



The Arc of Illinois Annual Convention Award Nominations

The Arc of Illinois is now accepting nominations for the following awards which will be presented at the Annual Convention, April 29 – 30, 2026.

- **Direct Support Professional or Paraprofessional Award**
- **Distinguished Service Award**
- **Leadership Award**

- **Outstanding Family Member Advocate Award**
- **QIDP/Case Manager Award**
- **Self-Advocacy Award**
- **Volunteer of the Year Award**

Please use the enclosed forms to nominate an individual or organization for an award. You may attach any other materials which you feel would help the awarding committee in their decision. When nominating an individual, consider the following questions:

- How did the person, organization, or program support The Arc of Illinois mission?
- How did they help enhance the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities?
- Why should the person, or program, be considered for an award?

Each agency may submit two nominations per Award Category.

Please send the forms along with all other materials no later than **February 27, 2026** to The Arc of Illinois, 7550 183rd Street, Tinley Park, IL 60477 or email to kim@thearcofil.org. If you have any questions, please call Kim Swanson at 815.464.1832 ext 1024. A description of each award category follows. Please check the appropriate box for which the nomination is being submitted.

The Arc of Illinois Annual Convention Award Nominations

☐ **Direct Support Professional Award**

To acknowledge an individual for their outstanding, dedicated direct care service and support to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

☐ **Outstanding Family Member Advocate Award**

To honor an exceptional individual who actively devotes time and energy to enhance life experiences for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

☐ **Distinguished Service Award**

To acknowledge an organization that offers an exemplary, unique and innovative program resulting in people with intellectual and developmental disabilities achieving full participation in the life of the community. This award is presented to the provider whose services are a model of excellence to others promoting inclusive environments.

☐ **QIDP/Case Manager Award**

To acknowledge an individual for their outstanding dedicated service as a QIDP/Case Manager for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

☐ **Leadership Award**

To recognize a paid staff or a volunteer whose contributions have significantly impacted the lives of children and/or adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Recipient will be selected based upon their leadership efforts that have inspired others and influenced positive change.

☐ **Self-Advocacy Award**

This award focuses on advocacy work in Illinois by a person with an intellectual or developmental disability. Award recipients should be actively involved in a local or statewide self-advocacy group and passionate about speaking for themselves and other people to the best of their ability.

☐ **Volunteer of the Year Award**

To honor an exceptional individual who actively devotes time and energy to enhance life experiences for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Name of Nominee _____

Position _____

Organization _____ **Years of Service** _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Contact Person (if different above) _____

Nominated By _____

Position _____ **Organization** _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Write a brief paragraph (500 words or less) on why you feel this person or program should be considered for this award.

[illegible]

List Nominee's major accomplishments (up to 10).

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____