



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

## University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service (UCEDDs)

Since 1963, Congress has recognized that University Centers are in a strategic position in each state and territory to facilitate the flow of disability-related information between community and university. Authorized under Section 156 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-402, Subtitle D), Centers work with people with disabilities, members of their families, state and local government agencies, and community providers in projects that provide training, technical assistance, service, research, and information sharing, with a focus on building the capacity of communities to sustain all their residents. UCEDDs have played key roles in every major disability initiative over the past four decades. Many issues, such as early intervention, health care, community-based services, inclusive and meaningful education, transition from school to work, employment, housing, assistive technology, and transportation have benefited directly from the services, research, and training provided by UCEDDs. The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) provides technical assistance to the national network of university-based interdisciplinary programs.



### FY2021 Funding Request:

AUCD requests that Congress appropriate \$43.5 million for the UCEDDs for FY 2021 within the Administration for Community Living (ACL) in the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill.

### Funding History:

FY17	FY18 Omnibus	FY19	FY20	AUCD's FY21 Request
\$39.0	\$40.6	\$40.6	\$41.619	\$43.5

### Recommended Report Language:

The funding will also allow the Centers to continue to respond to emerging and emergent national issues and to continue addressing the needs of the rising numbers of individuals on the autism spectrum, demonstrate cost-effective long-term services and supports for adults with disabilities and those aging with disabilities, support returning veterans, and provide technical assistance to strengthen and support the national network of Centers as they disseminate research and best practices nationwide.

### Justification:

This increased level of funding is necessary to keep the national network of Centers strong and able to respond to emerging national issues, such as assisting states to effectively implement recently enacted Federal laws like the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), and new regulations pertaining to the Medicaid Home and Community Based Services waivers. Increased funding will be used to leverage the UCEDDs' existing relationships with state agencies, disability organizations, and youth and young adults with disabilities to help implement provisions under WIOA and ESSA, such as training education professionals regarding the use of evidence-based best practices in educating students with disabilities and improving comprehensive transition outcomes from adolescence to adulthood in ways that lead to successful post-secondary education and meaningful employment.

**For more information on UCEDD work in your state, visit [www.aucd.org](http://www.aucd.org) or contact Rylin Rodgers, Director of Public Policy at [rrodgers@aucd.org](mailto:rrodgers@aucd.org)**