

achieva 

The Arc of
Greater Pittsburgh

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Welcome to Advocacy and Family Supports

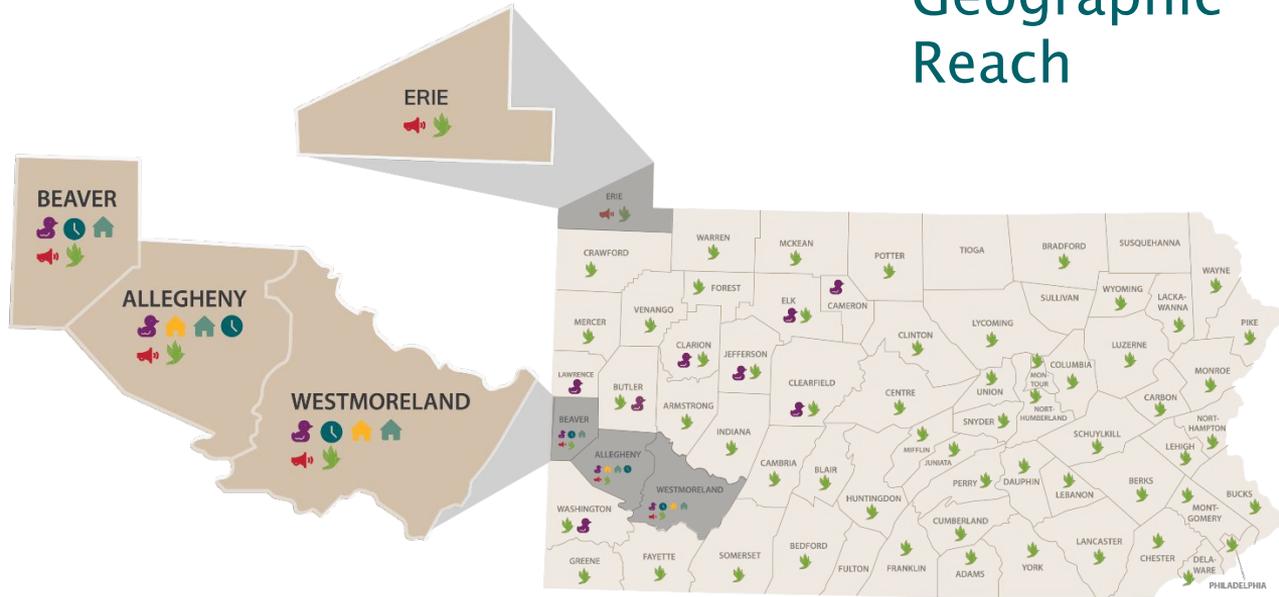
**The Arc of Greater Pittsburgh and The Arc Erie County
Members of The Achieva Family of Organizations**

Who We Are

As a member of the Achieva Family of Organizations, we:

- Offer free technical assistance and individual advocacy on issues including, early intervention, special education, transition to adulthood, government benefits and home and community based services
- Engage in systemic advocacy on issues that impact children and adults with disabilities and families including the waiting list, the shortage of direct support professionals, access to health care, closing state institutions and increased funding for home and community based services.
- Develop policy on disability and health care issues

Geographic Reach



Achieva Support

-  Community Supported Living
-  Early Intervention
-  Employment Supports
-  Home and Community Supports

The Arc of Greater Pittsburgh

The Arc Erie County

-  Advocacy & Family Supports

Autism Connection of Pennsylvania (Statewide)

Achieva Family Trust

Primary presence in PA plus accounts in 19 additional states

Mission and Vision

Mission

“Achieva advocates with, empowers, and supports people with disabilities and their families throughout their lives.”

Vision

“Achieva envisions a community where all people with disabilities lead lives of personal significance.”

Core Values

Respect: Value and celebrate everyone.

Passion: Be dedicated to Achieva's mission and vision.

Ethics: Infuse integrity, quality and best practices in everything we do.

Change: Embrace and drive innovation toward inclusive person-centered practices.

Team: Inspire, challenge and support each other.

Contact Us–We Are Here to Help

- Complete an Online Intake Form at <https://www.achieva.info/advocacy-contact> or call us at 412-995-5000 ext 486
- Achieva Website: www.achieva.info



Empowered Voices Leadership Group



charting the
LIFECOURSE Empowered Voices



What People Like & Admire About Me

- Tell the truth about what we accept and don't accept
- Good teachers
- Kind & friendly
- Learning to follow rules
- Support each other
- Consistency
- Family-friendly (PG-13)
- We all learn from each other and become the best self-advocates we can be because it's so important to let people know we matter as human beings, too

What's Important to Me

- Everyone's voice is heard
- Safe space for me
- Setting boundaries and expectations
- Speaking up to medical professionals
- Deciding topics with everyone in agreement
- Learn new stuff
- Be understanding of other people who may need more time with getting their words out (patience, considerate, understanding)
- Asking for clarification, being able to rephrase if someone doesn't understand
- **HAVE FUN**

How to Best Support Me

- Tell people the truth, tell people how to be independent and safe
- Set rules and boundaries, respect height difference
- Help each other out, support people that are deaf or non-speaking
- Be cheerleaders for each other, be positive
- Routine meetings, coming together to decide meeting topics
- If you say we are having a meeting, don't just say it, do it
- Making meetings accessible to people all over the world
- Inviting people with different disabilities, different perspectives, from different places in the world
- Be inclusive, not exclusive; bring people up and not down
- **HAVE FUN**

Empowered Voices Leadership Group



Meeting Schedule

Monthly meetings are on the third Thursday from 6 - 7 p.m

Or dial: (US) +1 304.908.9025 PIN: 199 210 961#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/iuu-miaf-wio?pin=9551074926951>

Contact Melissa Skiffen at mskiffen@achieva.info or 724-837-8159 ext 114