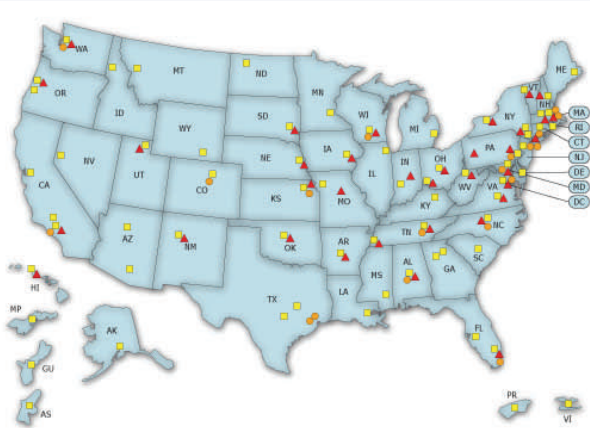


About AUCD

The mission of AUCD is to advance policy and practice for and with people living with developmental and other disabilities, their families, and communities by supporting our members as they engage in research, education, and service that further independence, productivity, and satisfying quality of life.



AUCD supports and promotes a national network of university-based, interdisciplinary programs. Network members consist of:

- 67 University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)
- 35 Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities (LEND) programs
- 19 Developmental Disabilities Research Centers (DDRC)

AUCD members represent every state and territory in the United States. AUCD programs train and educate the next generation of leaders in disability-related research, training, service delivery, and public policy advocacy.

Development of Legislative Priorities

AUCD advocates for a number of legislative issues that are critical to individuals with disabilities and their families. Legislative priorities are developed for each session of Congress by the AUCD Legislative Affairs Committee and Board of Directors, based on the Association's vision and mission as well as input from the entire network, including individuals with disabilities and their families.

In addition to developing its own priorities, AUCD has partnered with The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy Disability Policy Collaboration in the development of legislative goals for the 110th Congress.

www.aucd.org

Visit the AUCD website for member directories, network news, information on a wide range of public policy issues, and many other resources.



ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY CENTERS ON DISABILITIES
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110th Congress

Legislative Priorities



Budget and Appropriations

- Assure federal revenues necessary to meet the vital human needs of people with disabilities.
- Ensure that eligibility, services, and benefits for individuals with disabilities are not restricted in order to achieve a balanced budget.



University Research, Education, and Service

Increase funding for:

- University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD).
- Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities (LEND) programs through the MCH Block Grant.
- Developmental Disabilities Research Centers (DDRC) through NICHD.
- CDC National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities.
- Autism research and interdisciplinary training authorized through the Combating Autism Act.

Community-based Supports and Services

- Shift the major focus of Medicaid long-term support services from institutional to community services.
- Improve the home and community-based services option so that states will use it to serve more people in the community.
- Increase the wages and benefits of direct support workers in the community.
- Create a national, premium-based, non-means-tested, long-term supports insurance program.
- Enhance family support through additional funding for the Lifespan Respite Care Act, National Family Caregiver Support Program, and the Family Support Act.
- Develop additional policies to support families with relatives with developmental disabilities.
- Expand interdisciplinary training and services for children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other developmental disabilities.
- Reauthorize and increase funding for the Developmental Disabilities Act programs.

Education and Employment

- Fully fund each component of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- Amend the Higher Education Act to provide more opportunity for people with disabilities to access post-secondary education.
- Reauthorize the No Child Left Behind Act with emphasis on assuring that all students with disabilities are appropriately served and assessed under the law.
- Reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act (WIA)/ Rehabilitation Act to ensure accessibility and improve transition services for youth with disabilities.

Health

- Ensure that individuals with disabilities have accessible, affordable, and comprehensive high quality health care that addresses physical and mental health needs.
- Expand training of health care providers to provide appropriate care to individuals with disabilities.
- Reauthorize SCHIP to reach additional uninsured children and ensure adequate coverage for children with disabilities.



Additional Priorities

- Adequately fund all of provisions of the Assistive Technology Act of 2004.
- Enact ADA restoration legislation and reject attempts to weaken provisions in the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Support plans to ensure the solvency of Social Security by making limited adjustments that spread the cost burden while preventing privatization or depleting the Social Security Trust Funds.
- Strengthen programs that prevent abuse and neglect of children and adults.