



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD)

Since 2000, Congress has recognized the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as critical to advancing the health and well-being of our nation’s most vulnerable populations. Authorized under the Children’s Health Act of 2000 (P.L.106-310, Sub.B, Sec.611), the Center addresses four critical needs: saving babies through surveillance, research, and prevention of birth defects and infant disorders; helping children live to the fullest by understanding developmental disabilities; protecting people by preventing the complications of blood disorders; and improving the health of people living with disabilities. The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) works closely with NCBDDD to develop and disseminate research, training, technical assistance, and service to improve the health of individuals with disabilities across the lifespan. Notable partnerships between NCBDDD and AUCD include the “Learn the Signs. Act Early.” program, which connects families to early intervention services, and the Children’s Mental Health Champions, which promote state-specific supports for positive parenting practices.

FY 2022 Funding Request:

AUCD requests that Congress appropriate \$180 million for NCBDDD for FY 2022 within the appropriations for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

NCBDDD Funding History (*in millions*):

FY20	FY21	FY22 Request
\$160	\$167	\$180

Recommended Report Language:

The funding will allow NCBDDD to continue its critical work improving the health of infants, children, and adults with disabilities and their families through surveillance, research, prevention, and treatment efforts. Working towards healthcare equity for the disability community is of the upmost importance as people with disabilities continue to be hospitalized and die at higher rates than people without disabilities. Continued collaboration with AUCD on the “Learn the Signs. Act Early.” and the Children’s Mental Health Champions programs will be critical to supporting children and families on the nation’s path to economic and public health recovery.

Justification:

This increased level of funding is necessary for NCBDDD to continue meeting the needs of young children and their families, and people with disabilities of all ages as we work to address the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts. The “Learn the Signs. Act Early.” program provides parents with crucial information on developmental milestones, best practices, and how to connect to early childhood specialists at a time when many families have been isolated and experiencing disruptions to their children’s routine healthcare and education. Increased funding will also allow expansion of the Children’s Mental Health Champions program, providing timely support for children and their families as COVID-19 has impacted school closures, suspended home visiting services, made pediatric visits virtual, and caused additional stress and financial insecurity.

For more information on LEND work in your state, visit www.aucd.org or contact Rylin Rodgers, Director of Public Policy, at rrodgers@aucd.org