



## **For Immediate Release**

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## **The Arc San Francisco a Key Pilot Site for New CDC Health Project**

*New National Initiative to Improve Health Care for People with Developmental Disabilities*

**San Francisco, CA** The Arc San Francisco has been designated a pilot site for a groundbreaking national program to improve health outcomes for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

The project, called HealthMeet, is funded through a three-year, \$1 million cooperative agreement between The Arc United States (The Arc's national office) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

The program will have far-reaching effects on the health of people with Down syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy and other disabilities through trainings for medical students and health professionals, community-based health assessments for individuals, comprehensive information and referrals, and a public awareness campaign. The project will use innovative strategies and technology to help reduce some of the most serious health disparities people with intellectual and developmental disabilities face, and it will contribute to systems-change efforts in health care access.

"Our clinical experience in addition to our highly successful Health and Wellness program were key components in San Francisco's selection as a pilot site," said Dr. Glenn Motola, CEO, The Arc San Francisco, and the lead HealthMeet project director. "We are proud to be a part of such an important initiative that will ensure people with I/DD access the health care they need while helping providers across the country address the unique health issues of this population."

A portion of the grant funding will drive The Arc San Francisco's role in the project under the leadership of Dr. Motola and The Arc San Francisco Center for Health and Wellness Directors Jennifer Dresen, MSW/MPH, and Wendy Ginther, MA Gerontology.

"This project has the potential to uncover eye-opening information about the health of millions of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in this country. We are thrilled to be given this opportunity by the CDC to learn more about the health of this population, and help change lives in the long run by informing policy and systems-change at the national level," said Peter V. Berns, CEO of The Arc United States.

In addition to the CDC and The Arc San Francisco, The Arc United States will work with several other chapters and organizations on the initiative, including The Arc New Jersey, Achieva, Therap, the Association of University Centers on Disabilities, the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, the National Association of County and City Health Officials, Autism Speaks and the National Down Syndrome Congress. #



## **About The Arc San Francisco**

The Arc San Francisco is a nonprofit organization providing advocacy and support services for adult clients in San Francisco, San Mateo and Marin counties with intellectual and developmental disabilities including Down syndrome, fragile X syndrome, autism and cerebral palsy among other disabilities.

Founded in 1951, the organization is one of largest of over 700 Arc chapters across the United States promoting self-determination, dignity and quality of life for those served, actively supporting their health and full inclusion in the community.

For more information, visit [www.thearcsf.org](http://www.thearcsf.org).