

FAMILY TRANSITION PROJECT DIRECTOR

Do you have an interest in offering advocacy and support to self-advocates with IDD and their families in Illinois, particularly those living in SODCs who are involved in transitioning to community living? The Arc of Illinois is looking for a **Family Transition Project Director** who is interested in working in the field of disability advocacy, supports, and services. **This is a remote position.**

The Arc of Illinois advocates for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, families and community organizations to ensure that people with disabilities can live, work, learn, and play in communities across the state. The Arc offers resources and information, supports families in their individual advocacy efforts and trains and educates people with disabilities, families and professionals among other things. To learn more, please visit our website: www.thearcofil.org

Position Summary:

The Family Transition Project Director is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the day-to-day operation of the Family Transition Project under the general direction of the Executive Director of The Arc of Illinois and in conjunction with its Board of Directors. The Family Transition Project Director may directly support the Transition Mentors and/or contracted FTP Advocates if applicable. The Family Transition Project Director will also:

- Offer advocacy and support to self-advocates with IDD and their families in Illinois, particularly those living in SODCs who are involved in transitioning to community living.
- Manage Operation Welcome Home.
- Organize outreach to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in State Operated Developmental Centers and their families in order to promote the benefits of community living, provide information, offer support/advocacy, and share success stories of positive transitions.
- Maintain long-term relationships with a state-wide network of self-advocates with IDD and their families who have transitioned to community living and are willing to share their experiences with others.
- Empower, collaborate with, and support self-advocate Transition Mentors who then support other self-advocates and their families through the transition process through sharing their personal journeys of transition in a variety of venues, and encouraging other self-advocates to share their lived experiences. This includes tracking Transition Mentor hours and working with the Director of Finance to assure payment of Mentors.
- Coordinate opportunities for Transition Mentors to engage with peers with IDD and their families during their transition journey.
- Maintain and regularly update the Family Transition Project web page.
- Remain knowledgeable of changes in events, policies, and procedures that affect families in transition.
- Develop and maintain strong relationships with the Illinois DHS Division of Developmental Disabilities and other relevant organizations (i.e., Individual

Service Coordination agencies), serving on committees and boards, and attending/presenting/participating in meetings and trainings as requested.

- Collect and organize data on barriers to transition as well as transition successes.
- Share top-line information with decision makers on a regular basis.
- May include other duties as assigned by the Executive Director of The Arc of Illinois.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited university;
- 5+ years of social service experience in a leadership role within a non-profit organization;
- Must be an Illinois resident;
- Experience with the transition process from an Illinois State Operated Developmental Center to community living (preferably as a family member) is a must;
- Ability to communicate with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families with compassion and respect;
- Must be self-motivated and creative in approaches to families in distress;
- Must maintain confidentiality;
- Knowledge of the disability system in Illinois and nationwide trends in community supports;
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills (including the ability to write articles and correspondence as well as hosting and/or presenting at meetings);
- Excellent organizational skills;
- Must be willing to attend evening and weekend meetings and travel across the State of Illinois as necessary.

Company Offerings:

The Arc of Illinois offers a comprehensive benefits package that includes Medical, Dental, Vision, 403(b) Retirement Plan, and generous Paid Time Off.

If you are interested in applying to this position, please email a cover letter and resume to HR@thearcofil.org.

The Arc of Illinois is an equal opportunity employer.