

August 2015 Update

The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) continues an innovative effort to address the growing diversity of people with disabilities by developing a *Diversity & Inclusion Blueprint* to include guidance, resources, and action plans for network Centers, AUCD, AIDD and MCHB, so each can better serve diverse populations.

The Diversity & Inclusion Fellowship team concluded the formal information-gathering stage of the project in mid-June. In July, we sifted through these results and organized them by audience and topic ([see “Beautiful Mind Meets Blueprint”](https://www.aucd.org/images2/photos/ucedd/Blueprint%20meets%20Beautiful%20Mind.jpg)) [Photo of board covered in pieces papers with topics written on them]

In July, we also began to work with two advisory committees. One is formed from members of the Multicultural Council and the other is comprised of a group of internal and external (to the AUCD network) stakeholders. In addition, we are working with the AIDD UCEDD Diversity and Inclusion Workgroup convened by Commissioner Bishop, who has provided guidance related to funding priorities that AIDD might consider.

Each of these groups has received a draft document called, “Objectives, Audiences, Strategies, Resources, Examples.” We expect their feedback to arrive by the end of the first week in August, and a second round of feedback by the end of August. We will incorporate the feedback and use it to populate the Blueprint website. We continue to insert additional resources to provide the network with the examples and references needed to implement recommended strategies.

The [draft document](https://www.aucd.org/docs/urc/Diversity%20Blueprint/Diversity%20%26%20Inclusion%20Blueprint%20DRAFT.docx)  is also available for your review. As always, we are open to your comments, suggestions, and additional resources; if you have feedback, please track changes directly in the document itself and return it to drudolph@aucd.org.

We also are in the process of developing the Blueprint website, which is how the Blueprint will be shared.

Finally, members of the Diversity and Inclusion Blueprint team joined many of our colleagues across the country in a variety of activities celebrating the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Engaging the network and ensuring it addresses your needs is key to the success of this effort.

Every faculty, staff, trainee, and advisory group member within AUCD’s network is encouraged to participate. For more information, please contact Dawn Rudolph at drudolph@aucd.org.