

# **NYSARC, INC. COMMUNITY TRUST II**

## **INFORMATION & PROCEDURES**

NYSARC Trust Services  
PO Box 1531  
Latham, NY 12110  
(518) 439-8323

[www.nysarctrustservices.org](http://www.nysarctrustservices.org)

*This document is distributed with the understanding that NYSARC, INC. is not rendering legal, accounting or other professional advice or opinions on specific facts or matters, and, accordingly, assumes no liability whatsoever in connection with its use. Persons with disabilities and their families are strongly encouraged to consult with an attorney who has knowledge and expertise in the estate planning process as it pertains to the special needs of persons with disabilities.*

Copyright 2002 © NYSARC, Inc.  
Revised May 2020

Any redistribution or reproduction of part or all of the contents of this document is prohibited other than printing or downloading for your personal and non-commercial use.  
You may not, without our express written permission, reproduce this document.

**NYSARC, Inc. Community Trust II  
Information and Procedures**

**Table of Contents**

<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Page Number</u></b>
<b>The Trust</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Contact Information</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Eligibility</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Suitability</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Establishing an Account</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Initial Deposit to Establish an Account</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Minimum Balance Requirement</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Subsequent Deposits</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Electronic Deposits</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Spend-down/Surplus/NAMI</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Verification of Deposits</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Fees</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Disbursements</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Sample Eligible Disbursements</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Automatic Payment Guidelines</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Disbursement Limitations</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Required Assistance with Trust Transactions</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Monthly Statements</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Calculating Available Balance</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Monitoring Trust Account Activity</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Add/Remove Authorized Contacts</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Changes to Contact Information</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Detailed Accountings</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Reporting to Government Agencies</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Reporting Taxable Income</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Change in Status of Trust</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Death of Beneficiary</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Funeral Arrangements</b> .....	<b>12</b>

## **NYSARC, Inc. Community Trust II Information and Procedures**

### **The Trust:**

The NYSARC, Inc. Community Trust II is a pooled supplemental needs trust established pursuant to Federal and State law that permits a person with a disability to shelter his/her own funds in order to remain eligible for means-tested government benefits. The Master Trust document governs the entire pool of sub-trust accounts and is already in place. **Disbursements are made at the sole discretion of the Trustees and must be for the sole benefit of the disabled Beneficiary.**

NYSARC, Inc. is the administrator and co-Trustee of the NYSARC, Inc. Community Trust II. A financial institution is appointed as co-Trustee per Master Trust Article V Section 5.1.

### **Contact Information:**

NYSARC Trust Services  
PO Box 1531  
Latham, NY 12110

Phone: (518) 439-8323

Fax: (518) 439-2670

Email: [trustdept@nysarc.org](mailto:trustdept@nysarc.org)  
[www.nysarctrustservices.org](http://www.nysarctrustservices.org)

<b>Hours of Operation:</b>
----------------------------

Monday-Friday: 8 AM – 5 PM
----------------------------

### **Eligibility:**

Individuals who are disabled as defined in Social Security Law Section 1614(a)(3)[42USC 1382c(a)(3)] are eligible to establish a NYSARC, Inc. Community Trust II sub-trust account. There are no restrictions with respect to an individual's disability, ethnicity, religious beliefs or geographic location. The ability to shelter monthly income for Medicaid eligibility is determined on a state by state basis.

### **Suitability:**

The Beneficiary and his/her representatives are solely responsible for determining whether the Trust meets the needs of the individual. Prospective Beneficiaries should consult with their attorneys, case managers, and/or other advisors before seeking participation in the Trust. Fees are charged each month, which means that there may be more efficient ways to spend small amounts of money that are in the best interest of the person with a disability. Funds deposited become the property of the Trust. The Trustees do not know the unique circumstances of any individual and cannot determine if the Trust represents the optimal solution for a particular person. The Trust may not be appropriate for everyone.

## **NYSARC, Inc. Community Trust II Information and Procedures**

### **Establishing an Account:**

In accordance with Federal statute, each individual must establish his/her own sub-trust account. Please refer to the website or contact NYSARC to make sure you have the most recent documents and requirements.

The Joinder Agreement may only be signed by one of the following: The disabled Beneficiary (must have capacity), a parent, grandparent, legal Guardian, or agent under a Power of Attorney (POA).

### **Items currently required when submitting an application:**

- ✓ Completed Joinder Agreement (signed and notarized)
- ✓ Copy of Social Security Card and Social Security Award Letter indicating benefit type and claim number
- ✓ OR SSA-1099 form (if provided, you do not need to send SS card or award letter)
- ✓ **A minimum of \$300.00** in guaranteed funds (e.g. bank check or money order) made payable to *NYSARC, Inc. Community Trust, fbo Beneficiary's name.*

### **If someone other than the account Beneficiary is signing, you must also submit:**

- ✓ Copy of POA or Guardianship Decree, if signed by agent or guardian
- ✓ Copy of the Court Order, if account is established pursuant to a Court Order

### **Mail the application packet to:**

NYSARC Trust Services  
PO Box 1531  
Latham, NY 12110

Accounts are typically established in five (5) business days provided that you submit a complete, notarized Joinder Agreement and all required documentation as listed above. Missing or incomplete information may delay account approval. NYSARC Trust Services will contact the Beneficiary and/or his/her representative regarding any questions or concerns.

Once accepted, the Beneficiary and/or authorized individual—as listed in the Joinder Agreement—will receive a Welcome Packet with all the necessary material to manage the account. NYSARC will provide a welcome call to review the contents of this packet, explain important procedures, and ensure a smooth transition into the trust.

***It is the responsibility of the account Beneficiary or representative noted on the Joinder Agreement to submit trust documents to Medicaid and/or other government agencies for approval.***

## **NYSARC, Inc. Community Trust II Information and Procedures**

### **Initial Deposit to Establish an Account:**

The funds to establish the account are non-refundable after acceptance and must be “guaranteed” (cashier’s/bank check or money order). **The one-time enrollment fee and the first month’s administrative fee will be deducted from your initial deposit in the month the account is established.** Please refer to the current fee schedule.

### **Minimum Balance Requirement:**

A minimum balance, equal to one month’s deposit, is required to remain in the account at all times up to a maximum of \$3,000. No disbursements will be approved from a sub-trust account until it is accepted and the minimum balance requirement is satisfied.

### **Subsequent Deposits:**

Monthly deposits must come from the Beneficiary’s funds. Cash deposits will not be accepted. Checks should be made payable to *NYSARC, Inc. Community Trust, fbo Beneficiary’s name* and must be mailed to the address on the deposit slips:

NYSARC, Inc. Community Trust  
PO Box 1788  
Albany, NY 12201-1788

***Deposits sent directly to our office will be returned.*** Deposit slips are included in the Welcome Packet provided at account establishment. To request additional deposit slips, please contact customer service at (518) 439-8323.

**Do not** include correspondence with deposits. Deposits are received at a bank lockbox; therefore, correspondence will not be received by NYSARC Trust Services.

Please note, a fee will be charged to the trust account for any deposits that are returned for insufficient funds. Refer to the current fee schedule for more information.

### **Electronic Deposits:**

You may choose to enroll in electronic deposits where the trust withdraws your deposit from your bank account each month on a scheduled day. Please complete the *Monthly Electronic Deposit* form to apply for this service. The form is included in the Welcome Packet provided at account establishment and is also available on our website at [www.nysarctrustservices.org](http://www.nysarctrustservices.org).

### **Spend-down/Surplus Income/Net Available Monthly Income (NAMI):**

Medicaid determines an individual’s spend-down/surplus income/NAMI amount.

## **NYSARC, Inc. Community Trust II Information and Procedures**

NYSARC Trust Services cannot advise individuals in regards to their spend-down/surplus income/NAMI or determine their necessary monthly deposit.

If Medicaid determines there is a change in the spend-down amount, please notify NYSARC and provide a copy of the Medicaid Notice of Decision. If you are making Electronic Deposits, submit a new *Monthly Electronic Deposit* form requesting the change in amount.

### **Verification of Deposits:**

NYSARC Trust Services will provide a verification of deposit upon request. To verify a deposit, email [trustdept@nysarc.org](mailto:trustdept@nysarc.org) or contact customer service to provide us with the name and fax number and/or mailing address of the recipient. You can also download a report of deposit history from the NYSARC Trust Portal. See *User Tips Guide* for more information.

### **Fees:**

There is a **\$200 one-time enrollment fee** to establish a NYSARC, Inc. Community Trust II. Administrative fees are charged monthly according to the current fee schedule. Fees are based on the monthly deposit amount and are subject to change at any time.

Trust expenses and fees are deducted before requested disbursements. Lack of funds will delay the processing of disbursement requests until funds are received.

### **Disbursements:**

A key goal of NYSARC, Inc. Community Trust II is to help people with disabilities stay in the community, so we typically pay living expenses before considering other requests.

### **Current requirements to submit a disbursement request:**

- ✓ A completed disbursement request form
- ✓ An invoice, bill, or receipt in the Beneficiary's name
- ✓ An authorized individual must sign the disbursement request form
- ✓ Attach additional documentation as needed
- ✓ Adequate funds "available" in the sub-trust account

### **Mail Disbursement Request To:**

NYSARC Trust Services  
PO Box 1531  
Latham, NY 12110

### **Fax Disbursement Request To:**

Fax: (518) 439-2670  
(available 24 hours)

Complete and accurate documentation is required in order to consider any disbursement request. Lack of documentation or availability of funds will delay processing time.

## **NYSARC, Inc. Community Trust II Information and Procedures**

Please allow **up to 14 days** for processing of approved requests. NYSARC Trust Services is not responsible for late charges which may be incurred.

**In accordance with Federal statute, no disbursements will be made after the death of the Beneficiary. Requests and supporting documentation must be received by NYSARC prior to the death of the Beneficiary.**

**All disbursements are made at the sole discretion of the Trustees and must meet the below criteria:**

- ✓ Request is for the sole benefit of the account Beneficiary
- ✓ Expense must have been incurred within 90 days of submission
- ✓ Invoice must be in Beneficiary's name
- ✓ All submitted invoices must be itemized, legible, reflect date of service, and indicate that the service is for the Beneficiary.
- ✓ All disbursements must be made payable to third parties only
- ✓ All third party service providers and vendors must be legitimate registered businesses or documented employees in which all employment taxes and filings are prepared.
- ✓ Disbursement requests relating to a family or other type of Trust require submission of the Trust document for our legal department to review prior to consideration.

### **Sample Eligible Disbursements:**

This list is not inclusive nor does it guarantee payment will be approved.

- ✓ ***Property expenses*** – Deed, life estate, or trust document must be submitted. The Beneficiary must have some ownership in the property or have retained a life estate for consideration. These expenses include property taxes, repairs, maintenance, and property insurance.

NOTE: Expenses may be pro-rated based on percentage of ownership.  
(e.g. property ownership with a non-spouse)

- ✓ ***Rent*** – A current signed lease indicating the Beneficiary as tenant must be on file. Rental amount must not exceed “market” rent.

NOTE: Beneficiaries residing with a non-spouse may result in a pro-rata share.

NOTE: A lease between spouses will not be honored.

- ✓ ***Mortgage*** – A residential loan agreement and payment coupon in the name of the Beneficiary must be submitted. Beneficiary must be listed as mortgagor.

## NYSARC, Inc. Community Trust II Information and Procedures

- ✓ **Maintenance fee** – HOA agreement and a payment coupon in the name of the Beneficiary must be submitted.
- ✓ **Assisted living facility** – A current signed lease, or other documentation provided by facility, indicating the Beneficiary as tenant must be on file. In addition, a monthly invoice must be submitted.
- ✓ **Cable/satellite television, cell phone, telephone, utilities** – Invoice in the Beneficiary's name and indicating primary residence as service address.
- ✓ **Vehicle related expenses** – A copy of vehicle title and registration demonstrating beneficiary as owner is required.
- ✓ **Insurance** – Renters and homeowner - Policy and invoice indicating primary residence as insured property, refer to documents needed to pay rent, or property expenses.
- ✓ **Income tax** - State and Federal income taxes will be considered for payment. Any request for income tax relating to jointly filed return(s) must include an allocation of income from an independent tax preparer or submission of tax documents (i.e. 1099). Only a pro-rata share of tax may be paid. A copy of the Federal and State returns must be submitted with request.

Estimated income taxes will be considered for quarterly payment. A copy of previous year return(s) is required.

- ✓ **Credit cards** – Only current month eligible charges will be considered. Beneficiary must be the account holder. All charges must be for the sole benefit of the Beneficiary. A complete detailed statement plus ALL itemized receipts for the purchases you are requesting the trust to pay must be submitted with a copy of the entire monthly credit card statement. Failure to submit receipts will result in reduction of payment.
- ✓ **Reimbursements** – to a third party require proof of payment. Contact our office prior to making purchases and/or obtaining services to ensure they are eligible for reimbursement.
- ✓ **Funeral arrangement** – An Irrevocable/Medicaid eligible pre-need agreement may be considered during the Beneficiary's lifetime. A disbursement request and copy of the pre-need contract is required. Requests for payment toward contract will only be made prior to beneficiary death.

Consistent with Federal statute, the sub-trust account terminates up the death of the beneficiary. No distributions can be made after the date of death, including funeral or related expenses

- ✓ **Court approved payments directing disbursement from sub-trust account** – A copy of the Court Order is required.



## **NYSARC, Inc. Community Trust II Information and Procedures**

- ✓ **Other** – A dated, detailed invoice or price quote is required in the beneficiary’s name from a third party vendor. If approved, payment will be made directly to the third party vendor.

### **Automatic Payment Guidelines for Rent/Mortgage/Maintenance Fees:**

Beneficiary’s that have made three (3) consecutive monthly deposits, may apply for automatic payment of rent, mortgage, or monthly maintenance fees. New accounts that enroll in Electronic Deposits may apply for automatic payment 30 days after trust acceptance date.

You must complete and send an *Automatic Payment Application* to our office for review. The application is available on our website at [www.nysarctrustservices.org](http://www.nysarctrustservices.org) and also in the Welcome Packet you received following acceptance.

- Automatic payment amount must be the same each month.
- Monthly deposits must be received at least four (4) business days prior to the date of your scheduled automatic payment to ensure the availability of funds.
- Missed monthly deposits or deposits returned for insufficient funds may result in cancellation of payment. Prior to re-starting, you must make three (3) additional consecutive monthly deposits and submit a new *Automatic Payment Application*.
- Minimum balance requirement must be met at all times. If the account balance falls below this amount, automatic payment may be cancelled.
- Please allow up to three (3) weeks for approval and processing of an automatic payment request. You must continue to submit a disbursement request form monthly to process rent while awaiting approval of automatic payments.

Please contact NYSARC or check the NYSARC Trust Portal to verify that an automatic payment has been established before discontinuing monthly disbursement requests.

**Note: Automatic payment is not available for other budgeted payments such as utilities and loans.**

### **Disbursement Limitations:**

This is not an inclusive list. The following items are not eligible for disbursement:

- × Disbursements payable to the Beneficiary in order to protect benefit eligibility
- × Cash advances taken on credit cards and related fees
- × Payments to financial institutions for debit card charges, and overdraft fees/expenses, lines of credit

## **NYSARC, Inc. Community Trust II Information and Procedures**

- × Rent/lease between spouses will not be honored or amounts that exceed market rent
- × Reimbursement for purchases made from a joint checking account held with the Beneficiary
- × Reimbursement to spouse
- × Tobacco
- × Alcohol
- × Bail, restitution, and related legal fees
- × Fire arms
- × Medicaid eligible expenses incurred after the Trust was established
- × Any item for an individual other than the Beneficiary
- × Gifts, gift cards, parties, or donations
- × Surplus income invoices (NAMI, Spend-down)
- × Life insurance premiums
- × Requests for expenses incurred greater than 90 days prior to submission
- × **Any disbursement after the death of the beneficiary**

### **Required Assistance with Trust Transactions:**

The Trustees in their discretion may require an intermediary to assist in the administration of the Beneficiary's sub-trust account. The cost of which may be charged to the sub-trust account.

### **Monthly Statements:**

Account statements are prepared monthly and mailed to the individual(s) designated on the Joinder Agreement. Statements are mailed approximately three (3) weeks after the end of the previous month. Statements include a summary page and detailed monthly activity for your convenience.

### **Calculating Available Balance:**

Account balances are provided to NYSARC when monthly statements are generated by the bank. NYSARC makes it easy to check the balance in a trust account between monthly statements using the automated phone system and the NYSARC Trust Portal. See *Monitoring Trust Account Activity* for more information.

Please do not submit disbursement requests in excess of your monthly deposit less administrative fees.

## NYSARC, Inc. Community Trust II Information and Procedures

The formula below will assist you when calculating the amount available for disbursement:

Account balance from last account statement  
+ Deposits received by NYSARC since last statement  
- Disbursements submitted since last statement (including automatic payments)  
- Monthly Administrative fee  
= **Total balance in account**  
- One month deposit (minimum balance requirement)  
= **Balance available for disbursements**

### **Monitoring Trust Account Activity:**

#### *Automated Phone System:*

Call the automated phone system 24/7 to listen to a recording of recent transactions:

- **Dial (518) 439-8323 and PRESS 8** during the greeting
- Enter the account number and the Beneficiary's pin number
- Follow the menu prompts to check the account balance, verify deposits received, and check the status of a disbursement request.

#### *Online Access via NYSARC Trust Portal:*

**After you receive the first bank statement**, Beneficiaries and authorized individuals can also monitor trust accounts online using the NYSARC Trust Portal. To create an account, visit <https://portal.nysarctrustservices.org/signup>. There are detailed instructions on how to sign up in the Welcome Packet provided at account establishment.

#### *Live Customer Service:*

Our responsive and knowledgeable staff are available weekdays from 8 AM – 5 PM to answer your questions and can assist you with matters not supported by the automated phone system or Online Portal. NYSARC also offers multi-lingual customer support upon request.

For confidentiality and the security of our Beneficiaries, only authorized individuals may contact NYSARC Trust Services on behalf of a Beneficiary. Each time you contact customer service you must provide the last four (4) digits of the Beneficiary's Social Security number as well as the six (6) digit account number.

## **NYSARC, Inc. Community Trust II Information and Procedures**

### **Add/Remove Authorized Contacts:**

NYSARC requires that you designate at least one authorized contact in the Joinder Agreement. The Beneficiary or other authorized individual may request to add or remove an authorized contact after acceptance by mail, email, or by contacting customer service. Please specify which of the following permissions you authorize the individual/agency to do:

- ✓ Communicate/obtain account information
- ✓ Receive monthly statements
- ✓ Submit disbursement requests
- ✓ Allow access to NYSARC Trust Portal

### **Changes to Contact Information:**

It's important that NYSARC has up-to-date contact information for Beneficiaries and authorized contacts. We will accept changes to information from the Beneficiary or authorized individual by mail, email, or by contacting customer service.

### **Detailed Accountings:**

Accountings required for benefit recertification and by Court Order are prepared upon request. Please allow up to 30 days for processing.

### **Reporting to Government Agencies:**

It is the responsibility of the Beneficiary or his/her representative to report Trust activity to applicable government agencies. If necessary, NYSARC Trust Services may provide, upon request, documentation to the Beneficiary, or directly to the government agency for assistance with reporting requirements.

### **Reporting Taxable Income:**

NYSARC, Inc. Community Trust II files Federal forms 1041 and New York State IT-205 for tax purposes. Any Beneficiary with distributed taxable income will be issued a form K-1 that must be reported on their personal income tax return.

Taxable income earned but not distributed via disbursements during the year will be calculated at the Trust tax rate and reported on the Trust's tax return. Any tax incurred within the Trust is allocated to the appropriate beneficiaries and will be deducted from their sub-trust account.

## **NYSARC, Inc. Community Trust II Information and Procedures**

### **Change in Status of Trust:**

#### *Beneficiary Permanently Admitted into a Nursing Home:*

If the Beneficiary enters a nursing home and is not expected to return home, notify NYSARC immediately and stop making monthly deposits. Nursing home bills for spend-down/surplus/NAMI cannot be paid.

#### *Beneficiary No Longer has a Spend-down/Surplus/NAMI Income:*

If the Beneficiary no longer has a spend-down/surplus/NAMI, notify NYSARC Trust Services.

In either of these scenarios, the minimum balance requirement will be made available, so that the full balance, less unpaid fees and expenses, may be used for disbursement. There will be no change to the procedures regarding disbursements. The minimum monthly administrative fee will be charged until the account is fully expended.

### **Death of Beneficiary:**

**Please notify NYSARC Trust Services immediately.** The authorized representative is required to submit a copy of the death certificate as soon as possible.

Consistent with Federal statute, the sub-trust account terminates upon the death of the Beneficiary and all funds remaining in the sub-trust account shall remain with the Trust.

Any disbursements paid after the death of the beneficiary **must be returned to NYSARC, Inc. Community Trust.**

### **Funeral Arrangements:**

Payment toward an Irrevocable/Medicaid eligible pre-need agreement may be considered during the beneficiary's lifetime. Submission of a disbursement request and copy of the pre-need contract is required and must be received by NYSARC at least 24 hours prior to the beneficiary's death.

Consistent with Federal statute, the sub-trust account terminates upon the death of the beneficiary. No distributions can be made after the date of death, including funeral or related expenses.