

July 22, 2010

From The Arc of the US:

We are thrilled to announce that we have launched a landmark public opinion survey that will enable The Arc to involve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in order to understand the services they presently receive, need and want. The Arc **FINDS (Family and Individual Needs for Disability Supports)** research is now live and available to families, individuals and self-advocates, and we urge you to get everyone to participate.

We Need Your Help in Getting the Word Out

We need for you, our chapter leaders, promote the FINDS survey within your local communities, to your networks, to self-advocates, and to all the families and caregivers who are the recipients of your hard work and dedication. The direct benefits to you are:

- 1) The FINDS survey gives families a meaningful opportunity to share their perspectives;
- 2) Promoting the FINDS survey is a key tactic of The Arc's new strategic framework and puts the efforts of all of our chapters in line with The Arc's leadership in moving this initiative forward;
- 3) Your chapter will receive the results of the survey and also more targeted data within state or regional areas that can be used as a needs assessment resource;
- 4) Information generated from the FINDS survey is anticipated to influence program development;
- 5) Families that might not be currently connected to your local chapter may get connected as a result of the survey and our media visibility;
- 6) Results will be used to inform legislators at federal and state levels in advocating for better resources to support your good work; and
- 7) The meat of this survey will provide our rebranding initiative with a hook to gain much-needed PR coverage nationally, as well as within your local communities.

The link for the survey may be found from our website: www.thearc.org or by going directly to: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TheArcFINDS2010>

We plan to share the summary results at The Arc's National Convention, November 3 – 6, 2010 in Orlando, Florida.