

The Calabrese Life Opportunities Fund

A Program of The Arc of Colorado

The Arc of Colorado is a **support** and advocacy organization for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The Arc of Colorado **builds better lives** for person with developmental disabilities and their families.

Core Values

- The Arc believes in self-determination by empowering people with the supports needed to make informed decisions and choices.
- The Arc has responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of individuals.
- Infants, children, and youth with I/DD have access to the supports and services they need to live in their family homes, to succeed in school and to partake in all of the experiences of childhood.
- Adults with I/DD have the opportunity to lead lives of their own choosing, to be free from poverty, to be employed, to reside in the community, and to live independently with ready access to whatever services and supports they need.
- The Arc is a household name, well-known and respected as an effective, **responsive**, well-managed, responsibly governed, and sustainable nonprofit organization.
- We are constantly evolving to meet the changing needs and circumstances of people with I/DD and their families.

Funding Areas: This fund is a program of The Arc of Colorado designed to help people with developmental disabilities of all ages with a large variety of needs. Including, but not limited to:

- Self-determination – Self-determination empowers people to exercise their right to get involved in their community, become more independent, and experience authority over their own lives. funding for self-advocates to purchase items that would allow them to live more independent lives, items such as assistive technology, conferences, educational opportunities, and accessibility equipment.
- Family Preservation – families are being stretched beyond their capabilities caring for family members. Provide funding to keep families together and well cared for. Examples could be extra behavioral supports, counseling for parents and siblings, conferences, educational opportunities, and respite.
- Emergency – funding for emergency unexpected situations. Such as anesthesiology for dental care, cost of emergency housing when a self-advocate chapter member becomes homeless, and providing for basic needs.

NOTE: The Calabrese Fund does NOT help with rent, utilities, deposits or any past bills. Applicants must become connected to an Arc Chapter in their local area.



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Our Application Process

1. Please fill out the Application Form completely. Your signature is required.
2. This fund does NOT assist with rent, utilities, deposits or any past bills. Items or services that have already been provided or even ordered are not funded.
3. This fund is designed to “jump-start” supports and resources without creating a reliance on continued funding and services.
4. We do not fund requests covered by other programs, however, we will attempt to provide referrals.
5. Applications are reviewed on a “blind” basis identifying factors are unknown to the Application Review Committee.
6. Vendors will be paid directly, only after the item or service has been provided per our written approval.
7. Our help can only be short term (1-3 months), so please explain what the applicant will do after this.
8. Please attach a written vendor estimate for items such as medical equipment, wheelchairs, prostheses, auto/van modifications. Since these are often expensive items, please seek out and let us know if the applicant is eligible for help from other organizations or sources and how much has been pledged or received.
9. Please include any evidence of prior funding, denial, etc. that may support your need.
10. Please attach at least 2 vendor estimates, or an estimated budget for the request.
11. Our Application Review Committee meets on an on-going basis as Application Forms are received. As soon as we receive all the needed information, the request will be reviewed. Applicants will be notified within 30 days of approval or denial of request.