national down syndrome society ndss

IMPACT REPORT

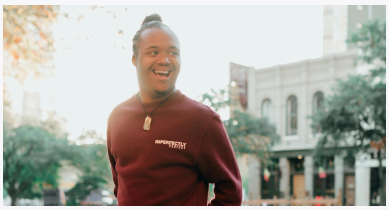
FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

RESOURCES & SUPPORT

4,000+ individuals received personalized support through our helpline and email on topics like education, employment, health, aging, Alzheimer's disease, welcoming a baby with Down syndrome, and how to connect with local groups.

$21,000+ was awarded in scholarships to 30 individuals with Down syndrome to attend the annual Adult Summit and Down Syndrome Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C.

More than $51,000 was awarded in scholarships and grants to support over 42 individuals pursuing post-secondary education, furthering their employment goals, participating in the arts, attending NDSS events, and more.



New health webpages and resources are now available for families covering sleep apnea, behavior, Down Syndrome Regression Disorder, and inclusive mental healthcare practices.

More than 100 genetic counselors, geneticists, and students received education on how to best deliver a Down syndrome diagnosis to expectant parents thanks to NDSS support.

Alzheimer's Association Call Center staff were educated on how to better provide support for caregivers of individuals with Down syndrome.

More than 400+ corporate employees from across the globe attended a presentation by NDSS staff about employment and Down syndrome.

To streamline state-specific special education resources, NDSS created an interactive map on our website with links to each state's department of special education page and their procedural safeguards and parental rights documents.

POLICY & ADVOCACY

Over 275 attendees from 42 states, including 75 self-advocates with Down syndrome, joined NDSS on Capitol Hill for our annual Down Syndrome Advocacy Conference. As a direct result of this advocacy, over a dozen new cosponsors were added to critical legislative priorities and significant progress was made on our key priorities.

The Charlotte Woodward Organ Transplant Discrimination Prevention Act, our top legislative priority, was passed out of committee in the House of Representatives with unanimous, bipartisan support.

In October 2023, Rayshawn Williams, an adult man with Down syndrome went missing in the D.C. area. After being located more than six days later, the NDSS Advocacy and Public Policy team was instrumental in supporting the Williams family in passing a state Purple Alert law in the state of Maryland. This Purple Alert law (also passed in FL, KS, MS, and WV) ensures that pre-existing safety and alert infrastructure can be better utilized to aid in the response to emergency situations where an individual with an intellectual or developmental disability is involved.

NDSS worked closely with the University of Cincinnati Health's team, organized multiple letters of support, and directly lobbied Congress to help secure $3M in Congressionally directed spending for the Timothy Freeman, MD, Center for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities at the University of Cincinnati Health.