

The Arc of Dane County Summary Report

Information about the Applicant

The Arc-Dane County is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families. We have been providing leadership in the advocacy of individuals with IDD in Dane County for over seventy years and focus on inclusivity—the individuals we serve come from a broad spectrum of social-economic, family, and ethnic backgrounds.

In 2018 & 2019 we partnered with the Dane County Regional Airport and Delta Air Lines to provide a •Wing for All® event. In 2018, 53 participants from throughout Wisconsin and Illinois, along with a companion were able to go through the ticketing process, TSA security, and then board an airplane. In fall 2019, that number increased to 144 participants and companions.

In addition to Wings for All® providing a one-of-a-kind education, The Arc-Dane County also hosts typically between three and four social events in cooperation with local businesses on a yearly basis. We host a Winter Ball and Spring Dance in cooperation with The Madison Concourse Hotel and Governor's Club. We also work with local businesses to host a Halloween Party & Costume Contest at Pooley's Sports Bar and Event Center. These events have an attendance of typically 300 individuals and are widely viewed as THE go-to events by the IDD community.

Within all of our events we work to have inclusive volunteering opportunities where individuals with IDD can gain experiences from working events while standing along with their non-disabled peers in a typical volunteering experience. Volunteers include board members, other supporters of The Arc-Dane County, and self-advocates.

Statement of Need

The COVID 19 pandemic forced the curtailment of several of our events in 2020 and 2021, and greatly limited our fund-raising efforts, and in turn receipts, in support of these events. Consequently, our organization is in great need of financial assistance in order to plan and present our 2021-2022 educational and social events. Specially, we are requesting a Grant from the Wispact Foundation for \$10,000.00 that we can continue our efforts to provide the IDD community, their families, friends, and caregivers rich and fulfilling life experiences.

Project Goals and Expected Benefits

Our goals for events in 2022 and 2023 include:

1. Provide large social events that no one else in the Dane County area offers. These include our 3-4 social events per year including our Winter Ball, Spring Dance, Fall Ball, and Halloween Party and Costume Contest. We closely monitor Public Health Madison Dane County guidelines and adapt admission criteria to our events accordingly. Mitigation strategies may include but are not limited to requiring face coverings, proof of vaccination, and limiting the number of attendees.
2. Provide an education event that no one else in Dane County offers through our Wings for All® program at the Dane County Regional Airport. It is our intent to offer this event two times per year so our participants from across the state and their families can have regular rehearsals and build upon previous gains.
3. Provide opportunities for inclusive volunteering at all events where our self-advocates and other individuals with disabilities work side by side with their non-disabled peers.

Project Implementation Plan

The Arc-Dane County has a volunteer Board of Directors that includes self-advocates, professionals, retirees, and other community members. The Arc-Dane County has paid staff with an FTE of .5. The Board meets regularly to set time frames and assign tasks. Board members take the lead on each event and are responsible, with staff support, for requesting, encouraging, and obtaining sponsorships with corporate partners. Timeframes for events are set by the Board in conjunction with availability of event dates. Event dates change slightly each year based upon collaborating agencies and partners (i.e. The Madison Concourse and Governor’s Club, The Dane County Regional Airport, Delta Air Lines, Pooley's Sports Bar and Event Center)

Evaluation Plan

Members of the Board and staff attend all events. They collect data on all events from participants and self-advocates. Attendance levels are monitored. Wings for All® participants submit data on disability type and areas of concern prior to the event and complete a survey once the event has concluded.

Budget

Wings for All (x2)				Dances /Halloween Party		
Expenses				Expenses		
License		\$2,000.00		Supplies		\$2,000.00
Food for Volunteers		\$1,000.00		DJ		\$1,500.00
Instructional Material Development and Printing		\$5,000.00		Material Development and Promotion		\$3,200.00
				Food & Drink for Participants		\$3,500.00
Revenus				Revenues		
Corporate Sponsors		\$2,500.00		Ticket Sales		\$1,500.00
				Donations		\$1,000.00

Staff Recommendation

The grant application can be approved for the amount requested of \$10,000.00. The expenses outlined in the budget are allowable and aligned with the initiatives of the foundation. The materials inventoried on the budget would directly benefit the disabled individuals participating in the programming offered.