



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 critical to the flow of disability-related information between communities and universities in every state and territory. 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, 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 support all their residents. The services, research, and training provided by UCEDDs have directly benefited the experiences of the disability community with early intervention, health care, public health, community-based services, inclusive and meaningful education, employment, housing, assistive technology, emergency response and transportation.

FY 2022 Funding Request:

AUCD requests that Congress appropriate \$45 million for the UCEDDs 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's FY22 Request
\$40.6	\$40.6	\$41.6	\$42.1	\$45

Recommended Report Language:

The funding will allow the national network of Centers continue to assist states in response to the health, economic, and social emergencies facing our country. They are integral to the research, education, training, and service efforts that help states implement enacted legislation ensuring that people with disabilities of all ages benefit from education, integrated employment, and community living. This funding will also allow the UCEDDs to continue addressing the needs of the rising numbers of individuals with disabilities, 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 practices nationwide.

Justification:

This increased level of funding is necessary to keep the national network of Centers strong and able to respond to the health, economic and social emergency facing our country. In 2020, the number of UCEDD requests for technical assistance increased by 75% and the number of technical assistance products developed for the UCEDD network increased by 115% due to the impact of COVID-19 on systems supporting people with disabilities. Increased funding will enable the Centers to assist in ongoing developmental monitoring and data collection for individuals with disabilities, including survivors of COVID-19 that experience disability. The funding will also be used to leverage the UCEDDs' existing relationships with state agencies, disability organizations, and youth and young adults with disabilities to help implement modernized policies by training professionals regarding the use of evidence-based best practices across systems that serves people with disabilities.

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