



Gonzales Trust Application Guide

Background and Purpose of the Gonzales Trust. In 1983, Consuelo Gonzales established a trust through her will for the benefit of her only daughter, Consuelo Isabel Gonzales, who had Down syndrome. Upon her daughter's passing, the trust directed that the remaining funds be used to support New Mexico residents with Down syndrome. Through the collaborative efforts of The Arc of the United States (Arc US) and The Arc of New Mexico (Arc NM), these funds are now available to eligible individuals and organizations throughout the state.

Application Review and Approval Process. The Arc US and the Arc of NM are jointly responsible for administering and distributing the funds in accordance with the terms of the trust. Applications are reviewed monthly by the Arc NM Gonzales Trust Committee. Applications approved by the Committee are then submitted to the Arc US for final review and approval.

Application Categories and Assistance Available. Funding is available across three application categories for individuals, families, and organizations. Each category requires a separate application form. **If you need assistance completing an application, please contact us at Gonzales@arcnm.org.** Our team is available to answer questions and guide you through the application process.

The three categories of funding allowed by the Trust are:

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

- *Eligibility:* Applicant must be a New Mexico resident with Down syndrome, or a parent, family member, or legal guardian applying on their behalf.
- *Family Training:* Family members may apply for conferences, education, or training that directly benefits the individual with Down syndrome.
- *Funding Limits:* Grants are limited to \$5,000 per household annually. Payments are made directly to approved vendors, contractors, or service providers—not to individuals or families.
- *Allowable Expenses:* Funds may be used for items or services not covered by other sources (e.g., insurance, Medicaid, DD Waiver), such as communication devices, adaptive equipment, transportation, or specialized home modifications.

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

2. Community Living Capacity Enhancement Activities

- **Eligibility:** Applicant must be a New Mexico resident with Down syndrome, or a family member or legal guardian applying for services or supports.
- **Funding Limits:** Grants are limited to \$7,500 per household annually. Payments are typically made directly to approved vendors, service providers, educational institutions, or merchants.
- **Allowable Uses:** Funding may support tuition, camps, workshops, gym memberships, fitness programs, social clubs, recreational activities, job coaching, or specialized tutoring that helps achieve personal or professional goals.
- **Funding Criteria:** Services must not be available through other sources such as insurance, Medicaid State Plan, DD Waiver, or Vocational Rehabilitation.

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

3. Organizations. Activities Conducted by New Mexico organizations that support people with Down syndrome

- **Eligibility:** Applicants must be 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations authorized to operate and conduct activities in New Mexico.
- **Funding Scope:** Grants support innovative programs that directly benefit individuals with Down syndrome and/or their families, guardians, or decision-making partners. Funding cannot be used for routine programs or general operating expenses. Awards are capped at \$40,000 annually per organization.
- **Program Requirements:** Applications must clearly demonstrate that the proposed program or project:
 - **Target Population:** Exclusively serves individuals with Down syndrome
 - **Unmet Need:** Addresses a gap in available services
 - **Distinct Approach:** Differs from existing programs or introduces a new method of service delivery
 - **Community Inclusion:** Promotes inclusive community living
 - **Awareness & Advocacy:** Helps reduce stigma and stereotyping
 - **Education & Support:** Provides information and education to families, caregivers, educators, employers, and others to support independence

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