

Since 1963, Congress has recognized that the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD): Education, Research, and Service located in every state and territory are a critical and expansive resource for building the capacity of communities and creating improvements in the service delivery system for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. The 67 university-based UCEDDs are interdisciplinary centers authorized by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act) (Section 156 of P.L.106-402, Subtitle D).

The funding from the DD Act supports the basic operating costs for each UCEDD. Each UCEDD leverages the core funding from the DD Act to secure additional funding to meet the needs identified by constituents within each state and territory and carry out the purpose of the DD Act. The purpose of the DD Act is to assure that individuals with I/DD and their families help design and have access to individualized and community services and supports that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life, through culturally competent programs.

The UCEDDs provide training, technical assistance, service, research, and information dissemination to people with disabilities, their families, state and local government agencies, and providers. The UCEDDs have directly improved services and supports in the states and territories in early intervention, healthcare, public health, community-based services, education, employment, housing, assistive technology, emergency response, and transportation.

**FY 2024 Funding Request:**

AUCD requests that Congress appropriate \$47.173 million for the UCEDDs for FY 2024 within the Administration for Community Living (ACL) budget in the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill.

**Funding History (in millions):**

FY 18	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24 Request
\$40.6	\$40.6	\$41.6	\$42.119	\$42.119	\$43.119	\$47.173

**Justification:**

The increased funding will ensure that the UCEDDs continue to implement the purpose and requirements of the DD Act and can respond to the increased demand for training and technical assistance. In FY 2022, the UCEDDs and Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities programs (frequently located in UCEDDs) reached 2.3 million people through community training and technical assistance activities and the UCEDDs trained over 1900 professionals that work with people with disabilities.

The funding provided to the UCEDDs also funds the UCEDD Resource Center, which provides technical assistance to increase the UCEDDs' impact. In FY 2022, every UCEDD requested technical assistance. The UCEDD Resource Center responded to 537 requests for technical assistance. The Center also disseminated 50 new products and 7 recurring products to the UCEDDs.

**Recommended Report Language:**

The increased funding will provide the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities the necessary funding to continue to meet their obligations under the DD Act. The Centers provide training, technical assistance, service, research, and information dissemination to people with disabilities, their families, state and local government agencies, and providers, to build the capacity of communities and create improvements in the service delivery system for people with I/DD and other disabilities, including those from underrepresented populations. The funding also will support technical assistance to strengthen and support the national network of UCEDDs as they disseminate research, training, and practices nationwide.

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

