



The Arc New London County  
125 Sachem Street  
Norwich, CT 06360

T 860.889.4435  
F 860.889.4662  
[www.thearcnlc.org](http://www.thearcnlc.org)

***Achieve with us.***

## TESTIMONY OF THE ARC NEW LONDON COUNTY

13 February 2013

The Arc New London County is one of 18 chapters of The Arc statewide, a **60-year-old, grassroots force founded by Connecticut families to support loved ones with intellectual and developmental disabilities and to aid their fight for full inclusion in our communities.** Because we are driven by a philosophy that every person should be as independent as possible, **The Arc walks with people toward greater autonomy, saving millions of taxpayer dollars each year.**

Due to our activist roots and tenure in the industry, **The Arc New London County is what Connecticut calls a "low-rate" provider.** This year, **we will be paid \$660,000 dollars less than the Department of Developmental Services' own established rates.** **The Governor's rescissions take another \$50,000 from our contracts, and the Affordable Care Act will cost an additional \$250,000 dollars in 2014.** A potential consequence of these inequities could be something **we have previously managed to avoid – layoffs in one of the most economically stressed regions of the United States.**

When The Arc New London County merged with another family-based provider, Seacorp Inc, in 2011, **we saved the state more than a half-million dollars annually while improving quality scores by 7%.** Despite our saving the state millions, Connecticut continues at year-end, under cost-settlement rules, to reclaim monies resulting from efficient operations; and now, **The Arc New London County is unable to insure the 46 newly eligible employees as mandated by the Affordable Care Act.** The systemic inequity that our nonprofit, grassroots status permitted us to ignore in the past can be ignored no longer. **Unless the state allows us to retain dollars from efficient operations and implements a more equitable administration of rates, Connecticut will lose grass-roots pioneers like The Arc New London County. And, the state will spend far more to replace these services than it pays us now.**

This year alone, two people served by The Arc New London County moved into independent living models saving the state **\$150,000 dollars per year ... and these dollar savings carry forward!** Over the next decade, their reliance on government will be reduced by **\$1.5 million dollars.** It is time for this Body to take a stand in favor of Connecticut's grassroots, family-founded social service agencies for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. **Don't lose the best deal you ever had.**