



**Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Centers (IDDRCs)**  
*Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute for Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)*

The Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Centers (IDDRCs) [formerly known as Mental Retardation Developmental Disabilities Research Centers (MRDDRCs)] were established in 1963 as "centers of excellence" for research in mental retardation and developmental disabilities. The IDDRCs 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 16 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 2023 Funding Request:**

AUCD requests that Congress appropriate \$1.816 billion for the NICHD within the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a 7.9 percent increase from FY2021. AUCD additionally requests the consideration of allocated funding for IDDRCs within the NICHD FY 23 budget see a proportional increase of 7.9 percent.

**NICHD Funding History (in billions):**

FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23 Request
\$1.452	\$1.506	\$1.557	\$1.590	\$1.683	\$1.816

**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. This research is more important given the reality that individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities are experiencing more severe symptoms of COVID-19 and died at disproportionately higher rates than people without disabilities.

**Recommended Report Language:**

The increased funding for the NICHD will allow the national network of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Centers continue to conduct research advancing the understanding of the cause of intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. The Centers 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](http://www.aucd.org) or contact Cindy Smith, Director of Public Policy, at [csmith@aucd.org](mailto:csmith@aucd.org)*