



University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service

Since 1963, Congress has recognized that the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD): education, research, and service institutes located in every state and territory are a critical and expansive resource for increasing knowledge about the needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. The 67 university-based UCEDDs are interdisciplinary centers authorized in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act) (Section 156 of P.L. 106-402, Subtitle D) (DD Act). The funding supports the basic infrastructure costs of operation for each UCEDD. Each center leverages the investment to secure additional funding to carry out the purpose of the DD Act. The UCEDDs provide training, technical assistance, service, research, and information sharing to people with disabilities, their families, state and local government agencies, and providers with a focus on building the capacity of communities and creating improvements in the service delivery system for people with I/DD and other disabilities. The UCEDDs have directly improved services and supports in the states and territories in the areas of early intervention, healthcare, public health, community-based services, education, employment, housing, assistive technology, emergency response and transportation.

FY 2023 Funding Request:

AUCD requests that Congress appropriate \$47,173 million for the UCEDDs 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 | FY 23 Request |
|--------|--------|--------|-----------|----------|---------------|
| \$40.6 | \$40.6 | \$41.6 | \$42.1119 | \$42.119 | \$\$47.173 |

Justification:

The increased funding will ensure UCEDDs meet the requirements of the DD Act and ensure that people with disabilities are fully included and accounted for as the states and territories respond to the significantly increased demand for assistance due to the health, economic and social emergencies facing the country. In FY 2020, the UCEDDs reached 13 million people through community training and technical assistance activities and trained 6,242 professionals that work with people with disabilities. In FY 2021, the number of requests for technical assistance to UCEDDs increased by 44% and the number of technical assistance products developed for the UCEDDs increased by 83%. These increases are a direct result of the impact of COVID-19 on the systems supporting people with disabilities and are not sustainable without addition assistance. As regulatory and service systems continue to evolve once the public health emergency expires, the support needs of the UCEDD constituents will not decline.

The increased funding will enable the UCEDDs to fund a new round of competitive grants focused on increasing diversity, equity and inclusion by partnering with minority-serving institutions and will also support other UCEDD activities and programs to promote opportunities for people with I/DD to exercise self-determination, be independent, and be included in all aspects of community life.

Recommended Report Language:

The increased funding will provide the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities: Education, Research, and Service the necessary funding to meet their obligations under the DD Act to assist states and territories to response to the health, economic, and social emergencies facing our country. The increased funding will ensure the UCEDDs can successfully address the increased requests to assist people with I/DD, address the needs of people with disabilities from underrepresented populations, and demonstrate quality and cost-effective services and supports for people with I/DD, and provide technical assistance to strengthen and support the national network of Centers as they disseminate research and practices nationwide.

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