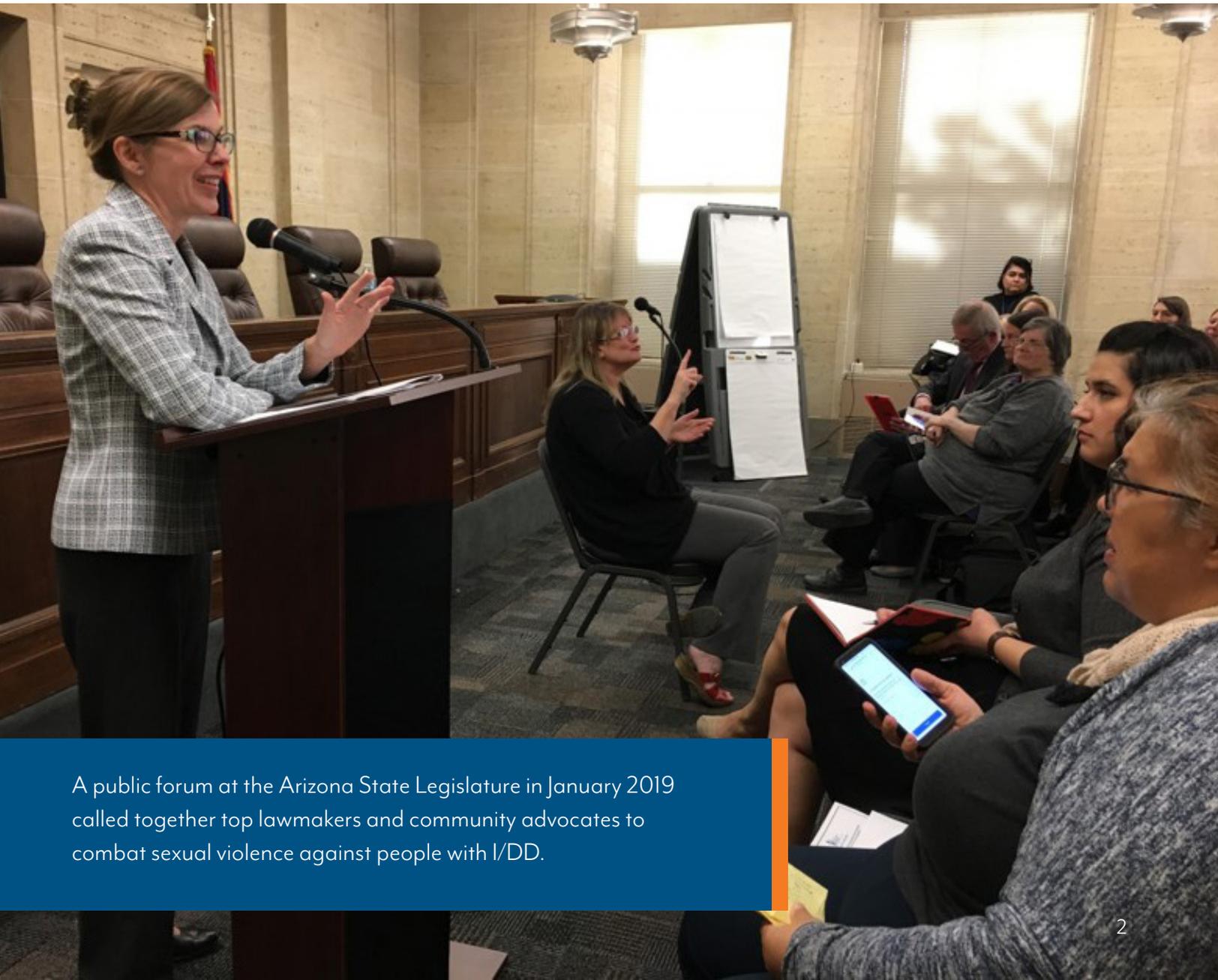


FY19 ANNUAL REPORT



A CALL TO ACTION

There are times when we are called to rise up, shine a light into the darkness and meet dramatic challenges head-on. This past year was such a time for the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council. We continued to fund and work on projects involving our main goals of employment, community inclusion, and self-advocacy. However, in 2019 we chose to strongly focus on a new goal: fighting abuse and neglect of Arizonans with intellectual and developmental disabilities. A local sexual assault case drew international attention and Council members and allies were called to collaborative action in ways like never before. We are grateful for our community partners and their hard work supporting our projects and initiatives in 2019.



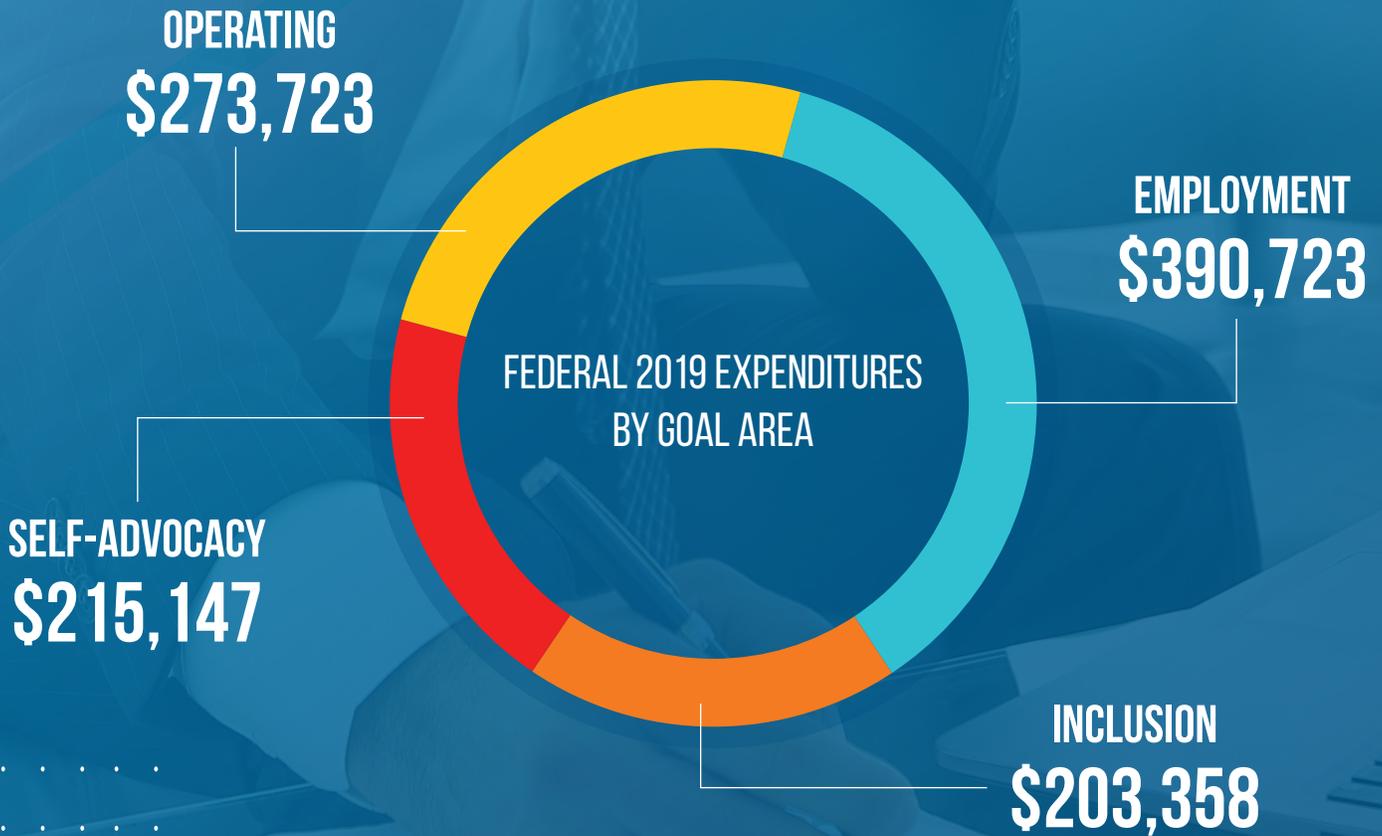
A public forum at the Arizona State Legislature in January 2019 called together top lawmakers and community advocates to combat sexual violence against people with I/DD.

FINANCIAL REPORT

\$1,082,950

EXPENDED IN FY2019

During fiscal year 2019, 405 self-advocates, 126 family members, and 1,633 professionals were involved in Council activities. More than 676 individuals lived in urban regions; 240 were from rural areas.



In 2019, the Council spent **\$1,082,950** in federal funding to support programs and operations.

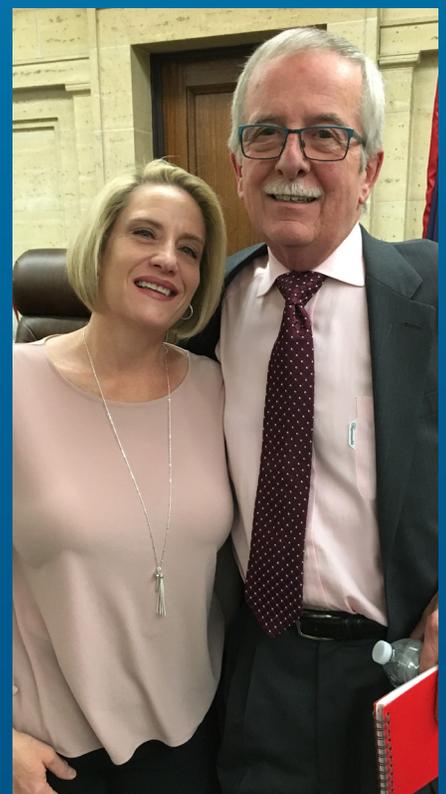
2019 ACHIEVEMENTS

INCLUSION

- Awarded two grants for inclusive education for preschool students to the Arizona Department of Education that trained 20 preschool teachers around the state
- Awarded a grant to Northern Arizona University's Institute on Human Development to work with school districts on the Navajo Nation training teachers focused on preschoolers with autism
- Funded workshops for summer camp staff at the Arizona Science Center on how to include kids with developmental disabilities in a partnership with the Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center

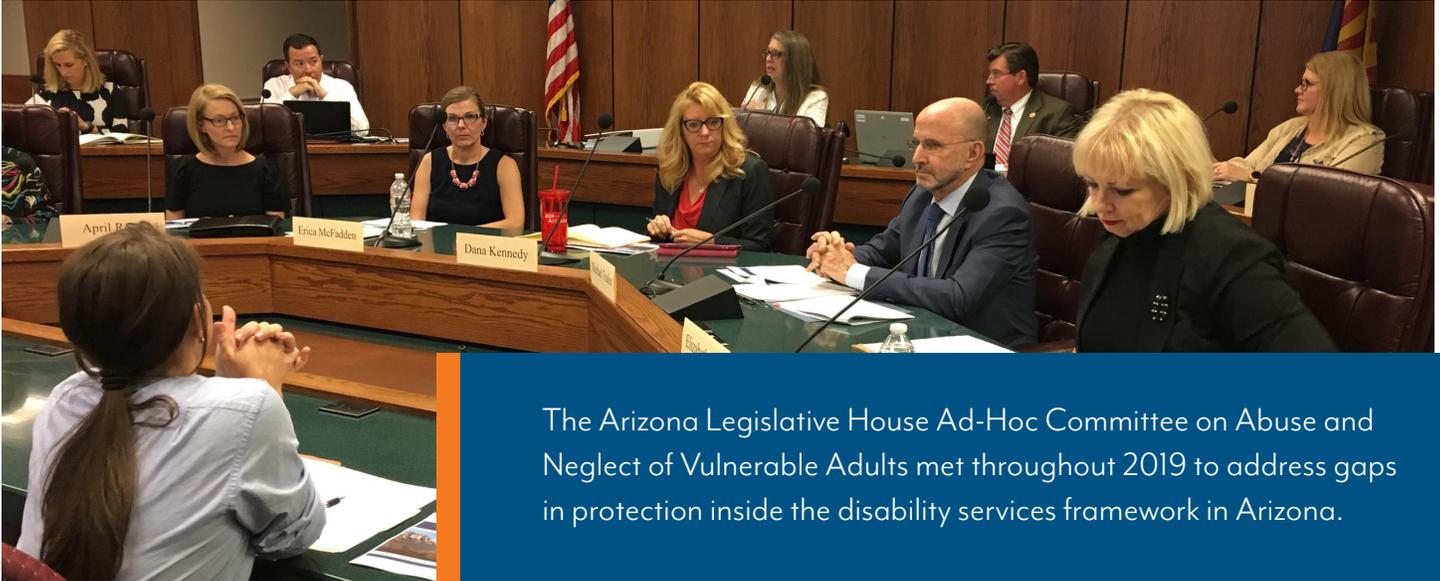
SELF-ADVOCACY

- Trained more than 100 self-advocates in leadership and voting rights with the Spina Bifida Association of Arizona in Tucson, Greyhills Academy in Tuba City, and the Arizona Center for Disability Law in Phoenix
- Created a stakeholder coalition with the Southwest Institute for Families and Children to measure the community's understanding of Supported Decision-Making, a legal alternative to guardianship. The white paper findings shaped the strategic plan for next year around training, curriculum development, and legislation
- Coordinated a new statewide self-advocacy coalition, Self-Advocacy Solutions, focused on motivating cross-disability engagement, increasing public policy activity, and planting new self-advocacy leadership groups in Arizona to provide more chances for people with disabilities to speak up



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Fighting Abuse and Neglect



The Arizona Legislative House Ad-Hoc Committee on Abuse and Neglect of Vulnerable Adults met throughout 2019 to address gaps in protection inside the disability services framework in Arizona.

The Council played a significant role in 2019 raising awareness about high rates of abuse and neglect against individuals with I/DD. In December 2018, news broke about a horrific rape case at a Phoenix intermediate care facility. It immediately sharpened the Council’s focus for the remainder of the year. Staffers produced a report, “Sexual Abuse of Arizonans with Developmental and Other Disabilities” and quickly called a public forum with top lawmakers and advocates. This set in motion multiple advisory roles in the state House of Representatives, the Governor’s Task Force on Abuse and Neglect of Vulnerable Adults, the Adult Protective Services program, and as a leader with the Sexual Violence Prevention Collaborative first organized by the Council in September 2018.

Other actions taken by the Council:

- Issued a \$92,000 research grant to the Improvement Assurance Group to study the problem and measure the effectiveness of how the state’s protection systems responds to abuse and neglect, with findings to be released in 2020
- Produced a video raising awareness of abuse of Arizonans with disabilities and encouraging people to report abuse

- Conducted multiple presentations on the high rate and impact of abuse and neglect of individuals with I/DD, particularly sexual abuse
- Created the first-ever list of trauma-informed counseling options for victims with I/DD in Arizona
- Collected a list of curriculum geared toward self-advocates, families, and providers on healthy relationships, sexuality, and preventing abuse
- Researched effectiveness of state’s Adult Protective Services system and successfully advocated for easier access to APS Registry for employers and members of the public
- Successfully pushed for Division of Developmental Disabilities residential monitoring reports to be publicly posted online
- Educated lawmakers on impact of laws requiring more data sharing between state agencies, laws requiring all intermediate care facilities to carry state licenses, and laws banning retaliation against someone who reports abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults

EMPLOYMENT

The City of Tempe's BEST project aims to promote and replicate model programs to expand employment opportunities. A second year was awarded to the city of Tempe's BEST project, with the goal of fully employing individuals with I/DD across all positions in city government, working a minimum of 20 hours earning a competitive wage. Prior to the first year contract period ending, the City of Tempe had 17 applicants being considered for various city positions. One of the most important aspects of this contract is the increase in knowledge by city officials and employees on the benefits of workplace diversity and hiring individuals with I/DD. Another significant benefit is the BEST program model, which was developed as a result of ADDPC funding, will be shared and replicated with other municipalities who want to increase workplace diversity and hire individuals with I/DD.



Mayor Mark Mitchell and other officials with the City of Tempe accept an ADDPC grant award at a city council meeting in December 2018. The Tempe BEST project aims to train and hire people with I/DD across city government.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

The Power of Disability Employment

This past year, the Council partnered with the Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts - Boston to produce a groundbreaking study, “The Power of Disability Employment: The Impact on Arizona’s Economy.”

This first of its kind report measured the economic impacts of increasing the employment of individuals with disabilities in Arizona and analyzed how the state can improve its efforts in hiring and retaining workers.

The study also looked at Arizona’s state systems that support employment to determine what’s working and what’s not. Among the findings: about one in three Arizonans with disabilities are employed compared to three out of four people without disabilities.

If Arizona increased the rate of workforce participation of workers with disabilities by 6 percentage points over a span of a decade:

- The state would receive an annual increase of between \$281 million and \$818 million in gross domestic product (GDP)
- In the short term, up to \$41.5 million tax in additional state tax revenue would be generated each year
- Up to 20,420 new jobs would be created over the next decade

“This study validates the economic power workers with disabilities bring to our state,” said Erica McFadden, executive director of ADDPC. **“We are investing in our bottom line when we provide opportunities and accommodations to job seekers of every ability.”**



J.J. Rico interviews Dr. Cady Landa about an employment report she co-authored for the Council, “The Power of Disability Employment: The Impact to Arizona’s Economy.”

ADA COORDINATOR COALITION



Members of the ADA Coordinators Coalition tour Talking Stick Arena to learn about the venue's accessible features in March 2019.



Hard-working Americans with Disabilities Act coordinators around the state came together and revived a tradition of meeting together in 2019. The Council helped kick off this effort after surveying all 91 cities and towns in Arizona and sharing how local citizens report and file complaints about ADA access barriers. "Improving Disability Access" revealed many municipalities want more assistance serving residents better and would like to take advantage of helpful local resources.

Rural and urban representatives meet monthly and crowdsource ADA issues together at the Council office. Coordinators invite national experts and learn best practices and online tools. Popular topics revolve around service animal regulations, guidelines for physical structures, and methods to include individuals with communication disabilities in all activities.

CULTURAL COMPETENCY

The Council is currently leading a 5-year grant from Georgetown University aimed at increasing the cultural capacity of Arizona's disability services system.



Council staff gave a bilingual presentation on family disability resources in partnership with El Grupo de Apoyo para Niños Especiales, a parent support group in the West Valley, in February 2019.



Arizona is one of the top states for refugee resettlement. Under the Georgetown initiative, the biggest accomplishment this year was bringing together refugee organizations with disability groups for cross-training and the creation of a resource guide to help refugees with disabilities receive the right services.

A very special thanks to our 2019 interns:
Annie Eldon, Dallas Goldring, and Sarah Billington

OUR COUNCIL

John Black – Chair, Advocate

Maureen Casey – Parent

Michael Coen – Older Americans Act Organization, Representative

Monica Cooper – Self-advocate

David Copins – Self-advocate

Adam Cruz – Self-advocate

John Eckhardt – Parent

Jamie Edgin – University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Representative, University of Arizona

George Garcia – Self-advocate

Traci Gruenberger – Nonprofit Organization Representative, Mosaic

Matthew Isiogu – Arizona Health Care Cost Containment Services, Representative

Angelina James – Parent

Katharine Levandowsky – Department of Health Services, Representative

Scott Lindbloom – Self-advocate

Kristen Mackey – Rehabilitation Services Agency, Representative

Lori Masseur – Department of Education, Representative

Ray Morris – Parent

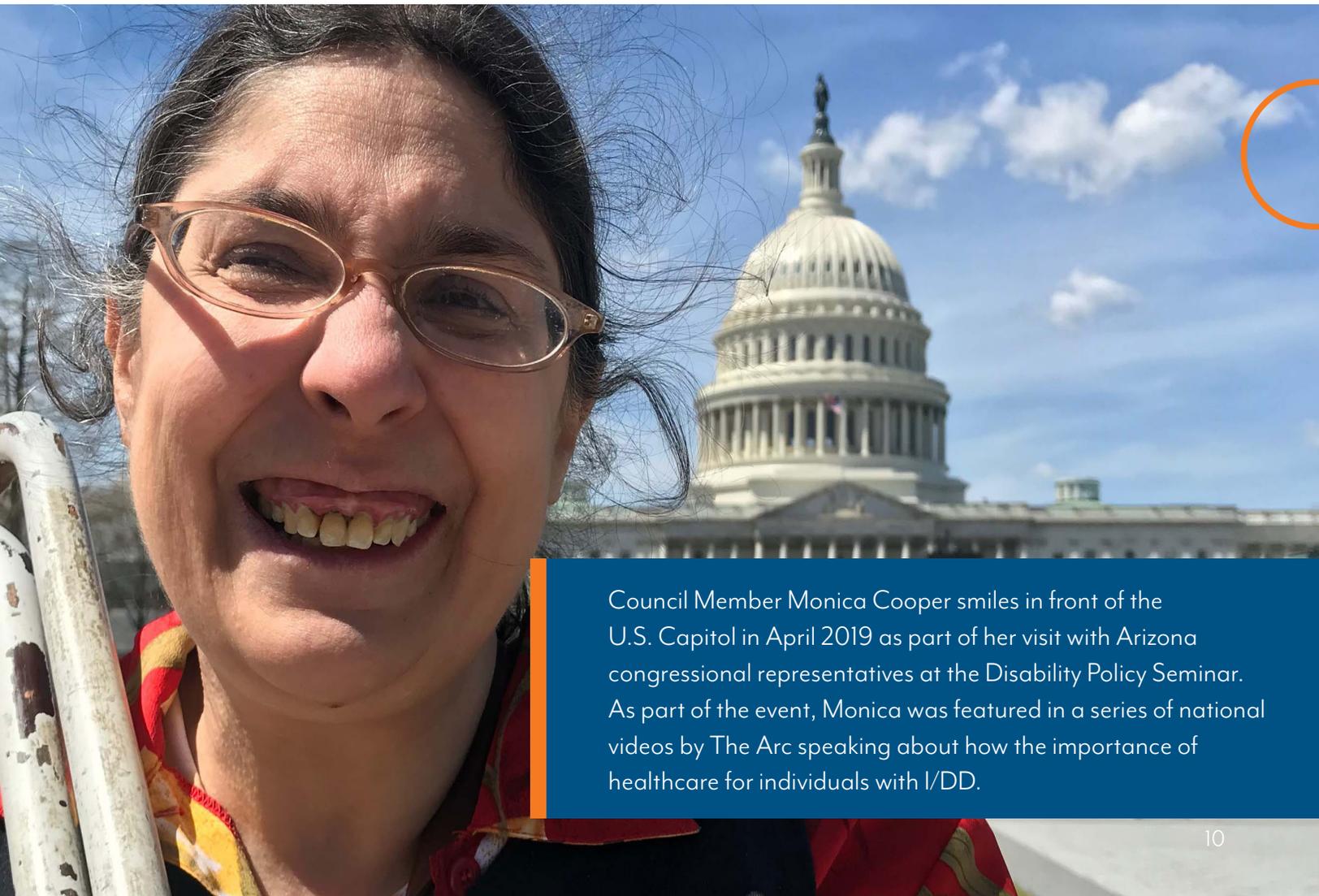
Janna Murrell – Parent

J.J. Rico – Protection and Advocacy Agency Representative, Arizona Center for Disability Law

Jason Snead – Self-advocate

Thomas Uno – University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Representative, Northern Arizona University

Melissa Van Hook – Vice-Chair, Parent



Council Member Monica Cooper smiles in front of the U.S. Capitol in April 2019 as part of her visit with Arizona congressional representatives at the Disability Policy Seminar. As part of the event, Monica was featured in a series of national videos by The Arc speaking about how the importance of healthcare for individuals with I/DD.



The Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council is made up of individuals with developmental disabilities, family members, professional stakeholders, and state agency representatives appointed by the Governor of Arizona.

We envision one community working together to achieve full inclusion and participation of people with developmental disabilities.

We collect and publish research, fund grants, advance inclusion through advocacy, and promote self-determination.



Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

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