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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Senator Hinchey Delivers Investment to Support Economic Development and Workforce Inclusion in Midtown Kingston

Kingston, NY — The Arc Mid-Hudson announced today that it has received \$285,000 in state funding secured by Senator Michelle Hinchey to replace the 15,625-square-foot roof over the pod facilities at the Cornell Creative Business Center (CCBC) in Midtown Kingston. This critical infrastructure investment will strengthen a unique economic development hub that supports small businesses while creating meaningful employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

Senator Hinchey has been a strong partner in advancing innovative economic development initiatives that support local businesses and inclusive workforce models. Senator Michelle Hinchey said, “The Arc Mid-Hudson is shaping a world—and a workforce—where the talents of our neighbors with disabilities are recognized and valued, and I’m thrilled to provide funding that’ll benefit their innovative business incubator, supporting Kingston’s economic growth. This is exactly the kind of economic development we should champion for our local workforce and entrepreneurs, and I can’t wait to see the positive impact of Arc Mid-Hudson’s creativity and vision.”

“This investment reflects the power of collaboration between state leadership and community-based organizations,” said John McHugh, Chief Executive Officer for The Arc Mid-Hudson. “We are grateful to Senator Hinchey for recognizing the value of the Cornell Creative Business Center as an engine for economic growth, workforce development, and inclusion in Ulster County.”

The CCBC was created in 2016 by The Arc Mid-Hudson to establish a business incubator that promotes economic development while employing individuals with developmental disabilities (DD). Today, the CCBC provides nine artisan work sites, including a shared shipping and receiving warehouse, allowing businesses to produce, package, label, and ship their products on site.



The CCBC model allows businesses to grow within a supportive environment, with the long-term goal that they will expand into larger spaces and bring the people served by The Arc Mid-Hudson with them as employees. As a non-profit service provider for individuals with developmental disabilities, The Arc Mid-Hudson's integration of small business incubation and the DD field represents a new and innovative approach to inclusive economic development.

The roof replacement will help protect the long-term functionality of the pod facilities, ensuring that the CCBC can continue serving entrepreneurs and providing inclusive employment opportunities for years to come.

About The Arc Mid-Hudson:

The Arc Mid-Hudson is a private not-for-profit agency founded in 1956 by families in Greene, Putnam, and Ulster Counties who believed that their children with disabilities should have the same opportunities as their peers. Supporting 1,324 people from preschool through adulthood, our mission is "To empower people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities to achieve and experience the highest quality of life." We are guided by the core values of Respect, Integrity, Compassion, and Excellence. The Arc Mid-Hudson believes each person is unique, and we provide individualized services each program participant. With over 1,700 employees, The Arc Mid-Hudson is one of the largest employers in the area. The Arc Mid-Hudson is the Greene, Putnam, and Ulster Counties Chapter of The Arc New York and is accredited by the Council on Quality and Leadership. For more information about The Arc of Ulster-Greene, visit www.ArcMH.org

About The Arc of New York:

The Arc of New York is the largest not-for-profit in New York State serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. The 53 Chapters comprising The Arc New York are located in every county in New York State. The organization supports over 60,000 individuals, employs over 30,000 people, and has a membership of over 110,000. For more information, visit www.NYSARC.org