



The Arc

*National Center on Criminal
Justice & Disability®*

Pathways to Justice® for All

Improving access to justice for
people with intellectual and
developmental disabilities

The Challenge: Access to Justice

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) do not have access to justice, because many criminal justice professionals lack the knowledge and experience to interact effectively with this population. Without access to justice, people with I/DD will continue to be overrepresented in the criminal justice system as victims, suspects, defendants, and incarcerated persons.



The Solution: Pathways to Justice[®]

To advance access to justice for all, The Arc's National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability[®] (NCCJD[®]) created Pathways to Justice, a comprehensive, community-based program that creates and builds relationships between the criminal justice and disability communities.

STEP 1

CREATE A DISABILITY RESPONSE TEAM (DRT)

First, NCCJD provides support in creating a local, multi-disciplinary team that brings together key stakeholders from both the disability and criminal justice communities. These stakeholders work together to identify barriers to justice and serve as the go-to resource on criminal justice and disability.

CRIMINAL

JUSTICE COMMUNITY



**Law
Enforcement**



**Victim Services
Professionals**



**Legal
Professionals**

DISABILITY

COMMUNITY



**People
with I/DD**



**Family members and
other supporters**



**Disability
advocates and
service providers,
including chapters
of The Arc**

By participating in a DRT, criminal justice professionals and disability advocates can...

Develop trusting and mutually beneficial relationships

Identify and remove community-specific barriers to justice



Feel empowered to effect criminal justice reform in their communities, both on an individual and systemic level

Raise awareness of these issues on an ongoing basis

Relationships are key when it comes to criminal justice reform, and it starts with just one connection! If you are from the disability community, try reaching out to a local law enforcement agency, prosecutor's office, public defenders' office, or jail. Tell them why you care about this issue and how Pathways to Justice can help not only people with disabilities, but the professionals who work with them too.

If you are from the criminal justice community, try reaching out to a state or local disability organization. Chapters of The Arc are a great place to start this conversation. Find yours at thearc.org/find-a-chapter! You can also try reaching out to your state Protection & Advocacy organization, federally-funded advocates that work to advance the rights of all people with disabilities, at ndrn.org/en/ndrn-member-agencies.

STEP 2

HOST A PATHWAYS TO JUSTICE EVENT

Once the DRT is formed, NCCJD experts work with the DRT to provide a full-day, in-person training covering key topics, such as how to identify, interact with, and accommodate persons with I/DD and other disabilities.

TARGET
TRAINING
AUDIENCES



Law
Enforcement



Victim Services
Professionals



Legal
Professionals

After the training, criminal
justice professionals can...

Better understand
disability and their legal
obligations toward the
disability community

Provide appropriate
accommodations
and supports in
their respective roles

Help the DRT
identify and address
ongoing needs in
the community



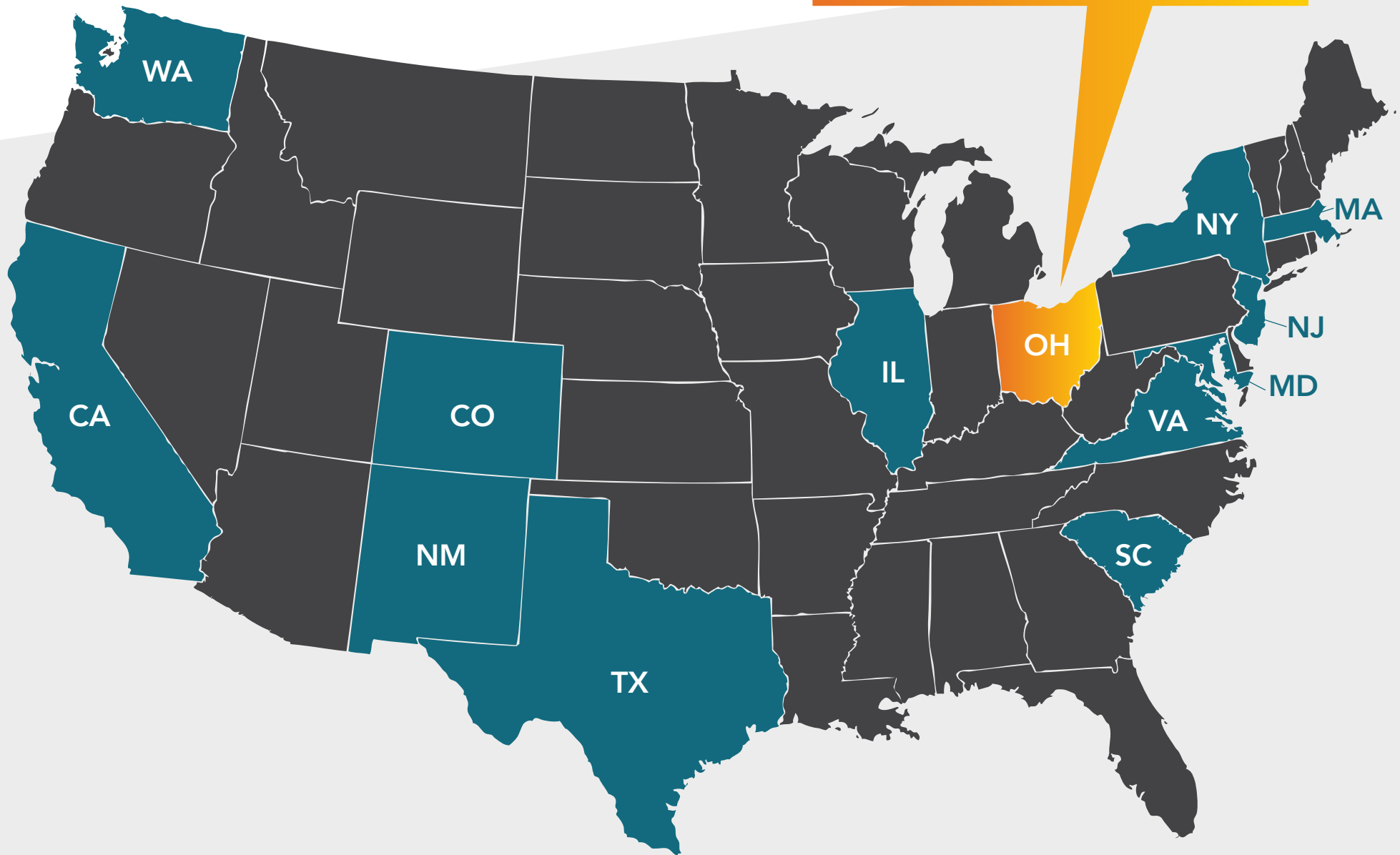
More effectively identify
and communicate with
people with I/DD

Know more about the resources
available to people with I/DD
in their communities

PATHWAYS' REACH

Since 2015, Pathways has reached over a dozen states and over 1,500 stakeholders across the country.

Pathways to Justice
Trainer Certification site*



*train-the-trainer version of Pathways



GET INVOLVED!

**Working together, we are creating
Pathways to Justice for all!**

If you are interested in learning
more about Pathways to Justice,
creating a Disability Response
Team, or requesting training in your
community, join us at

NCCJDPathwaystoJustice.org.

Support Pathways to Justice

thearc.org/donate/criminaljustice



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