



Projects of National Significance (PNS)

The Projects of National Significance (PNS) are authorized under Section 156 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-402, Subtitle D). The PNS invest in innovative demonstration projects, including collecting and analyzing longitudinal data to monitor the progress on important policy priorities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), including where they live, where they work, the wages they earn, and the costs and outcomes of services and supports. The PNS have contributed to the development of evidence-based practices and improved federal and state policies that support people with I/DD to lead quality inclusive lives in their communities and avoid costlier services in segregated settings and institutions. The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) supports the national network of university-based interdisciplinary programs that execute the longitudinal data collection and analysis studies that are part of PNS.

FY 2023 Funding Request:

AUCD requests that Congress appropriate \$24.6 million for PNS for FY 2023 within the Administration for Community Living (ACL) in the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill.

Funding History (in millions):

FY 18	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	FY23 Request
\$12.0	\$12.0	\$12.25	\$12.25	\$12.25	\$24.6

Justification

The requested funds, historically flat over time, will be used to fund innovative projects to strengthen collaborations to address abuse and neglect; address the direct care workforce crisis; support data collection; and develop solutions to local needs. Given the COVID crisis and the need for service and delivery models to evolve given technological and reimbursement changes, these funds are critical. The funds will also continue to support the ongoing longitudinal data collection and analysis studies that inform national and state policymakers about the status and emerging trends in long-term supports and services and employment for people with I/DD. The funds will also fund a new joint effort with the Aging Network program to increase emergency preparedness and disaster recovery capacity within ACL’s programs, and support a national center for advancing equity, with an emphasis on individuals who are multiply marginalized. Lastly, the funding will be used to fund an evaluation of the cultural competence and outreach to unserved and underserved populations of ACL’s three largest DD Act programs.

Recommended Report Language:

Upholding the civil right to community living requires increasing the capacity of our systems for providing HCBS, improving the quality of those services and improving access to them for all people with disabilities. The additional funds will focus on advancing equity, emergency preparedness, and bring together the aging and disability community to address multiple issues, including workforce shortages. Lastly, the funding will continue funding longitudinal programs that gather and report data over time on the costs of, status of, and trends in residential, in-home, individual, family, and employment services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. All of this research is critical to recognizing the urgent needs the COVID-19 pandemic has raised to test interventions and services while improving systems. The data will assist policymakers at the state and national levels to understand and improve policies and practices for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by monitoring progress, measuring outcomes, and identifying or developing evidence-based practices in areas of national importance nationwide.

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