



Introduction to AUCD Membership Dues

AUCD invoices all member Centers annually for membership dues. Those dues are based upon a percentage of your UCEDD, LEND, and IDDRC core funding, as approved by the AUCD Board of Directors.

Membership dues are utilized to fund AUCD efforts in support of network members in areas that are not otherwise covered by funding sources including technical assistance contracts and cooperative agreements. These efforts include support of Councils, Special Interest Groups, educating legislators and other policymakers, and a small amount of lobbying.

Some of the AUCD policy staff are registered lobbyists, and in this role they use a portion of their time to advocate for the interests of, and appropriations for, UCEDDs, LENDs, IDDRCs, and their affiliated Universities. An active presence in Washington, DC, contributes to the continued support for, and impact of, our full network. A very small percentage of membership dues are utilized for lobbying, and this percentage is re-assessed annually.

How member Centers pay dues varies from center to center and is based on university policies and grant policies. As such, Centers treat dues in different ways with some paying a portion or all of them out of discretionary funds. Funds to consider using include indirect funds from non-federal sources, donations, fee-for-service funds, non-federal flow through state contracts or service funds, consulting funds, honoraria, university funds, and any other discretionary source.

Membership dues are an allowable use of federal funds, according to the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) [Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards](#) (also known as "Supercircular"). Lobbying is not an allowable use of federal funds. AUCD provides clarity in this area by assessing annually the percentage of membership dues used for lobbying; this percentage will be found on invoices for membership dues. It is this percentage of dues used for lobbying that cannot be paid for by federal funds. In keeping with OMB guidelines, non-federal, discretionary funds should be identified to cover this portion of the cost of AUCD membership dues.

It is also important to fully understand your university policies that are related to this topic, and ensure that your business office and financial staff fully understand the federal and university policies and restrictions as well.

AIDD provides guidance related to lobbying versus educating policymakers, which is available [here on the UCEDD Resource Center website](#).

Finally, as a strategy for increasing your fiscal flexibility you will want to strongly negotiate with your university to keep as much of your indirect funds and other earned funds as possible. It will certainly take some negotiation with your University administration, but will result in increasing the amount of unrestricted funds for your UCEDD.