

IEP Parent Partner Volunteers

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Are you looking to make a difference in the life of others? If you're interested in joining our community to share your Special Education knowledge and experiences as a parent or caregiver to a loved one with disabilities, we'd like to talk with you.

The Arc of King County serves children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and their families, from as early as a prenatal diagnosis and throughout their lifetime. The Department of Information and Family Support provides specialized services and activities for these families. We are looking for volunteer parent mentors, who we call IEP Partner Parents, to assist The Arc team by providing parents the support they need as they learn to navigate the world of Special Education.

JOB SUMMARY

As an IEP Partner Parent volunteer you will support the mission of connecting families together with a network of support by becoming part of a pool of volunteers who serve as a mentor to parents who are learning to navigate the Special Education system. You will be matched with a family based on criteria such as school district, cultural background, religious, marital status, the nature of a loved one's disability and/or location and proximity. You will benefit by gaining the satisfaction of paying forward the knowledge, information or experience you have by supporting parents/caregivers who take care of a loved one with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Participate in The Arc's multi-part IEP Partner Parent training
- Initiate the first phone contact with the parent mentee
- Be available for ongoing consultation as well as the occasional in-person contact if needed by the parent mentee for a period of approximately 3 months
- Be available to attend 1-2 school meetings with a parent mentee if needed
- Periodically check-in with The Arc staff to provide updates and information about the mentor/mentee experience

QUALIFICATIONS

- Experience participating on an IEP team and navigating the Special Education system as a parent or caregiver
- Great communication and interpersonal skills are a must

- Willingness to abide by the mentor guidelines set by The Arc staff
- Ability to create a compassionate, trusting and confidential connection with parent mentees
- Maintain reasonable availability for parent mentees
- Ability to engage with people from diverse economic, ethnic and social backgrounds and abilities
- Fluency in languages other than English a plus, especially if you understand the cultural considerations combined with the language skills.
- Must pass background check

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

Department: Information & Family Support – Parent to Parent Program

Supervisor: Parent to Parent Program Coordinator