



**University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education,
Research and Service (UCEDD)**

**FY 2012 Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations Bill
HHS Administration for Children and Families
Developmental Disabilities Program**

	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012 President's Request	FY 2012 AUCD Request
UCEDD	\$38,943,000	\$38,943,000	\$38,943,000	\$44,000,000

Recommendation: Appropriate \$44 million under the ACF/DD program for the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities to:

- ✦ Allow up to four capacity-building grants of \$250,000 each to UCEDDs to work in partnership with collaborating Minority Serving Institutions (as defined in the Higher Education Act) to focus on research, health, education, and services for African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Pacific Islanders, Asian Americans, and other ethnically and culturally diverse populations.
- ✦ Allow the Administration on Developmental Disabilities to compete two additional National Training Initiative grants.
- ✦ Provide for a cost-of-living increase to Centers.

Background: Authorized by Section 156 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, HHS/ACF supports a network of 67 UCEDDs that provide interdisciplinary training, community services, research, technical assistance and information dissemination. UCEDDs exist to provide a unique, expert, state and community resource to facilitate independence and full participation in the community for people of all ages living with developmental and other disabilities. The DD Act also authorizes the Protection and Advocacy Systems, State Developmental Disabilities Councils, and the Family Support program.

Developmental disabilities are disabilities that significantly affect three or more activities of daily living, occur prior to the age of 22, and include such disabilities as autism, behavioral disorders, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, fragile X, down syndrome and other genetic syndromes, fetal alcohol syndrome, intellectual disabilities and spina bifida.

Justification: The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (“DD Act”) mandated a national network of University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs) to promote opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to exercise self-determination, be independent, productive and integrated and included in all facets of community life.

The UCEDDs meet these objectives by conducting research, providing training and technical assistance, and providing exemplary evidence-based direct services and supports to people with developmental disabilities, their families, and communities. This includes culturally-competent state-of-the-art diagnosis, evaluation, supports, and services for children and adults in health care, cognitive development, positive behavior supports, education, daily living, and work skills. In fiscal year 2010, the UCEDDs trained 4,922 people and reached 1.15 million people through the UCEDD community and technical assistance activities, including 269,985 people who received direct or model demonstration services.

The requested funding will provide a modest increase allowing for the existing Centers to meet the rising costs of higher education and support training initiatives for critical and emerging national needs, such as improving supported employment, developing effective services for people with autism spectrum disorder, and supporting returning veterans. Additional funding is also needed for the national UCEDD network to address our nation's growing racial and ethnic health and mental health disparities, disparities in the prevalence of disabilities, as well as disparities in access to services and support related to minority populations.

According to a reported issued by the U.S. Surgeon General in 2002, children and adults with developmental disabilities experience poorer health and more difficulty finding and paying for health care and other services than other populations. These challenges are even more daunting for people with developmental disabilities from minority communities whose culture and primary language are often not reflected in available health and mental health services. Building the capacity of minority-serving colleges and universities to address the needs of people with disabilities from ethnically and culturally diverse groups will help address the rising health disparities experienced by these populations in our country.

Recommended Report Language: University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities— The Committee provides \$44,000,000 for the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs), a network of 67 centers that are interdisciplinary education, research and public service units of a university system or public or non-profit entities associated with universities. UCEDDs conduct research, develop evidence based practices and teach thousands of parents, professionals, students and people with disabilities about critical areas such as early intervention, health care, community-based services, inclusive and meaningful education, transition from school to work, employment, housing, assistive technology, aging with a disability and transportation. The increase provided in the bill will provide funding for the existing Centers to receive a modest cost of living adjustment and support additional training initiative for critical and emerging national needs, such as improving supported employment, developing effective services for people with autism spectrum disorder and supporting returning veterans. The increase would also establish additional supplemental grants to Centers to work through funded partnerships with Minority Serving Institutions (as defined in the Higher Education Act) to focus research, training and services on and for minority populations with disabilities, and provide additional support to develop national capacity through targeted training initiatives