TITLE: Building a Roadmap for the Future:

SECTION: The Arc's National Initiatives

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Do you know an adult with an intellectual and/or developmental disability living with an aging caregiver in your community? There are approximately 600,000 – 700,000 adults with I/DD in the U.S. who live with aging caregivers over the age of 60 and have no plan in place for their future. It's a journey with no roadmap.

The Arc's Center for Future Planning® recognizes that many of these families don't plan for the future because of emotional barriers and misconceptions. These families often have no connection to the disability community or the disability service system. It is our role to find these families and support them to overcome the fear of planning and to provide them the reliable information and resources they need to create future plans.

Thanks to the generous support of The Retirement Research Foundation, the Center for Future Planning was awarded a national grant to engage caregivers over the age of 65 who are providing direct support to an adult son or daughter with I/DD in the future planning process. Nearly 60 human services professionals were trained in Tennessee and North Carolina to conduct outreach to aging caregivers and their families. As Gerri Smith at The Arc of North Carolina stated, "we are excited to be part of this national effort to support these families to plan for the future. The training provided professionals with the tools they need to accomplish this important outreach."

The Center will work closely with chapters of The Arc in these states as well as with national organizations including the Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies, Lutheran Services in America, and the National Council on Aging to support these families in creating these roadmaps for the future. Working with these national organizations and The Arc's network of state and local chapters around the country, the Center will broadly disseminate information about the importance of future planning and project results.