

CONTACT US

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Mission Statement: VOICE is dedicated to helping the community to create change.

Meetings: VOICE meets each Friday in Wellsville, NY. For a list of meeting locations, please email voice@alleganyarc.org.

Membership: VOICE is always looking for new members! If you have an intellectual or developmental disability, have a family member with a disability, work in the disability field, or just want to be more involved, please contact VOICE at (585) 593-5700 x 423.

For more information, or to find out how to get involved with VOICE activities in your area, please email us at: voice@alleganyarc.org



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www.AlleganyArc.org
[Facebook.com/AlleganyArc](https://www.facebook.com/AlleganyArc)

Corporate Compliance Hotline: 585-610-0240
NY State relay number: TDD 800-662-1220

*Allegany Arc is a Chapter of The Arc New York,
Member of The Arc of the United States,
and an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.*



Allegany Arc's Self Advocacy Group

www.AlleganyArc.org/services/voice

>> Public Policy Advocacy

VOICE was established on the belief that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities must be active in advocating for their own interests. Our members promote greater support and understanding for adults and children who have an intellectual and developmental disability by recommending policy change on issues ranging from education to civil rights.

Our members have worked closely with policymakers on a variety of issues including:

- budget cuts
- employment first
- Medicaid managed care

Through public policy, VOICE strives to ensure that individuals and their families can contribute to the design of and have access to disability-competent services and supports, as well as other assistance and opportunities, which promote inclusive communities.

Our Core Missions

>> Community Partnerships

VOICE partners with a variety of organizations, both within the disability community and the general public such as The Arc New York, The Arc of the United States, OPWDD (Office for People with Developmental Disabilities), SANY (Self Advocacy Association of New York State), Collaborative of New York, Houghton College, parents, legislatures, educators and other stakeholders who are committed to bettering the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

>> Social/Support Groups

Self-advocacy involves taking control of our lives and the public dialogue relating to our community. VOICE is run by and for individuals with varying intellectual and developmental disabilities. VOICE continuously introduces new opportunities to socialize and have access to the broader special needs community and culture, seeking to meet the social and community needs of its members through regular meetings and social activities.

>> Increasing Understanding & Decreasing Stereotypes

VOICE is committed to increasing public understanding of intellectual and developmental disabilities through education and combating stereotypes. We have participated in a variety of efforts to educate society on disability diversity, including the R-Word: Spread the Word to End the Word campaign and #bFair2 Direct Care campaign.

>> Other Initiatives

- VOICE Gives Back; VOICE conducts several fundraisers to benefit those less fortunate within our community including winter coat, canned food and household goods drives.
- VOICE participates in Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day; a yearly event hosted by the Developmental Disability Alliance of Western New York. The event includes a variety of trainings on current advocate issues, speakers, networking opportunities, etc.

