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Gonzales Trust Application Guide

In 1983, Consuelo Gonzales established, in her Will, funds for her only daughter Consuelo Isabel Gonzales. Consuelo Isabel Gonzales had Down syndrome. Upon her death, the proceeds of the Trust were to be used for the benefit of New Mexico residents with Down syndrome. Through cooperation of The Arc of the United States and The Arc of New Mexico, the funds are now available to New Mexico residents.

The Arc of the United States and The Arc of New Mexico are responsible for distributing the monies in accordance with the Trust. Applications are reviewed quarterly by The Arc of New Mexico Gonzales Trust Committee. Applications that are approved by the Committee are then forwarded to The Arc of the United States for final approval.

The Arc of New Mexico Gonzales Trust Committee members are:

Jennifer Espey, Executive Director, The Arc of New Mexico

Alexandria Lofton, Director of Trusts, The Arc of New Mexico

Donyelle Lucero, President of the Board of the Rio Grande Down syndrome Network

Dolores Harden, Secretary Board of The Arc of New Mexico, member of the Navajo Nation

Tim Harris, President Tim’s Big Heart Foundation, New Mexican with Down syndrome

Roel Adamson, Director at Large, The Arc of New Mexico

Christa Perez, 4 Corners Down syndrome Network

Nadine Garcia, Acoma Pueblo

There are three categories for which individuals, families and organizations may apply. Each category has its own application form. If you need assistance filling out an application, please do not hesitate to contact us at (505) 883-4630 or, by email at  
[bprince-aviles@arcnm.org](mailto:bprince-aviles@arcnm.org). We can answer any questions and help walk you through the process.

The three categories of funding allowed by the Trust are:

1. **Direct support to individuals with Down syndrome**

* Applicant must be a person with Down syndrome who legally resides in New Mexico or a family member or legal guardian applying for services/supports on behalf of a child or adult with Down syndrome.
* Applicant may be a family member of a person with Down syndrome to attend a conference, receive education or training that directly benefits the person with Down syndrome.
* Grants are limited to $5,000 annually per household—payments are not made directly to the individual or family. The Arc of New Mexico will pay the vendor, contractor, agency, or merchant directly for the approved service or program.
* Eligible purchases would be for items, devices, services, that are not available to the individual through other reimbursed or directly funded insurance, Medicaid state plan, DD waiver, etc., e.g. cellular phones, tablets, computers, unusual home modifications, communication devices, transportation services not available through other programs, new adaptive equipment not available through typical service programs, etc.

The form to fill out for this category can be found at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2JMQHL6>

1. **Community Living Capacity Enhancement Activities**

* Applicant must be a person with Down syndrome who legally resides in New Mexico or a family member or legal guardian applying for services/supports.
* Grants are limited to $7,500 annually per household—payments are not usually made directly to the individual or family. The Arc of New Mexico will pay the vendor, service provider, educational institution, organizing agency, or merchant directly for the approved service or support.
* Eligible purchases: tuition for classes or courses that help an applicant meet personal or professional goals, cost of attendance at music, athletic, art or other camps or workshops, fees for gym memberships, fitness training, social clubs, organized recreation programs, fees for individualized job coaching/training or other special tutoring etc.
* Eligible expenses would be for services that are not available to the individual through other reimbursed or directly funded insurance, Medicaid State Plan, DD waiver, Voc. Rehab etc.

The form to fill out for this category can be found at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R6WDZC7>

1. **Activities Conducted by New Mexico organizations that support people with Down syndrome**

* Applicants must be non-profit 501(c) (3) organizations. Organizations do not necessarily have to be incorporated in New Mexico but must be authorized to do business and conduct activity in the state.
* Grants to non-profit organizations for innovative programs that directly benefit persons with Down syndrome and/or their families, guardians, or decision-making partners, in New Mexico. Grants will not be made for ongoing organizational overhead or routine programs. Grants are capped at $40,000 a year for any qualifying non-profit entity.
* Applicant organizations must demonstrate how the program/project:
  + is solely for individuals with Down syndrome
  + meets an unmet need for people with Down syndrome
  + differs from other programs/projects offered to people with DS in New Mexico or differs in how the service is delivered
  + advances inclusive community living, and/or
  + addresses and helps to correct stigma and stereotyping of and about people with DS, and/or
  + provides information and education to families, guardians, friends, teachers, employers, and others who interact with people with DS to support independent living

The form to fill out for this category can be found at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NKPWKS5>