



**State Headquarters**

353 E. Six Forks Rd., Suite 300  
Raleigh, NC 27609

T 919 782-4632

800 662-8706

F 919 782-4634

TTY 711

[www.arcnc.org](http://www.arcnc.org)

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**Statement on COVID-19 and the *Rooted in Advocacy* conference**

March 10, 2020

We've received many questions regarding the status of the *Rooted in Advocacy* conference and if we plan to hold the conference as scheduled on March 13, 2020.

Based on new guidance issued by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services on Tuesday, March 10th and out of an abundance of caution, **we've made the decision to cancel the *Rooted in Advocacy* conference.**

This includes the FASD pre-conference scheduled for Thursday, March 12th and the full conference scheduled for Friday, March 13th.

We know that there is concern regarding coronavirus, or COVID-19, and we share those concerns. The Arc of North Carolina is carefully following guidance from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Our leadership is monitoring the latest information on COVID-19 on a daily basis.

We know that you have spent money to attend the conference and we are looking at several possibilities on how to address the cancellation. We will be in touch with you in the next few days once we have had a chance to work through the issues resulting from the cancellation.

As we have more information, we will communicate it with you. Thank you for your patience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Nash', is written over a white rectangular area. The signature is fluid and cursive.

John Nash, Executive Director  
The Arc of North Carolina