



Investing in Justice

How Your Support Strengthens SpArc's Mission





ArcServices.Org.SpArc

586-569-4327

SpArc@ArcServices.Org

SpArc is a robust advocate for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in the criminal justice system. Navigators, experts in human services, possess comprehensive knowledge of available support services and resources. Their primary objective is to establish stable support systems, fostering a happy life while minimizing interactions with the law.

SpArc Navigators in Action:

Inform and Empower: Guiding individuals with IDD on interactions with law enforcement, empowering informed decisions on disclosing disabilities for respectful and supportive interactions.

Explore Alternatives: Uniquely addressing specific needs, SpArc explores alternatives to incarceration for individuals with IDD in Michigan, promoting fairness and understanding.

Connect to Resources: Beyond the legal realm, facilitating access to housing, employment, medical, and psychiatric care, avoiding unnecessary contacts with law enforcement.

Educate First Responders: Proactively educating law enforcement and first responders on recognizing signs of IDD and providing guidance for improved interactions.

Community Participation: Actively engaging in initiatives like Safe and Healthy Macomb, contributing to the broader goal of ensuring every resident, including those with IDD, lives a healthy and fulfilling life. Through collaboration, SpArc fosters a more inclusive and supportive community.

For more information, contact:

TAKE A PICTURE
OF THE QR CODE
TO GO TO THE
REFERRAL
PAGE



Sue Lind
sue.lind@arcservices.org
586-569-4327

• **1 in 20**
• **Prisoners in**
• **the U.S. has a**
• **developmental**
• **disability**

• **33-50%**
• **of all use-of-**
• **force incidents**
• **with police**
• **involve a citizen**
• **with a disability**

• **People with**
• **disabilities are**
• **Twice**
• **as likely to be**
• **the victim**
• **of a crime** than
• **people without**
• **disabilities**



ArcServices.Org/SpArc

Facebook.com/SpArcMacomb

ArcServices.Org/SpArc

586-569-4327

SpArc@ArcServices.Org

SpArc: A Smart Investment for Safer Communities

What is SpArc?

SpArc is a specialized jail diversion program supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) who encounter the criminal justice system. We provide wraparound services that address the root causes of justice system involvement, helping individuals stabilize and reintegrate into society successfully.

Why Fund SpArc?

Investing in SpArc is fiscally responsible and produces better outcomes than prolonged incarceration.

- **Lower Costs:** The average cost of incarceration in Michigan exceeds \$40,000 per person per year. In contrast, providing comprehensive support through SpArc costs a fraction of that amount—while reducing recidivism and promoting community stability.
- **Better Outcomes:** Individuals with IDD face unique challenges in the criminal justice system, often experiencing longer stays in jail due to difficulties navigating legal processes. SpArc connects them to vital services, including housing, mental health care, and employment support.
- **Public Safety & Rehabilitation:** By addressing needs proactively, SpArc reduces repeat offenses and builds safer communities. Rehabilitation through community-based programs leads to long-term stability, unlike costly cycles of incarceration.

Real Impact

Since launching, SpArc has:

- Diverted individuals from unnecessary jail time into programs that help them thrive
- Helped people secure stable housing, employment, and healthcare.
- Partnered with local law enforcement and courts to provide better alternatives to incarceration.

A Smarter Approach to Justice

SpArc isn't just about saving taxpayer money—it's about doing what works. Every dollar invested in SpArc strengthens Michigan's workforce, reduces burdens on jails, and ensures individuals with disabilities receive the care they deserve.

Support SpArc Today

Together, we can create a fairer, more effective system. Investing in rehabilitation over incarceration is a win for individuals, families, and our economy.



ArcServices.Org.SpArc

586-569-4327

SpArc@ArcServices.Org

SpArc is Here for Everyone

Bridging Communities, Building Trust

SpArc is a free program that supports individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) who are caught in the criminal justice system. We know that justice involvement is harder—and sometimes more frequent—for people who face both disability and discrimination.

SpArc was created to help.

We guide people with IDD through the courts, help them get services like housing, health care, and job support, and work to keep them out of jail and safely in the community.

HOUSING SUPPORT

- Emergency shelter or transitional housing
- Permanent supportive housing referrals
- Assistance communicating with landlords
- Help gathering documents for applications

HEALTHCARE CONNECTIONS

- Medicaid, Medicare, and community health programs
- Psychiatric care and mental health services
- Assistance with medications and follow-ups
- Connections to dental and vision care

BENEFITS NAVIGATION

- SSI/SSDI application help
- Food assistance (Bridge Card/SNAP)
- Cash assistance and energy relief programs
- Guardianship info and support documentation

EMPLOYMENT & MORE

- Vocational support or job coaching connections
- Transportation and ID replacement
- Supportive service referrals

Your Community Matters.

We are working to build stronger relationships with underrepresented groups in Macomb County—because everyone deserves access to support, regardless of their background or language.

- We offer culturally respectful services
- We partner with community organizations
- We don't require a diagnosis to reach out
- We will help you understand what documents or evaluations might be needed
- We are open to learning from you, too

Who We Help

- Adults (18+) with IDD involved in the justice system
- Families who don't know where to turn after arrest or police contact
- Individuals who may need help navigating court, probation, or accessing services
- People who are struggling and want a safer, healthier path forward

Let's Work Together

If you are a cultural leader, community service provider, or place of worship, we welcome collaboration. We want to understand your community's needs and share our resources.

The Arc of Macomb County, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit membership association.



ArcServices.Org/SpArc
Facebook.com/SpArcMacomb

ArcServices.Org/SpArc

586-569-4327

SpArc@ArcServices.Org

You Deserve Stability: SpArc Can Help

Stability Starts Here

SpArc helps individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) who are involved in the criminal justice system. One of the first steps toward success is securing the basics: housing, healthcare, and benefits.

Our SpArc Navigators are here to help individuals get what they need to stay safe, stable, and supported—not stuck in the system.

What We Help With

HOUSING SUPPORT

- Emergency shelter or transitional housing
- Permanent supportive housing referrals
- Assistance communicating with landlords
- Help gathering documents for applications

HEALTHCARE CONNECTIONS

- Medicaid, Medicare, and community health programs
- Psychiatric care and mental health services
- Assistance with medications and follow-ups
- Connections to dental and vision care

BENEFITS NAVIGATION

- SSI/SSDI application help
- Food assistance (Bridge Card/SNAP)
- Cash assistance and energy relief programs
- Guardianship info and support documentation

EMPLOYMENT & MORE

- Vocational support or job coaching connections
- Transportation and ID replacement
- Supportive service referrals

Need help? You're not alone.

You don't have to figure this out by yourself. SpArc is here to guide you through the process—step by step. If we can't help directly, we'll connect you to someone who can.

Explore Resources

Full list of community resources:

- arcservices.org/community-resources

Help applying for benefits:

- arcservices.org/benefits-applications-sparc



ArcServices.Org.SpArc

586-569-4327

SpArc@ArcServices.Org

Helping Families Navigate the Criminal Justice System

SpArc Is Here for You

When someone you love with an intellectual or developmental disability (IDD) is involved in the legal system, it can feel overwhelming, confusing, and frightening. You don't have to face it alone.

SpArc, a program of The Arc of Macomb County, helps families make sense of what's happening—and take the next step forward.

What We Help With

SpArc Navigators are here to guide and support families through every stage of the justice process:

Before Court: Understanding charges, rights, and what to expect

During Detention or Bond: Helping advocate for safe housing or diversion

At Court Hearings: Explaining what's happening in plain language

After Release: Connecting your loved one to services, therapy, housing, or case management

For the Long Term: Coordinating with CMH, Medicaid, guardianship, and vocational supports

Why Disability-Informed Help Matters

People with IDD often face barriers in the legal system that others don't. They may:

- Struggle to understand what's happening
- Say "yes" to things they don't mean to avoid conflict
- Miss court or probation requirements due to memory, anxiety, or confusion
- Be treated unfairly because their disability is invisible or misunderstood

SpArc ensures your loved one's disability is seen, respected, and considered.

How We Support Families

- Help explain legal terms, next steps, and paperwork
- Connect you to local supports, peer groups, or mental health care
- Communicate with attorneys, courts, and probation officers
- Stay with your family for the long haul—not just in a crisis

You Are Not Alone

SpArc understands the fear and frustration of seeing someone you love caught in a system that doesn't always understand disability. Let us walk beside you.



ArcServices.Org/SpArc
Facebook.com/SpArcMacomb

ArcServices.Org/SpArc

586-569-4327

SpArc@ArcServices.Org

SpArc: Smart Alternatives to Incarceration

Supporting People with IDD Before, During, and After Justice Involvement

SpArc is Macomb County's innovative jail diversion program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). We step in early—often before charges are filed—and work to stabilize lives, not shatter them.

How We Divert Individuals from Incarceration

SpArc Navigators are trained in disability-informed crisis response, system navigation, and community-based problem-solving. Here's how we intervene:

1. PRE-ARREST INTERVENTION

- Partner with police to identify disability-related behavior early
- Promote use of Special Needs Registries to inform safe response
- Work with families and officers to de-escalate situations without arrest

2. JAIL ALTERNATIVES AT ARRAIGNMENT OR BOND HEARINGS

- Provide the court with documentation of disability
- Advocate for community-based alternatives to incarceration
- Help secure safe housing, transportation, and mental health care for release

3. COORDINATED CASE SUPPORT POST-RELEASE

- Connect clients to long-term supports: CMH, guardianship, benefits, vocational help
- Monitor follow-through on court conditions
- Help reduce recidivism through stabilization

When to Refer to SpArc

- You may be seeing someone who could benefit from SpArc if they:
- Struggle with understanding court proceedings
- Seem confused or disoriented when interacting with police or jail staff
- Have a known or suspected intellectual or developmental disability
- Repeatedly cycle through jail for nonviolent or compliance-related offenses

Our Approach Works

Instead of expensive jail time, SpArc focuses on housing, healthcare, and community-based services. The result?

- Lower recidivism
- Stronger public safety
- Better outcomes for individuals with IDD

The Arc of Macomb County, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit membership association.



ArcServices.Org/SpArc
Facebook.com/SpArcMacomb

ArcServices.Org/SpArc

586-569-4327

SpArc@ArcServices.Org

Partnering with Police for Disability Safety

Disability Safety Starts with Partnership

SpArc works closely with law enforcement agencies across Macomb County to improve outcomes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

From training officers to helping families register loved ones for disability safety programs, SpArc is committed to building bridges between the IDD community and public safety.

Here's How We Help

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

SpArc provides education to police and first responders on:

- Recognizing signs of IDD
- De-escalation strategies tailored to disability needs
- Navigating communication challenges
- Understanding legal capacity and disability rights

DISABILITY SAFETY REGISTRIES

SpArc supports the creation and expansion of special needs and vulnerable individual registries across Metro Detroit. These registries:

- Help police respond safely to individuals with disabilities
- Include optional medical, behavioral, and contact info
- Can be used in missing person cases or traffic stopsPermanent supportive housing referrals

What Makes SpArc Different?

We go beyond general training. SpArc Navigators work case-by-case with individuals who have had contact with police, helping them:

- Stay out of jail
- Access housing, benefits, and medical care
- Build trust with local officers
- Avoid future legal trouble through support and advocacy
- We are a wraparound service designed to support both the person and the systems around them.

Let's Build a Safer Macomb Together

Whether you're a police officer, dispatcher, community advocate, or family member—you have a role in making sure people with disabilities are treated with respect and understanding.

Disability & Due Process

Understanding How IDD Affects Legal Decision-Making

SpArc, a program of The Arc of Macomb County, works directly with individuals who have intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and are involved in the justice system. Many of these individuals face unique challenges in making informed legal decisions—challenges that courts and counsel must consider to ensure fair, ethical proceedings.

What is IDD?

IDD refers to a group of conditions—including autism, Down syndrome, and cognitive impairments—that affect intellectual functioning, learning, and adaptive behavior. These disabilities may impact:

- Memory and comprehension
- Language and communication
- Judgment and reasoning
- Executive function and impulse control
- Processing speed

How IDD Affects Legal Participation

1. UNDERSTANDING OF RIGHTS

- Individuals may agree to waivers (like Miranda or plea deals) they don't fully understand
- They may nod or say "yes" to avoid embarrassment or appear cooperative
- Concepts like "plea bargain," "probation," or "time served" may be misinterpreted

2. PARTICIPATION IN DEFENSE

- Clients with IDD may struggle to recall facts, timelines, or names
- They may be unable to evaluate legal advice or consequences
- They may avoid asking questions—even when confused

3. COMPETENCY CONCERNS

- IDD is often mistaken for mental illness, though both may co-occur
- Individuals may not meet the legal threshold for incompetence but still lack the capacity to engage in their defense meaningfully

Red Flags for Legal Professionals

You may be working with someone with IDD if they:

- Have a limited education history or were in special education
- Appear agreeable but can't explain their case or decisions
- Exhibit childlike behavior, poor impulse control, or flat affect
- Have difficulty with dates, timelines, or multiple-step instructions
- Have repeated low-level offenses or probation violations

How SpArc Can Help

- SpArc Navigators assist courts and counsel by:
- Providing context around an individual's disability and functional level
- Offering referrals for psychological evaluations
- Coordinating supports to meet conditions of release or probation
- Connecting individuals to case management, benefits, and stabilization services

Every person deserves to understand their case and participate in their own defense.

SpArc ensures that disability is recognized—not criminalized.



ArcServices.Org.SpArc

586-569-4327

SpArc@ArcServices.Org

Inclusion, Not Incarceration

How SpArc Reduces Recidivism and Builds Belonging

SpArc, a program of The Arc of Macomb County, provides wraparound jail diversion services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Our approach is rooted in stability, connection, and community inclusion—because no one thrives in isolation.

The Problem

People with IDD are:

- More likely to be arrested for behaviors related to misunderstanding or unmet needs
- Often held longer in jail due to communication challenges or lack of stable housing
- More likely to return to jail without targeted support
- Less likely to be connected to long-term services and employment

This isn't just a justice issue—it's a systems failure.

SpArc's Solution: Stabilize, Support, Include

Our Navigators use a disability-informed, trauma-sensitive model to help individuals:

- Navigate CMH, SSI, Medicaid, and guardianship
- Build job readiness and pursue inclusive employment
- Access safe, supported housing
- Reconnect with families and support networks
- Fulfill court obligations with dignity and structure
- Engage in community—not cycles of jail time

Why It Works

- SpArc reduces recidivism by replacing instability with opportunity.
- Disability is addressed, not punished
- Support is proactive, not reactive
- Clients are linked to long-term resources—not left alone
- Inclusion lowers crisis risk and raises quality of life

When people with IDD have what they need, they stop showing up in courtrooms—and start showing up in their communities.

Inclusion Is Prevention

SpArc believes that belonging is the most powerful tool in public safety.

- We train officers, legal professionals, and providers to recognize IDD
- We design reentry plans rooted in person-centered goals
- We connect people to lives worth living—not just services that check a box

The Arc of Macomb County, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit membership association.



ArcServices.Org/SpArc

586-569-4327

SpArc@ArcServices.Org

Collaborating with SpArc

How Community Resources Create Real Change

SpArc, a program of The Arc of Macomb County, provides jail diversion and wraparound support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) who intersect with the justice system.

But we don't do it alone.

We Rely on Community Collaboration

SpArc Navigators connect individuals to the services that help prevent recidivism and promote stability. We work hand-in-hand with:

- Housing providers
- Residential and detox programs
- Food and basic needs organizations
- Transportation providers
- Workforce development and job coaches
- Peer support and mentoring programs
- Faith-based and grassroots groups
- Community mental health (CMH) agencies

Your work makes our work possible.

How We Partner

- **Warm Hand-Offs:** We connect clients directly to your team and help gather required documents
- **Disability-Informed Support:** We help you tailor services to individuals with IDD—who may need simplified steps, slower pacing, or added reminders
- **Ongoing Communication:** We stay involved post-referral to ensure follow-through
- **Shared Stability Plans:** We work with you to align housing, court obligations, health care, and employment for better outcomes

Why Disability-Informed Partnerships Matter

Many individuals with IDD are turned away or misunderstood in traditional systems. They may:

- Have trouble completing forms or attending appointments on time
- Seem resistant when actually overwhelmed
- Lack formal diagnosis or documentation—but still need support

SpArc helps bridge those gaps, so they stay connected to care—not fall through the cracks.

Small Support = Big Impact

A bed, a ride, a caseworker who listens—it's often these small supports that change someone's entire path.

The Arc of Macomb County, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit membership association.



ArcServices.Org.SpArc

586-569-4327

SpArc@ArcServices.Org

Strengthening the Workforce, One Opportunity at a Time

Supporting Employers, Empowering Individuals

SpArc is a jail-diversion and wraparound support program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) involved in the criminal justice system. We don't just help people avoid incarceration—we help them stabilize, grow, and thrive.

A Smart Hiring Partner

People with IDD and justice involvement are often overlooked—but many are ready to work and eager to contribute. SpArc helps reduce barriers to employment by:

- Navigating benefit systems so work is sustainable
- Coordinating reliable transportation
- Assisting with IDs, job coaching, and training
- Advocating for reasonable accommodations
- Offering post-hire follow-up and stabilization support

Why Partner with SpArc?

- **Workforce Ready:** Our clients are pre-screened, motivated, and often have prior work experience
- **Reduced Risk:** We help resolve housing, legal, and mental health concerns that might interfere with job success
- **Community Impact:** Hiring SpArc clients promotes second chances and inclusive employment
- **You're Not Alone:** We stay in touch, helping troubleshoot issues and celebrate successes

Ideal Partners Include:

- Employers open to inclusive hiring
- Reentry programs and job placement agencies
- Vocational rehabilitation and workforce development teams
- Community mental health or housing programs
- Faith-based or civic groups offering mentorship or jobs

Let's Work Together

We believe everyone deserves a fair shot at stability—and meaningful work is part of that journey. Want to explore a partnership, refer a potential candidate, or learn more?



ArcServices.Org/SpArc
Facebook.com/SpArcMacomb

ArcServices.Org/SpArc

586-569-4327

SpArc@ArcServices.Org

SPARC: A Smart Investment in Justice and Community

Saving Lives, Saving Taxpayer Dollars

What is SPARC?

SpArc (Support, Prevent, Advocacy, Resource Coordination) is a wraparound jail diversion program dedicated to supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) involved in the criminal justice system. Our goal is to keep people out of jail and in supportive environments where they can thrive.

Why SPARC is Worth Funding:

- **Cost-Effective:** Incarceration costs taxpayers \$36,000–\$60,000 per person annually, depending on the facility.
- **SpArc's Approach:** Rehabilitation and wraparound services cost a fraction of that amount while delivering better outcomes for individuals and the community.
- **Reduced Recidivism:** Supportive interventions drastically lower the chance of reoffending, creating safer communities.
- **Public Safety Impact:** By addressing root causes—mental health, housing, and support needs—we reduce crime rates sustainably.

Your Support Matters

Investing in SpArc means investing in people, public safety, and fiscal responsibility. With your support, we can expand our reach, reduce the strain on the criminal justice system, and create lasting change.

Accessing SpArc's Referral Page

The First Steps to Joining our Program



Open your web browser and type the following URL into the address bar:
[arcservices.org/sparc-referral/](https://ArcServices.Org/sparc-referral/)

Press Enter to navigate to the SpArc online referral form page.

Once the page loads, you should see the online referral form displayed on the screen.

Fill out the required fields on the form with accurate information. This includes details about the individual you're referring, including applicable Neuropsych and court information.

Double-check the information you've entered to ensure it's accurate and complete.

After completing the form, click on the "Download" button located at the bottom of the page.

Finally **send the referral** one of two ways to our SpArc Navigators. The first option is to print and **fax the document to 586-569-4327**. The second is to email the document to **sue.lind@arcservices.org**.

**TAKE A PICTURE
OF THE QR CODE
TO GO TO THE
REFERRAL
PAGE**

