



Central Mississippi Down Syndrome Society Special Education Grant Program

CMDSS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization of active and committed volunteers dedicated to providing families who have a loved one with Down syndrome needed support services and information about local resources. CMDSS programs promote positive public awareness, acceptance, and inclusion of all individuals with Down syndrome, as well as the opportunity to succeed.

CMDSS raises funds and awareness through our annual Buddy Walk and annual CMDSS Gala. Our programs include our award winning New Parent Guide, annual photo Calendar featuring area children and adults, Teacher and Direct Support Professional Grant Programs, Family Social and Educational Events, Summer FUNd Grant Program, and Free Resource Library for Families.

We encourage you to learn more about CMDSS at our website: www.cmdss.org.

Purpose of the Grant Program

- To encourage the development and implementation of new special education services, with particular emphasis on services that provide specific benefits to students with Down syndrome.
- To fund new educational services in school programs that are attended by members of CMDSS.

How can the funds be used?

- Funds may be requested to assist teachers in attending educational seminars or purchasing classroom materials for use with students with Down syndrome.
- Funds may be requested to assist with the development and/or implementation of special education curricula that are demonstrated to provide enhanced educational benefits to students with Down syndrome.
- At the discretion of the awarding committee, funds may be requested to assist with other educational programs or services that are demonstrated to provide specific benefits to students with Down syndrome.

Who can apply?

Any special education instructor or administrator who provides special education services, preschool and above, in the service area covered by Central Mississippi Down Syndrome Society. At the discretion of the awarding committee, applications from other geographic areas in Mississippi may be considered.

Where do I apply?

Complete the form and mail it to Central Mississippi Down Syndrome Society, P.O. Box 935, Jackson, MS 39205. If possible, funds should be applied for at least 90 days prior to the date on which funds will be needed.

Is there a limit on the grant amount that can be requested?

In order to extend grants to as many teachers and programs as possible, the following limits apply to grant requests: **Up to a maximum of \$500 per teacher or program per year.** All applications are subject to the availability of funds. Award based on the number of applications received, funds may not be available to award all grants requested, or to award the full amount requested.

Consideration of grant requests will include the following criteria:

- Services or programs that are specifically targeted for students with Down syndrome.
- Services or programs that are demonstrated to provide enhanced educational opportunities for students with Down syndrome.
- Services or programs that encourage the development of self-help skills or new talents, interests and experiences for students with Down syndrome.
- Services or programs that are attended by members of CMDSS.
- Educators may apply for a Special Education Grant every 2 school years. Applications received during Fall semesters may be fulfilled in January of the following year if submitted after all budgeted funds have been used that year.

When do I get the grant money if it is awarded?

Funds are available only for actual expenses associated with a grant that has been awarded. This means that, as part of your grant application, you must provide CMDSS with documentation to establish the actual cost of the program or service for which you are applying. If you are awarded a grant, you will be notified, and CMDSS will then verify with you the actual costs prior to releasing your funds. Other details may be included in the award letter.

Questions? Email: grants@cmdss.org

**Central Mississippi Down Syndrome Society
Special Education Grant Program
Application Form**

Name of Applicant _____

School with which you are associated _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please describe your involvement in providing special education services:

Describe the educational program or service for which you seek grant funds and the expected benefits of the program or service. Among other factors, note if this is a new program; the skills, talents or interests of students the program will target; any specific, demonstrated educational benefits the program will provide to students with Down syndrome; the number of students to be served -- special education students generally and/or number of students with Down syndrome; and any members of CMDSS who will be directly served by the program or service. If available, attach documents that may be helpful in describing the program and its benefits. Please use additional pages for this section if necessary.

Provide the total cost of the program or service, and identify the amount of grant money for which you are applying. Please attach documents that demonstrate the actual costs of the program or service. If you are applying for grant money that will cover only a portion of the actual costs of the program, identify funding sources for the remaining costs of the program. Use additional pages for this section if necessary. If there is any additional information you would like CMDSS to consider as part of your grant application, please include it here.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date Submitted: _____

Mail this completed form to:

**Central Mississippi Down Syndrome Society
P.O. Box 935, Jackson, MS 39205
or e-mail to grants@cmdss.org**