



# The Arc of New Mexico

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## The Arc of New Mexico

- Mission statement: To promote and protect the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively support their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.

## Services Available

- Master Trust – Two types of trust offered by The Arc of NM:
  - Type I: Individuals with disabilities can fund their own trust
    - Funded through personal inheritance, Social Security back payments, personal injury settlement, funds saved in excess of \$2000
  - Type II: Funded by the family of the individual.
  - Purpose: to allow individuals with disabilities to save money without affecting their eligibility for SSI, Medicaid, Waiver program, in order to pay for items not covered by government programs.
  - The Arc provides trust services at a much lower cost to the user than many banks.
- Guardianship:
  - Provide support to individuals with developmental disabilities who do not receive support from family members (i.e., because of death, estrangement, etc., formerly known as “wards of the state”).
  - Assigned by the District Court.
  - Duties: monitoring the individual’s home; advocacy for the individual, assuring programs are in the individual’s best interests; assisting the individual with decision making
  - Guardians do not manage a client’s money.

## Services Provided Cont.

- Representative Payee:
  - Administered by the Social Security Administration.
  - Maintain a direct deposit account for the individual’s Social Security checks.
  - Develop a budget with each individual and their guardian to pay for the individual’s basic needs, such as food, housing, clothing, medical costs, etc.
  - Issue checks according to budget, including personal spending money.
  - Arrange “conserved funds” for special purchases, such as cars, etc., money put in savings until the amount needed for the purchase is reached.
- Public policy/Disability advocacy
- Sexual Assault Program:
  - Provides advocacy for victims of sexual assault with a disability
  - Support the individual with communication when a sexual assault team becomes involved.

## Eligibility for services

- Clients require external evaluation to determine eligibility for financial services provided by the State (i.e. Guardianship, Representative Payee)
- Other services provided by The Arc are open to ALL individuals with a disability.

## Disciplines Providing Services

- Trust Managers: Certified by State Regulation and Licensing Department Fiscal Institutions Division
- Guardians: Nationally certified by the National Guardianship Association (NGA)
  - Trained by The Arc, required to complete training within 90 days of employment.
- Representative Payees: no certification required; Rep Payee program audited by the Social Security Administration.
- All staff at The Arc required to have a minimum of an associates degree; social work or psychology background ideal.

## Funding

- Master Trust: Generates income from fees and investments.
- Guardianship: Income received from State contracts; money can only be spent on guardianship.
- Representative Payee: Income for program is over and above costs.
- Sexual Assault Program: Grant received through the Victims Reparations Commission (State agency, partially federally funded).
- Other income sources:
  - Investments
  - Donations from banks and companies
  - Production of Advocacy and Education materials, which can be sold to other agencies across the country.

## Interaction with other agencies

- Parents Reaching Out – Reciprocal arrangement
  - PRO refer families of adults with disabilities to The Arc; The Arc refer families of children with disabilities to PRO.
  - May receive joint grants for services provided.
- DD Council (NM)
  - Location of the Office of Guardianship
  - Provide funding for the self-advocate conference, which is attached to The Arc’s annual conference.
- Disability Rights Commission
  - Consists of 6 agencies (DD Council, New Vistas, Independent Living Resources Center, Governor’s Commission on Disability, Disability Rights NM, The Arc)
  - General collaboration
- UNM CDD
  - Collaboration on the Financial Education Program; 1-to-1 and group trainings for individuals with disabilities.
  - Individuals assigned a Financial Counsellor with the goal to graduate individuals from The Arc financial services.

## Individuals Interviewed

- Veronica Chavez-Neuman – Chief Executive Officer