

ARC - Rutland Area, Inc.

Advocacy - Resources - Community

Serving Citizens with Developmental Disabilities and their Families

September 30, 2025

Town Auditor, Town of Brandon
49 Center St.
Brandon, VT 05733

Re: Request for Town Appropriations 2026

Dear Auditor:

ARC Rutland Area's (Advocacy, Resources and Community) Executive Director, Staff and Board of Directors appeal to the Town of Brandon to have ARC Rutland Area placed on your March 2026 ballot for funding in the 2026-2027 fiscal year. To get a better perspective of who and what ARC does, please find enclosed, our Annual Report, our income statement, and a brochure for your review. Our members include adults living with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families and care providers. In advocating for our members, our primary mission is to support community inclusion, advocate for independence, and offer social and educational opportunities that support healthy well-being. Our mission is supported by Representative Payee services, five annual themed dances, four, peer-related outdoor events, integrated community events and life skills courses. We are actively working on a broader expansion of community involvement such as the ARC ART First - *Art, by any other name...* at VTSU -Castleton Gallery on Merchant's Row from Sept 18- Nov 1 and by taking part with a float in the Rutland City Halloween Parade.

We also offer formal presentations about common issues such as substance use, nutrition, and self-advocacy. We support groups for Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered and Aktion Club as mentors for both the internal and external communities. We provide information affecting the population we serve from state and local meetings and legislative updates. These services are detailed in our annual report attached.

ARC employs one full-time director, and two part-time staff members. The office duties and programs are supported by volunteers and guided by a volunteer Board of Directors. We do not receive State or Federal funding for our operations. We rely on the support of the towns within Rutland County, grants, donations, and fundraisers to support our programs and services. This elderly population is growing in Rutland County and the need to keep the services, housing, food, and a healthy environment grows with them. ARC is the only private, non-profit providing these programs and services consistently to this population.

ARC Rutland Area is submitting its annual request to the Town of Brandon for \$4,000.00. We humbly thank the Brandon voters in advance for their continued support. If you or anyone have questions or comments, please call us on 802-775- 1370.

With heartfelt thanks,

Diane Drake, Executive Director

Enclosures

ARC RUTLAND AREA 2025 -2026 ANNUAL REPORT YEAR IN REVIEW

Mission Statement: To advocate for the right of individuals with developmental disabilities (DD) and their families to be regarded as valued citizens with the same entitlements as non-disabled individuals, including the right to lifelong opportunities for personal growth and full participation in the community.

PROGRAMS:

Our feature for this year was the ability to hire a new program director, Ginger Morigan, due to being the recipient of a Bowse Health Trust grant. Having one person dedicated to developing and managing the program details has a direct impact on the current and future programs for our members and is already turning heads this year!

Life Skills: We began the Spring Session of Life Skills courses, Budgeting and Holistic Health, this May with six members in each course participating. At the end of five weeks, all twelve members received certificates of completion of the courses they took. The people who took these courses learned a lot of practical information and key skills that they have already begun using in their daily lives. The fall courses are How to Eat Well for Myself and Reading For Joy. The fall courses began in early September.

Events: As you know, the historical impetus of ARC has been to provide free social events for our members. Over the years, we have increased those to include outdoor events and now include events within the community. We are making glorious strides to be active and inclusive, with participating members in all towns of Rutland County. This year, we added the "Summer Splash" barbecue at Bomoseen State Park, which included contests and games to keep our focus on good health with activities that improve physical and mental health wellbeing with increased participation and interactions with peers and reduces loneliness.


Representative Payee: We were fortunate to hire Jess Corey as our new Rep Payee Administrator. Because Jess was our Administrative Assistant, she has already built great relationships with members. We currently serve about forty individuals in managing their funds so that their shared living providers, rents, and all bills are paid timely, every month on the first and third. We are actively looking for individuals with DD to serve.

Self-Advocates & Aktion Club: This year we expanded our Self-Advocate Disability Acceptance presentations to include personal experiences as a disabled adult using a "stone theme" as the model. This is an interactive experience between our members and the audience. This is truly a learning experience for all. We have presented twice to VTSU at Castleton Campus, at the Free Clinic, Vermont Dept. of Health, and elsewhere. Under the guidance of Ginger, our Aktion Club members raised funds again at their Annual Car Wash, have made and are selling Sun Catchers from crystals and glass beads, and are embarking on showing their talents in an Art Show at Castleton Gallery. The show will last until Nov 1.

Transportation: For over twenty-five years, MVRTD has provided transportation for all ARC events and monthly meetings through the Older Adults & Disabilities Grant from VT Transit. We are pleased to say that despite so many federal cuts this year, we will still be able to have transportation to our events through MVRTD. This is a blessing given so many do not have access to transportation so they can participate.

We continue to seek members of the community to join our Board of Directors. We believe that talent at the table from all walks of life and professions is necessary to guide our organization.

We at ARC are so very grateful to the generosity of the voters of all of Rutland County who approve of the appropriations in their towns.


With gratitude and determination,
Diane Drake, Executive Director

ARC Rutland Area Inc
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
January through August 2025

	Jan - Aug 25	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Aktion Club	462.76	425.00	37.76
Cities & Towns Appropriations	26,200.00	27,750.00	-1,550.00
Donations	4,954.53	6,700.00	-1,745.47
Grants	48,834.00	84,000.00	-35,166.00
Interest Income	75.05	206.00	-130.95
Investment Income	552.79	700.00	-147.21
Membership Dues	665.00	980.00	-315.00
Program Service Fees/Net Incid	12,695.00	13,300.00	-605.00
Self Advocacy Contributions	0.18	250.00	-249.82
Total Income	94,439.31	134,311.00	-39,871.69
Expense			
1 Events	2,759.46	2,000.00	759.46
2) Employees	61,665.28	97,284.00	-35,618.72
Conferences,Conventions,Mttgs	0.00	500.00	-500.00
Credit Processing Fees	3.07	94.40	-91.33
Depreciation Bldgs & Equip	400.00	400.00	0.00
Dues / Subscriptions / Fees	164.17	68.00	96.17
Insurance Office	3,953.00	4,000.00	-47.00
Major Property & Equip Acquis	0.00	9,000.00	-9,000.00
Marketing Advertising	289.36	1,333.36	-1,044.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	333.32	-333.32
Office Supplies	2,050.74	753.32	1,297.42
Postage & Shipping	622.50	553.00	69.50
Printing & Publications	1,258.97	1,860.00	-601.03
Professional Fees	5,734.14	8,561.36	-2,827.22
Programs	12,241.91	6,640.00	5,601.91
Rent	5,200.00	5,200.00	0.00
Rental & Maintenance of Equip	337.52	326.00	11.52
Rep Payeee Review	-270.86		
Telephone & Internet	1,604.30	1,600.00	4.30
Travel	270.70	450.00	-179.30
VT SEC of STate - ARC biennial	0.00	20.00	-20.00
Wing Center	60.68		
Total Expense	98,344.94	140,976.76	-42,631.82
Net Ordinary Income	-3,905.63	-6,665.76	2,760.13
Net Income	-3,905.63	-6,665.76	2,760.13