

August 31 - September 2, 2026

Summit Registration

\$50 Summit Registration fee is required for all attendees, including staff and personal support workers. Financial assistance for registration fee is available, see Form 3.

To Attend SUSO in-person at the Marriott in Bloomington-Normal, IL:

- Submit registration forms and \$50 payment.
- **Do not** reserve a hotel room until you receive a confirmation from The Arc of Illinois.
- T-Shirts will be given during check in. Register by **July 24, 2026** to receive a T-shirt in your size.
- Groups from one agency have a limit of **25 total** individuals to attend in-person, including support staff.

Personal Support Workers (PSWs)

PSWs will be onsite and available during the regular hours of the summit (Tuesday, 8:00 am - 7:00 pm; Wednesday, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm). If you need 1:1 support or support outside of the hours listed above, it is your responsibility for securing a PSW. Contact LIFE CIL for PSW referrals.

Attending this event gives permission for your photo or video to be in brochures, websites, etc. If you do not want your picture taken and published, please contact Becca Schroeder at 815-464-1832 extension 1018.

To Attend SUSO virtually:

- Submit registration forms and \$50 payment.
- **There is a limit of 30 individuals from one agency to apply for a stipend.** Please reach out if you have a larger group wanting to attend.
- **T-SHIRT DEADLINE:** In order to mail your t-shirt in time for SUSO, please register by **July 24, 2026**. After this date, we cannot guarantee you will receive your t-shirt by SUSO. T-Shirts will be mailed to the address on your registration.
- Make sure your correct email address is listed on your registration form to receive the Zoom link.

Monday, August 31, 2026 – AGENDA

4:00 – 6:00 pm	IN PERSON ONLY: Check in at registration table; dinner is on your own
6:00 – 7:00 pm	IN PERSON ONLY: The ICDD Community Engagement and Trivia Hour Join the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities (ICDD) for an hour of engagement and discussion about current issues and future Council events. Sprinkled throughout the discussion, session leaders will test your knowledge of Speak Up and Speak Out!, ICDD, and Illinois History!

Tuesday, September 1, 2026 – AGENDA

8:00 am	IN PERSON ONLY: Check in at registration table and visit with exhibitors Continental Breakfast		
9:00 – 9:15 am	ALL: Welcome and Housekeeping Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities		
9:15 – 10:30 am	ALL: Keynote: “Building Bridges. Breaking Barriers. The Ripple Effect” presented by Michael Wayne O’Neill What happens when one person finds the courage to speak up? A ripple effect of change begins. In this inspiring keynote, Michael Wayne shares his journey from a nonverbal child with severe autism to an award-winning journalist, advocate, and speaker. Through his personal story and practical insights, attendees will discover the power of self-advocacy, inclusion, and supporting one another. Participants will be challenged to step beyond their comfort zone, embrace their unique strengths, and use their voices to create positive change. Together, we can build bridges, break barriers, and create a ripple effect that strengthens our communities for generations to come.		
10:30 – 11:00 am	Break		
11:00 – 11:45 am Breakout Sessions All Sessions will be recorded and shared	ALL: #1 Breakout Session Alexandra Baig “Work More and Keep Your Social Security and Medicaid” This presentation uses plain language, visuals and real life stories to help self-advocates understand how they can use Social Security and Medicaid work incentives to earn more while still keeping their benefits and services.	IN PERSON ONLY: #2 Breakout Session Timotheus “T.J.” Gordon, Jr. “Lead On: Getting Involved in Civic Engagement... Besides Voting” In this session, Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) board member and self-advocate T.J. Gordon will give examples of how you can speak up and speak out in your community, like joining a state or local board, joining a state or local commission on things you care about, or running for office and positions in your area or group.	IN PERSON ONLY: #3 Breakout Session Sheila Cull “More than Words: Dysarthria, Education, and Being Heard” Led by a self-advocate with a dysarthric voice, this session includes lived experience, explores the impact of communication disabilities, and highlights the need for teaching dysarthria in schools and colleges to promote understanding, support, and inclusion.
12:00 – 1:45 pm	Lunch and Open Mic		

Tuesday, September 1, 2026 – AGENDA Continued

2:00 – 2:45 pm	ALL: #4 Breakout Session Kaela Denny, April McClees, Karthik Ramalingam, Jennifer Thibodeaux Sands “Stronger Together: Developing Effective Advocacy Skills and a Powerful Community Network” Going Home Coalition members share on developing legislative advocacy skills and working as a community to develop a powerful Statewide Network of Regional Advocacy Hubs.	IN PERSON ONLY: #5 Breakout Session Stephanie Kanter “Building My Financial Strength with My IL ABLE Account” A self-advocate who is an IL ABLE Account Owner, and their supporter, will discuss how owning an IL ABLE Account helps foster self-determination and independent decision making while building their financial strength and resilience.	IN PERSON ONLY: #6 Breakout Session Tavarus Wesley “My SABE SARTAC Fellowship Journey” Learn about Tavarus’ SABE SARTAC Fellowship journey which ran from January – August 2026. Tavarus will share about the steps of their project and the Witness Slip resource they developed to help self- advocates use their voices.
Breakout Sessions			
All Sessions will be recorded and shared			
2:45 – 3:00 pm	Break		
3:00 – 4:00 pm	ALL: Severe Weather Safety presented by Adam Cooper, Alex Tabor, and Carla Crawford September is National Preparedness Month. With materials from the National Weather Service designed for individuals who have disabilities, we will review safety practices for heat, floods, tornadoes, lightning, cold, and wildfires.		
5:00 – 7:00 pm	IN PERSON ONLY: Dinner		
7:00 – 10:00 pm	IN PERSON ONLY: Costume Ball Dress in Costume! Dress Super Fancy! Come as You Are! Anything goes at the Biggest Dance of the Year!		

Wednesday, September 2, 2026 – AGENDA

8:00 – 9:00 am	IN PERSON ONLY: Continental Breakfast; visit with exhibitors
9:00 – 10:00 am	ALL: Legislative Panel Hear from the people in Springfield who work to make laws so people with disabilities in Illinois have better lives.
10:00 – 10:30 am	Break – Check out of rooms – hold luggage with registration
10:30 – 11:15 am	ALL: “Nothing About Us Without Us. Inclusion of Immigrants with Disabilities” presented by Claudia Castillo Ayala and Jae Jin Pak, University of Illinois Chicago, Department of Disability & Human Development This Workshop shares information on the intersection of disability to Immigrant and refugee communities. Session will highlight the needs, concerns, and issues faced by migrants and refugees with disabilities as well as the rights and protections provided by the constitution and laws. Participants will gain information and resources to better support and speak up and speak out for immigrants & refugees with disabilities in IL.
11:15 – 11:30 am	Break
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	ALL: Keynote presented by Mia Ives-Rublee Mia Ives-Rublee is the senior director for the Disability Justice Initiative at American Progress. Ives-Rublee’s work pushed for better access to disability accommodations at progressive events and more policy platforms inclusive of the disability community.
12:30 pm	Boxed Lunch – Hang out little longer or take it to go!

Registration Fee

\$50 Summit Registration fee is required for all attendees, including personal support workers. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kim Swanson, 815.464.1832 x1024, kim@thearcofil.org.

Hotel and Travel Information

SUSO will be at the Marriott Hotel in Bloomington-Normal, IL.

Marriott Hotel
201 Broadway
Normal, IL 61761

Do not reserve a hotel room or book transportation until you receive a registration confirmation.

The single and double hotel rate is \$192.33 including tax per night. Double rooms are two queen beds and a single room is one king bed and one queen size pull out sofa sleeper. If you are applying for a stipend to help cover the cost of the hotel, do not make reservations. The Arc of Illinois will book your rooms and share any accommodation requests with the hotel.

There are a limited number of accessible rooms. **If you need an accessible room, please contact Becca Schroeder directly at 815.464.1832 or becca@thearcofil.org.**

There is an Amtrak Train Station across the street from the hotel. To make a train reservation, call Amtrak at 1.800.872.7245.

A parking garage is attached to the hotel. The height clearance is 7 feet, 7 inches on the ground floor, and 7 feet for all other floors. Contact Becca if your vehicle will not fit in the garage.

Financial Assistance

If financial restrictions prevent you from paying your registration fee, please complete Form 3 to apply for a Summit Stipend, funded through the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities and administered by The Arc of Illinois. **Send both the registration (Form 1) and the Financial Assistance (Form 3) to The Arc of Illinois Attn: Kim Swanson, 7550 183rd Street, Tinley Park, IL 60477 or fax to 815-464-5292 or email to kim@thearcofil.org. Questions, call 815-464-1832.**

How much can I apply for?

\$150 per Person Maximum

\$350 per Family Maximum

This stipend is intended to assist you with the costs associated with the Summit and is not intended to cover all the costs. A portion of the cost is the responsibility of the participant.

Summit Registration - Form 1

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Attending: ☐ **In-Person** ☐ **Virtually**

Agency or Affiliate: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Circle or Check T-Shirt Size: ☐ **Small** ☐ **Medium** ☐ **Large**
☐ **X-Large** ☐ **2X** ☐ **3X** ☐ **4X** ☐ **5X** ☐ **Other:** _____

Are you staying at the hotel? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, who will be your Hotel Roommate: _____

Check In Date: ☐ Monday, August 31st ☐ Tuesday, September 1st

Will you be attending with a support person or PSW? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, please provide their name, contact information and T-Shirt size below:

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Agency or Affiliate: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Circle or Check T-Shirt Size: ☐ **Small** ☐ **Medium** ☐ **Large**
☐ **X-Large** ☐ **2X** ☐ **3X** ☐ **4X** ☐ **5X** ☐ **Other:** _____

For virtual attendees:

Your address is where the t-shirt will be shipped unless otherwise noted.

If we can send a group of shirts to one location, please let us know.

Accommodation Request – Form 2

We would like to accommodate as many individuals as possible during the 2026 Speak Up Speak Out Summit. **Please note that you are not limited to the items listed below. The deadline for all accommodation submissions is August 7, 2026. If you have questions, you can call Kim at 815-464-1832 extension 1024 or email at kim@thearcofil.org.**

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Check all that apply:

Do you need a sign language interpreter? ☐ Or Captioning/CART? ☐

Do you need captioning in another language? If yes, what language? _____

Do you need Braille? ☐ Large Print? ☐ Other: _____

In-Person, Only:

Do you need a Hoyer Lift? ☐

Please list any dietary restrictions: _____

Do you need an Assistive Listening Device? ☐ Shower Chair? ☐

Do you need a Nurse to give you medication? ☐

Will you need help from a PSW during the regular hours of the conference?

PSWs will be onsite and available on Tuesday, 8:00 am – 7:00 p and Wednesday, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm only.

Will you need an accessible room? ☐ If you do, please call Becca at 815-464-1832

If you have checked any of the above, please list your specific need and provide a detailed explanation below. If you need medication administered by an RN, please provide a copy of your current MAR (medical administration record). If you need more room, use the back of this page or a separate sheet.

Financial Assistance Request – Form 3**Who can apply?**

Illinois residents who are:

- A person with a developmental disability;
- An immediate family member of a person with a developmental disability;
- A guardian/foster parent of a person with a developmental disability.

Fill in the blanks that apply:

☐ I am a person with a developmental disability.

My disability is: _____

☐ My family member is a person with a developmental disability. Or I am a Guardian/Foster Parent.

Their disability is: _____

Enter amount of financial assistance needed:

There is a limit of 30 individuals attending virtually from one agency to apply for a stipend.

\$150 for individuals, \$350 for families.

Write in the lines below the financial assistance you are requesting. Financial assistance can be used towards your registration, hotel stay, or transportation.

Registration \$_____

Hotel \$_____

Transportation \$_____

TOTAL: \$_____

This stipend is intended to assist you with the costs associated with the Summit and is not intended to cover all the costs. A portion of the cost is your responsibility. When your request for assistance is approved, the stipend registration cost will be directly paid to The Arc of Illinois and the stipend share of the hotel cost will be directly paid to the Hotel. **When your stipend request for a hotel room is approved, The Arc of Illinois will book your hotel room.**

The following statement must be signed to validate this request: I am requesting assistance from The Arc of Illinois, through funding from the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities, to attend this Summit that I would be unable to attend without this support. I promise to use the funds for the stated purposes.

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____ Date: _____

SPEAK UP AND SPEAK OUT

summit

Funded by The Illinois Council on
Developmental Disabilities

7550 183rd Street
Tinley Park, IL 60477

**August 31 -
September
2, 2026**



Speak Up and Speak Out Summit

August 31 - September 2, 2026

**Stronger Together:
Protecting Our
Community**

In order to receive your t-shirt, we must have your registration form by July 24, 2026 and remember to have your size on the form!

Funded by The Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities

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