



## Central Mississippi Down Syndrome Society Direct Service Professionals 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](http://www.cmdss.org).***

### **Purpose of the Grant Program**

- To encourage continuing training for direct support professionals and service providers, with particular emphasis on services that provide specific benefits to individuals with Down syndrome.
- To fund learning opportunities for direct support professionals (DSPs) and service providers who work directly with individuals with Down syndrome.

### **How can the funds be used?**

- Funds may be requested to assist DSPs in attending educational conferences or purchasing tools for support for use with individuals with Down syndrome.
- Funds may be requested to assist with the development and/or implementation of evidence based best practices that are demonstrated to provide enhanced quality of life benefits to individuals with Down syndrome.
- At the discretion of the awarding committee, funds may be requested to assist with other programs or services that are demonstrated to provide specific benefits to individuals with Down syndrome.

### **Who can apply?**

Any direct support professional or service provider who provides adult services and supports 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 e-mail to [grants@cmdss.org](mailto:grants@cmdss.org) or mail it to Central Mississippi Down Syndrome Society, P.O. Box 935, Jackson, MS 39205. If possible, funds should be applied for at least 60 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 direct support professionals and programs as possible, the following limits apply to grant requests:

Up to \$500\* per direct support professional or program per year

\*This is a maximum amount. All applications are subject to the availability of funds. 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 adults with Down syndrome.
- Services or programs that are demonstrated to provide enhanced quality of life for adults with Down syndrome.
- Services or programs that encourage the development of self advocacy skills, inclusion, and/or increased independence for adults with Down syndrome.
- Services or programs that are attended by members of CMDSS.
- Service Providers 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 materials or learning opportunity 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.



**Central Mississippi Down Syndrome Society  
Direct Support Professional Grant Program  
Application Form**

**Name of Applicant** \_\_\_\_\_

**Provider with which you are associated :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone and email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please describe your involvement in providing services and supports to adults with Down syndrome**

**Describe the learning opportunity or materials for which you seek grant funds and the expected benefits of the program or service where you are employed. Among other factors, note if this is a new program; the expected outcomes for persons 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 tools or learning opportunity for which you are seeking funding. Please attach documents that demonstrate the actual. If you are applying for grant money that will cover only a portion of the actual costs, identify funding sources for the remaining costs of the tools or learning opportunity. 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.

E-Mail or Mail this completed form to:  
**Central Mississippi Down Syndrome Society**  
P.O. Box 935  
Jackson, MS 39205  
(601) 397-3696  
[grants@cmdss.org](mailto:grants@cmdss.org)

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

