

## Community Agency : The Arc of New Mexico

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•**Individual interviewed: Veronica Chavez Neuman**

Chief Executive Officer

•**The Arc of NM Contact Numbers**

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5130 Masthead St. NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87109

- The Arc of NM is a non-profit organization with the Board on the top.**
- The Arc of NM has vacant positions for board members**
- The Arc of NM is currently employing 30 staff members.**

•**Mission**

"The Arc promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes".

•**History**

The National Arc was founded in 1950. The founders comprised of a small group parents and community members concerned and passionate about changing the public perception regarding children with disabilities. "Since 1955 The Arc New Mexico has been on the front lines in making change happen for people diagnosed with [Autism](#), [Down syndrome](#), [Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder](#), <https://www.arcnm.org/>.

### Eligibility for services

- For guardianship program eligibility is determined by New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (NMDDPC) through the court.
- For the representative payee, eligibility is determined by the Social Security Administration.
- Other Arc of New Mexico services are open to all individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities and their families.

## Services Provided

### 1. Guardianship

- The Arc of New Mexico provides guardianship services to persons with developmental disabilities in New Mexico who may not have family or friends to provide support. The guardianship consists of assisting individuals with developmental disabilities with decision-making in all aspect of their life.
- The Arc contracts with the New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (NMDDPC) to provide this service.

### 2. Public Policy & Legislative Action

- The Arc has been a strong and active participant in every major advocacy effort in New Mexico on behalf of and in partnership with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

### 3. Representative Payee (administered by the Social Security Administration)

- The Arc of New Mexico is an Accredited Organizational Payee service provider which consists of assisting individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities who are unable to manage their own benefit checks. As payee, The Arc is responsible to use individuals' money or benefits of the individuals to pay for their basic needs. This includes expenses such as housing, food, clothing, medical needs, and personal expenses <https://www.arcnm.org/how-we-help/rep-payee/>.

### 4. Muster Trust: With two types (Trust I & Trust II)

- Trust I** allows people with disabilities to fund their own trust – often with funds received through an inheritance, or back payment from social security,
- Trust II** helps families provide for the financial future of their loved ones without affecting eligibility for government benefits such as SSI, SSDI and Medicaid

### 5. Scholarship Program

- The Arc of New Mexico Higher Education Scholarship is to provide financial support for students with disabilities who seek to maximize their education and career opportunities

### Funding

- Representative Payee & Master Trust: Generates income from fees and investments; Arc of NM charge fees for services based on a standard acceptable rate.
- Guardianship provides income from State contracts.
- Investments
- Grants
- Donations from banks and companies
- Production of Advocacy and Education materials and trainings to other agencies across the country.

**N.B: Arc of New Mexico was not financially affected by COVID-19 and does not invest in fundraising activities such as capital campaign.**