



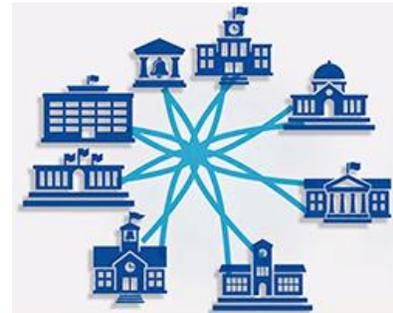
ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY CENTERS ON DISABILITIES  
THE LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION, ADVOCACY & RESEARCH NETWORK

## Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Centers (IDDRCs)

*Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute for Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)*

Established in 1963 by Congress as "centers of excellence" for research in mental retardation and developmental disabilities, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Centers (IDDRCs) [formerly known as Mental Retardation Developmental Disabilities Research Centers (MRDDRCs)] represent the nation's first and foremost sustained effort to

prevent and treat disabilities through biomedical and behavioral research. The network of IDDRCs with AUCD membership consists of 14 Centers with current P30 core grant funding from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute for Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). Each IDDRC supports 40-100 Research Projects on an annual basis that seek to advance the understanding of chromosomal conditions and biochemical processes as they relate to brain function and intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. IDDRCs contribute to the development and



implementation of evidence-based practices by evaluating the effectiveness of biological, biochemical, and behavioral interventions; developing assistive technologies; and advancing prenatal diagnosis and newborn screening. They also provide invaluable research training, mentoring, and support to emerging leaders in clinical and research science.

### **FY2021 Funding Request:**

AUCD requests that Congress appropriate \$1.708 billion for the NICHD within the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a 7% increase from FY2021. AUCD additionally requests the consideration of allocated funding for IDDRCs within the NICHD FY22 budget see a proportional increase of 7%.

### **NICHD Funding History (in billions):**

FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22 Request
\$1.452	\$1.506	\$1.557	\$1.590	<b>\$1.708</b>

### **Recommended Report Language:**

The increased funding for the NICHD will allow the national network of IDDRCs continue to produce research advancing our base understanding of intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. They are integral to the development, implementation, and evaluation of evidence-based practices by evaluating the effectiveness of biological, biochemical, and behavioral interventions; developing assistive technologies; and advancing prenatal diagnosis and newborn screening.

### **Justification:**

This increased level of funding for NICHD is essential to building upon the cutting-edge research and collaboration of the IDDRC network to better understand the neural and biomolecular underpinnings of intellectual and/or developmental disabilities to better inform treatments and interventions. This research is more important than ever as our nation grapples with the reality that individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities suffered more severe symptoms of COVID-19 and died at disproportionately higher rates.