You are invited to join a Regional Workgroup to discuss and address the barriers and inequities that people with disabilities have experienced through the pandemic in our communities. For example, people with disabilities faced challenges accessing information (Braille, Multicultural, etc.), accessing testing and necessary accommodations, and were at increased risk for mortality due to COVID-19. The COVID-19 response plans did not adequately respond to the needs of the disability community.

1. **What:** The Arc Lancaster Lebanon is working with The Arc PA to work with Regional Workgroups to:
   - To identify the COVID-19 barriers and disparities in the disability community
   - To develop an accessible media campaign to educate the disability community on mitigation efforts on COVID-19

2. **Where:** Regional Workgroups will be hosted virtually between November 2021 and May 2023 in Lancaster, Lebanon and Dauphin Counties.

3. **Who should be part of a Regional Workgroup:**
   - Persons with lived experience including self-advocates and families from diverse ethnic and racial populations
   - Representatives of public health, health care, and medical community
   - Programs for the disability community
   - Healthcare providers and associations
   - Racial and ethnic organizations
   - Providers, support coordinators, Health Care Quality Unit (HCQU)
   - Government agencies
   - Emergency Management Agencies
   - Community members and organizations

4. **What would be required of me if I joined a Regional Workgroup?** Meet quarterly to:
   - Identify health disparities and current gaps in services related to COVID-19 in the disability community.
   - Discuss strategies to build capacity for accessible testing sites, mobile testing and vaccine distribution, distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), contact tracing, and promotion of other mitigation efforts.
   - Compile recommendations for the statewide *COVID-19 Health Disparities Task Force*.
   - Build alliances at the regional level to coordinate a holistic approach that builds on culturally, linguistically, and locally tailored strategies and best practices to reduce COVID-19 risk in the disability community (including blind/vision impaired, and deaf/hearing impaired), including individuals from marginalized backgrounds.

Contact The Arc Lancaster Lebanon
Maureen Westcott [Maureen@thearclancleb.org](mailto:Maureen@thearclancleb.org)
717-394-5251 to discuss further.

Funded under the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) through the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC).