



### Who We Are

*Title of Project, Name of Lead Entity, Partner, Counties in Indiana we are impacting.*

Stone Belt Arc is piloting the Spiritual Support Program . The Spiritual Support Program will impact adults and children with I/DD, along with their faith/spiritual community and/or community hub they wish to participate in. We will be focusing primarily in Monroe County.

### What We Expect if We Achieve our Vision

*Expected short-term and long-term outcomes; and positive impacts on individuals if your project successfully carries out these actions.*

We hope that people with I/DD have opportunities to explore their spirituality, their beliefs, and needs. We hope the spiritual needs, such as Belonging, Mutual Friendships, Connection, Purpose, Worth/Value, Love, etc, of people with I/DD will be met.

People with I/DD will be more greatly supported by natural supports and mutual friendships instead of paid staff.

Since we are recommending that the Spiritual Support Coordinator is educated, trained, and equipped to provide grief counseling, our goal is for people with I/DD to have greater access to grief/loss support.

Our hope is to also equip clergy, chaplains, and other grief support professionals in providing grief support for people with I/DD so more professions in the community are available to do so.

We aim to provide education, training, support, and collaboration with faith communities and other community hubs to provide greater opportunity for belonging, participation and leadership of people with I/DD in their community and spiritual practices.

We hope that people with I/DD being better equipped to make end-of-life decisions and support, while also supporting DSPs so they are better equipped to provide this support in cooperation with local hospices or care services.

### What We Will Do

*Specific actions your agency will take to carry out pilot project.*

Spiritual Support Coordinator- Chaplain (SSC)  
- will pilot the Spiritual Support Program and develop a Spiritual Support Program, Building Belonging Manual, and waiver service recommendations.  
- will create spiritual support assessments/intakes for case managers and Spiritual Engagement Coaches  
- will create/provide the grief support assessment tools

Creation and hiring of two Spiritual Engagement Coaches (SEC)

### How We Will Do It

*Plan and implementation*

SSC will provide:  
- Community Hub and Faith Community training and support to include PWD  
- Pilot and produce manual for Building Belonging: A congregation Partnership Program on Inclusion for faith communities.  
- Provide End-of Life Support training for DSPs and develop policies, procedures, and resources for program manual.  
- Provide grief support to people with I/DD and provide grief support training for chaplains and grief support professionals in the area.

SEC who will take on case loads of people with I/DD to support them in exploring what their spiritual needs are, connecting with others in community, grow meaningful relationship, and increase use of natural supports.

### What Will Result

*Long-term goals to transform services and/or better support individuals.*

The goal is for the Spiritual Support Program and all of its services be an additional service in the Medicaid Waiver Service Package.

The goal is to help ensure that the core spiritual needs of people with I/DD are acknowledged and met.

Our hope is that people with I/DD have more access to build quality and mutual relationships with people in their community.

We aim to provide greater education and training for community hubs and faith communities so they can be more inclusive spaces of belonging.

### What We Want to Avoid

*Outcomes that may take away from the vision and will serve as "red flags" to consider course correction.*

Spiritual harm/abuse is a risk. We want to encourage people with I/DD to explore what spiritual options there are, discover what they believe, and connect them with those communities that share similar spiritual needs/interest/beliefs. We want to avoid coercion or the pushing of certain faith/spiritual traditions or beliefs. We also want to avoid any shaming of faith/spiritual traditions or beliefs, and instead celebrate and support human rights.

