

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Centers (IDDRCs)

Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute for Child Health and Human Development



The Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Centers (IDDRCs) were established in 1963 as "centers of excellence" for research in intellectual and developmental disabilities. The IDDRC's 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 15 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.



FY 2024 Funding Request:

AUCD requests that Congress appropriate \$1.877 billion for the NICHD within the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a 7.3 percent increase from FY 23. AUCD additionally requests allocated funding for IDDRCs within the NICHD FY 24 budget is at a proportional increase of 7.3 percent.

NICHD Funding History (*in billions*):

FY 18	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24 Request
\$1.452	\$1.506	\$1.557	\$1.590	\$1.683	\$1.816	\$1.877

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. While NICHD has seen annual funding increases, the IDDRC grant budget has remained flat for several years. Its successes are many. Scientific advances by the IDDRC network are identifying specific genes causing life-threatening conditions and are developing interventions to preserve health and function in the earliest stages of life.

Recommended Report Language:

The national network of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Centers (IDDRCs) in NICHD are provided a proportional increase to the overall increase in funding for NIH. The IDDRCs continue to conduct research advancing the understanding of the cause of intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. The IDDRCs 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.

For more information on IDDRC work in your state, visit www.aucd.org or contact Cindy Smith, Director of Public Policy, at csmith@aucd.org