

Project: Outreach to Unserved Populations
Applicant: The Arc of Hudson County

Address: 405-409 36th Street
Union City, NJ 07087

Partners: North Hudson Community Action Corporation
Rutgers University

Council Funds: \$34,662
Match Funds: \$ 3,952

Abstract: It is essential that systemic resources and supports for people with developmental disabilities and their families are made available and applied within the various ethnic and minority communities. However, it is not always necessary that services be delivered as done currently within our service system.

Hudson County is one of the most underserved counties in the State of New Jersey. This is attributable to several factors. First, the county has a high concentration of ethnic groups who do not speak English, preventing them from accessing the necessary services for their loved ones with intellectual and developmental disabilities. According to the US Census Bureau, 13.1% of the families in Hudson County live below the poverty line. Almost 60% (Census data) of Hudson County speaks a language other than English at home.

Second, different cultures have different views regarding people with disabilities. Persons in the Latino community are often fearful about accessing public services, as are families in the Middle Eastern and Asian communities who have family members with developmental disabilities. For this reason, a more aggressive outreach initiative needs to occur in Hudson County for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families from the various cultural backgrounds in Hudson County to learn how to access services and support.

Deliverables

A project report compiled with the assistance of Rutgers University and Council Staff consisting of the following elements:

1. Data Sets – information on unserved populations and contact points
2. Curriculum – training for staff of non-disability service and resources programs, including schools, clinics, churches and social service agencies
3. Results of Effort: internalization of service consulting and outreach within the agencies which are the typical “first choice” resources for members of these ethnic communities, including any materials developed internally by the participating organization(s), staff comments and response and consumer response.