

## Projects of National Significance (PNS)

For over 20 years, Congress has recognized the need for data collection about people with disabilities, their families, and their communities. Authorized under Section 156 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-402, Subtitle D), PNS gather longitudinal data to monitor progress on important policy priorities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) such as where they work and live, average wages earned, and the costs and outcomes of services and supports. PNS have contributed to the development of evidence-based practices and improved state-level policies that support people with IDD to lead quality lives in the community and avoid costlier institutional services. The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) supports and promotes the national network of university-based interdisciplinary programs that execute PNS.



### FY 2022 Funding Request:

AUCD requests that Congress appropriate \$14 million for PNS for FY 2022 within the Administration for Community Living (ACL) in the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill.

### Funding History (*in millions*):

FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	AUCD FY22 Request
\$12.0	\$12.0	\$12.25	\$12.25	<b>\$14.0</b>

### Recommended Report Language:

These projects gather and report longitudinal data on the costs of, status of, and trends in residential, in-home, individual, family, and employment services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They assist policymakers at the state and national levels to understand and improve policies and practices for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by monitoring progress, measuring outcomes, and identifying or developing evidence-based practices in areas of national importance, such as cost-effective family supports, increasing employment opportunities, and ensuring an adequate supply of qualified people to provide supports. They also inform policymakers and stakeholders about critical emerging needs, provide technical assistance to strengthen and support service networks, and disseminate research and best practices nationwide.

### Justification:

The requested funds will support continuation of Projects of National Significance that (1) inform national and state policymakers about the status and trends in long-term supports and services for people with IDD through ongoing programs of data collection, analysis, information dissemination, and technical assistance to support emerging and evidenced-based policy and practice; (2) support the development and demonstration of models for promising practices that support high quality personal outcomes and systems change; 3) develop and implement protocols in their work to address COVID-19; 4) funds may also support a Project of National Significance focused on direct support workforce development.