



# **2022 Disability Policy Seminar Orientation & Policy Education 101**

Pre-Session for the Disability Policy Seminar

Wednesday, March 23, 2022

2:30 – 4:30 pm ET



# Presenters



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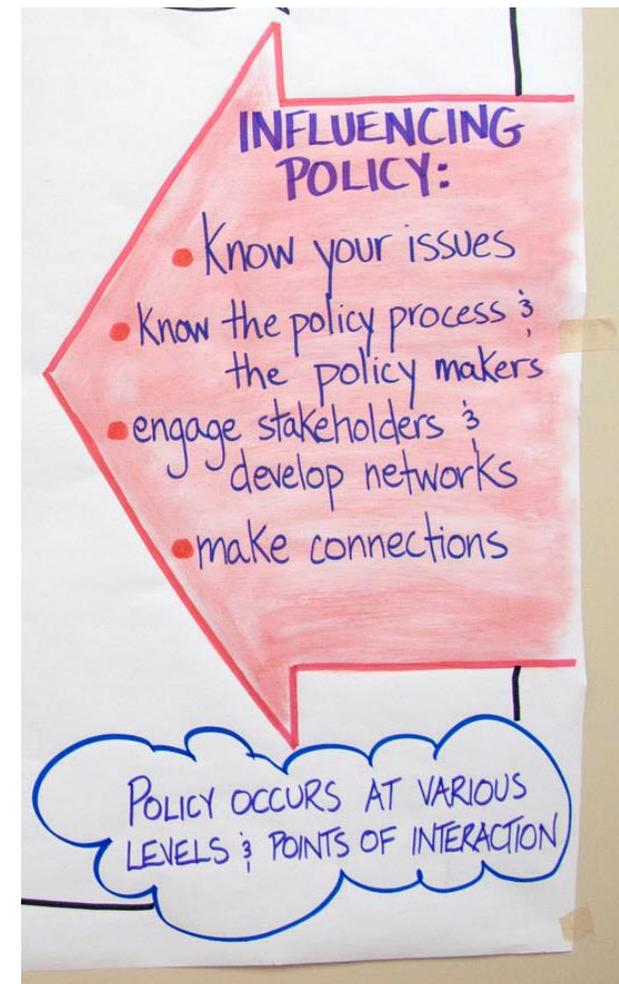
# Agenda

- Introductions
- How the Federal Government Operates and How a Bill Becomes a Law
- Speakers from Capitol Hill: What Congress is Prioritizing and Tips and Tricks for Meeting with Policymakers
- AUCD's Policy Priorities for 2022
- Educating Policymakers Versus Lobbying
- What to Expect at the Disability Policy Seminar



# Why Your Voice Matters!

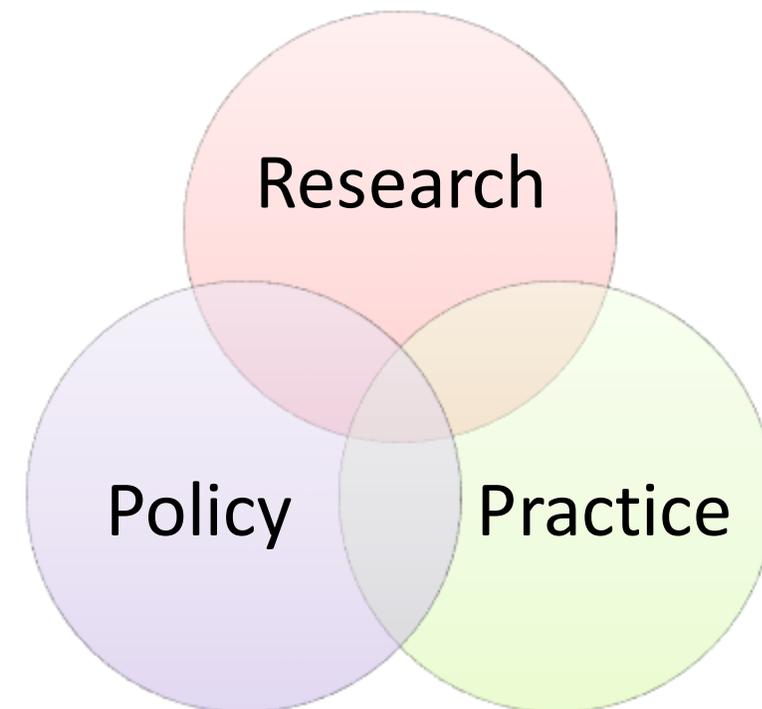
- You have expertise and passion!
- Your work and life will be impacted by policymakers' decisions.
- You vote and can hold policymakers accountable: Policymakers work for you and me.
- If you don't speak up, **someone else will speak for you**: Educating Policymakers and advocacy is the key to making the change that **you** want!





# Leadership as LEND Trainees

- Research, Policy and Practice Work Together to Create Systems Change
- When We Better Understand How Policy Works, Then We Can Better Educate Policymakers About How Policy Impacts Practice
- Sometimes It is Important to Share That A Policy That Sounds Good On Paper Does Not Work In Real Life
- As Leaders, We All Have The Responsibility to Help Practice Improve





# Americans with Disabilities Act

- How People with Disabilities Created Policy Change:
- March 12, 1990: The Capitol Crawl
- July 26, 1990: The ADA is Signed into Law. The ADA is a civil rights law that ends discrimination and works to create equal opportunities to live and work in the community.





# Three Branches of Government



Executive Branch  
President &  
Administration



Legislative Branch  
Congress  
House & Senate



Judicial Branch  
Courts





# President & Administration

- Can Send Suggestions for New Laws or Changes to Laws to Congress
- Appoints Heads of Federal Agencies
- Appoints Federal Judges
- Writes Regulations Which are the Rules That Make the Laws Work
- Enforces Laws
- Signs or Vetoes Bills
- Issues Executive Orders





# Congress

## Senate

- 2 Members for Every State (100)
- Currently 50 Republicans, 2 Democrats, 2 Independents (that Caucus with Democrats). Vice-President Breaks Tie Votes.
- Serve for 6-year terms. 1/3 re-elected every even year

## House of Representatives

- Proportional Number of Based on Population (435)
- Currently 210 Republicans, 222 Democrats, 3 Vacancies
- At least 1 per state
- Serve for 2-year terms. 100% re-elected every even year

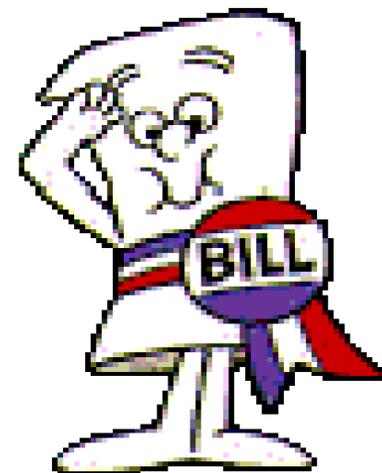
Note: U.S. Territories and District of Columbia have non-voting delegates





# How a Bill Becomes A Law

- Introduced by Member of Congress
- Sent to Committee/Subcommittee
- Hearings and Markups Held
- House or Senate Debates
- Conference Committee Meets
- House and Senate Approve Compromise
- President Signs Into Law, or Vetoes It and the Process Restarts



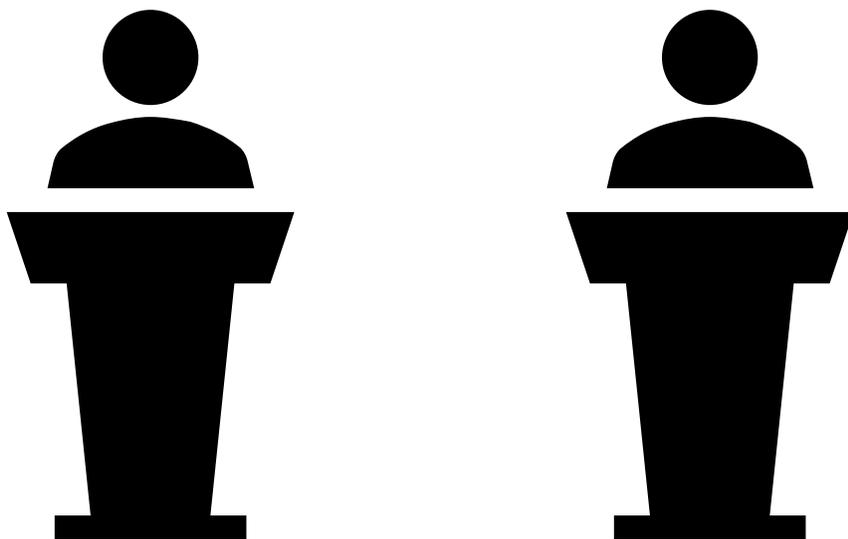


# Types of Federal Legislation

- ▶ There are two types of federal legislation:
  - Authorizing legislation creates or revises current federal policies or programs.
  - Appropriations legislation funds the federal government and its programs (must be done on a yearly basis).
- ▶ Both types of legislation are needed for new or existing program to be able to operate. There are many federal programs that are authorized but are not appropriated funding on an annual basis.



# Speakers from Capitol Hill

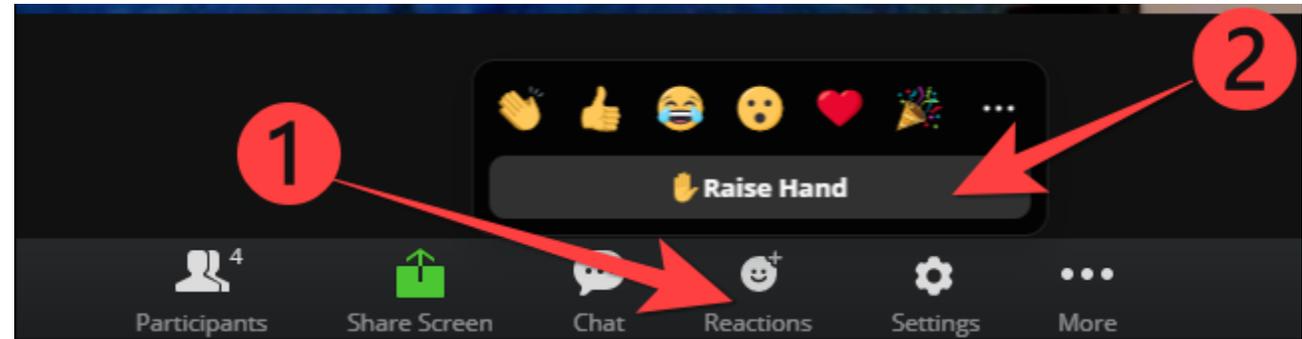




# Questions



Place your questions in the chat or use the "raise hand" feature on Zoom



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# Annual Federal Budget Process

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The President submits the President's Budget to Congress. The President's Budget is a blueprint of requests.

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The House of Representatives and Senate work to pass a joint budget resolution (BR) (if a BR is not approved by the deadline, the process moves on after deadline)

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Sometimes the BR contains instructions called Budget Reconciliation

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House and Senate Committees write and enact the 13 appropriations bills

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The President signs or vetoes the bills

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If not done completed by the September 30<sup>th</sup> deadline, then Congress passes a continuing resolution (CR) for the bills not passed while they complete work. If no CR passes, the government shuts down.



# Annual Federal Budget

## Two Types of Federal Spending:

- Discretionary spending (1/3 budget): this includes both defense and non-defense spending. Decided annually.
- Entitlement/mandatory spending (2/3 budget): For programs guaranteed to eligible individuals a specified level of benefits, such as Supplemental Security Income and Medicaid. Ongoing.

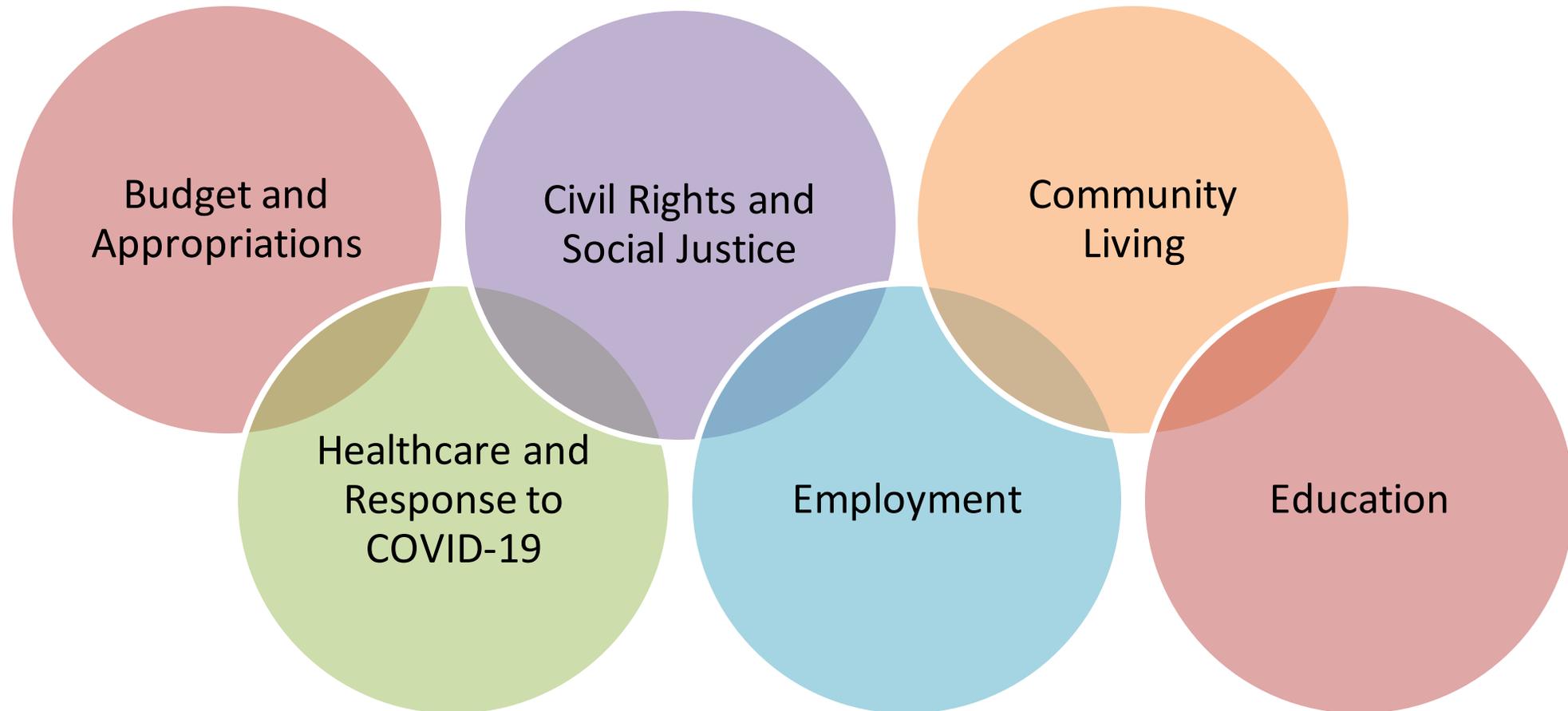


# Budget Timeline

- How it is Supposed to Happen...
  - President Submits Budget to Congress – Usually Early February
  - Congress Enacts Concurrent Budget Resolution – by April 15
  - Budget Reconciliation
  - 302(b) Allocations (top amount of money is divided amongst 13 appropriations bills)
  - House of Representatives and Senate Agree on 13 annual appropriations bills – September 30
  - New Federal Fiscal Year – Begins October 1



# AUCD 2022 Policy Priorities





# Lobbying vs. Educating

- Lobbying is an attempt to change the mind of a policymaker, government official, or the general public by referring to specific legislation and encouraging them to take action on a bill.
- Educating policymakers is informing policymakers of data, evidence, results of policy analysis, lived experiences, and stories that can help policymakers make their own informed decision about a bill.



# Lobbying vs. Educating

- Lobbying does not include:
  - Unbiased analysis
  - Study, or research and sharing research findings with the general public, government officials, or governmental bodies
- Lobbying is unallowable with federal funding, and trainees and network training programs are federally funded.
- [Education and Lobbying: Know the Difference](#)



# Example of Lobbying v. Education

Example: Congress is considering new legislation that will impact your LEND program.

Lobbying	Education
<p>As a <b>private citizen</b>, from your personal e-mail or phone, you can ask your Member(s) of Congress to sponsor the legislation or to vote for it. You can also ask other people in your district to make the same ask.</p>	<p>As a <b>trainee</b>, from your official e-mail or phone, you can share how the program impacts you, how it impacts the community you serve, what outcomes are important, what the needs are, etc. You can reference the name of a bill, you just cannot ask for action on it.</p>



# What Can You Do?

1

Provide information by testifying at public hearings

2

Write letters, make phone calls and make visits to educate policymakers

3

Contact media (letter to editor, op-ed)

4

Organize and participate in non-partisan coalitions

5

Hold non-partisan candidate forums to educate voters

6

Invite Members of Congress and staff to visit your center or program



# Scheduling Hill Meetings

- Find email addresses for the offices that you plan to meet with as part of DPS by visiting your [Senators'](#) or [Representatives'](#) websites. Every office in the U.S. Capitol can also be reached by calling the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121.
- Email or call the offices as soon as possible to schedule a visit. See our [sample email script](#).
- Ask to meet with the staffers that cover the particular topics that you are interested in discussing with them (ex: education, employment, healthcare, budget and appropriations, etc.)





# After a Hill Meeting

- Send a 'thank you' email to the staff member(s) who you met with after the meeting, ideally on the same day or the next day.
- In addition to thanking the staff, you can attach materials or share links for resources to expand upon the discussion. The follow-up email is an equally important part of the process of educating Members of Congress.
- Consider sharing [AUCD's 2022 Policy Priorities](#) and your [AUCD state profile](#) in your follow-up email.





# Meeting with a Member of Congress or Other Government Official

- Do some background research on the Member's website to see what might be of interest to them and what you can thank them for in the meeting.
- Thank the Member for something he or she has recently done that you support to start the meeting.
- Make it clear that you see the Member as a partner in ensuring people with disabilities can learn, work, live in the community etc.
- Take timing cues from the Member or their staff.
- Meeting with staff is equally important as meeting with the Member.



# Meeting with a Member of Congress or Other Government Official

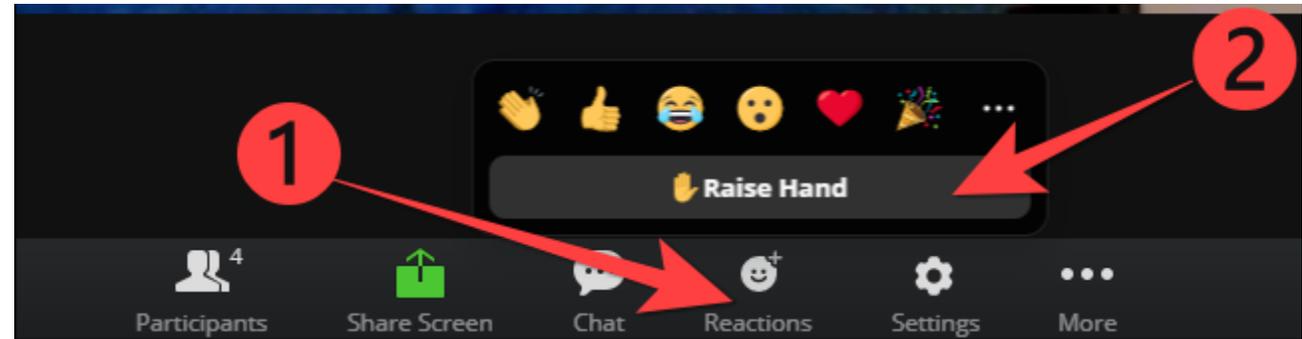
- Be early, and do not take it personally if you have to wait for the meeting to start. If meeting in-person, be prepared to meet anywhere. If meeting virtually, test your connection a at least five minutes before the meeting starts.
- If multiple people are attending the meeting, decide in advance who is going to cover what talking points in the meeting.
- Go into a meeting with no more than 2-3 topics of discussion. Share both stories and data. “Data makes you credible, stories make you memorable.” (Donna Meltzer)
- Follow-up with the office is just as or more important than the meeting. After the meeting send a thank you email, and any additional information that you promised to send to them.



# Questions



Place your questions in the chat or use the "raise hand" feature on Zoom



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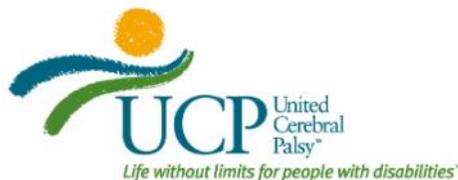
# Disability Policy Seminar 2022

- All information is at <https://disabilitypolicyseminar.org/>
- It is a hybrid event with both in-person and virtual options.
  - It is being held March 28 - 30, 2022
  - Registration Closes Today for Virtual Attendees
  - [View the schedule and register online today!](#)





# Who Else Will Be at DPS?





# What to Expect?

- Informational breakout sessions on policies impacting people with disabilities, their families and professionals, such as:
  - Inclusive Education
  - Home and Community-Based Services
  - Criminal Justice
  - Affordable and Accessible Housing
- It is an opportunity to network with people with disabilities, families, and professionals from across the country.
- Don't forget to share your experience on social media!



# Why DPS?

- It is an opportunity to learn about current federal policy issues impacting people with disabilities directly from Hill staff, federal agency staff and national experts.
- You will have an opportunity to educate your Members of Congress and staff about the experiences, barriers to full participation, and needs of people with disabilities.
- You will have the opportunity to share new research, data, results of policy analysis and ideas for solutions with policymakers.



# Attending In-Person?

- Review the schedule and hotel map ahead of time
- [Print out the program book](#) (paper copies are not being provided unless requested as part of registration)
- Bring masks and water. Everyone is required to wear them.
- [Upload your proof of vaccination](#) to avoid delays. Instructions can be found [here](#).
- Get familiar with the [DPS website and event app](#). If you are not able to login, please send an email to [events@thearc.org](mailto:events@thearc.org).
- Make a plan for who to talk to and what sessions to attend
- Network with attendees and presenters between meetings
- Dress professionally



# Attending Virtually?

- Get familiar with the [DPS website and event app](#). If you are not able to login, please send an email to [events@thearc.org](mailto:events@thearc.org).
- Download the program book and keep it open on your computer
- Test out your technology in advance
- Add sessions to your calendar
- Use the chat to ask questions
- Take breaks, as needed
- Schedule virtual networking meetings



# Helpful Resources

- [How To Guide on virtual participation and event app.](#)
- Check out the [factsheets and glossary guide](#)
- Review the [health and safety guidelines](#)
- Sign up for [email updates!](#)



# AUCD Current Policy Priorities

## Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS)

- HCBS are necessary to supporting people with disabilities stay in their homes and be members of their communities. More federal funding is needed to make sure that all people can get the services they need and to invest in the Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) workforce.
- Policymakers need to be educated about how HCBS allow people with disabilities to live and work in the community.
- AUCD supports a \$150 billion investment in HCBS and passage of the Better Care Better Jobs Act (S.2210 / H.R. 4131) and making the Money Follows the Person Program permanent.



# AUCD Current Policy Priorities

## Ending Subminimum Wages

- People with disabilities have a harder time finding good paying jobs than people without disabilities. Over 100,000 people with disabilities continue to work in sheltered, separated workshops for money below the minimum wage.
- Policymakers need to be educated about the impact subminimum wage and segregated employment have on the lives of people with disabilities. Policymakers need to be educated about the importance of real work for real pay for people with disabilities.
- AUCD supports the Transformation to Competitive Integrated Employment Act (S.3238 / H.R. 2373). More information in this [Explainer](#).



# AUCD Current Policy Priorities

## Appropriations

- All programs are affected by the annual federal budget and appropriations process. President Biden will issue his plan on March 28, 2022. More federal funding will allow AUCD's programs and centers to better meet the needs of people with disabilities and their families through research, training and community services.
- Policymakers need to be educated about AUCD's programs and centers and other federal funding work to improve the lives of people with disabilities in the states and territories.



# Resources

Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities: <http://www.c-c-d.org/index.php>

Collaboration to Promote Self  
Determination: <http://thecpsd.org>

Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights:  
<https://civilrights.org/>



# Resources

## Websites for Congress

- House: <https://www.house.gov>
- Senate: <https://www.senate.gov>
- Congress.gov: <https://www.congress.gov> (bill tracking)



# Thank you!

For any additional questions, please contact the AUCD Policy Team:

- Cindy Smith, [csmith@aucd.org](mailto:csmith@aucd.org)
- Liz Weintraub, [lweintraub@aucd.org](mailto:lweintraub@aucd.org)
- Denise Rozell, [drozell@aucd.org](mailto:drozell@aucd.org)
- For questions about your DPS registration, login or technical issues for app , contact [events@thearc.org](mailto:events@thearc.org)

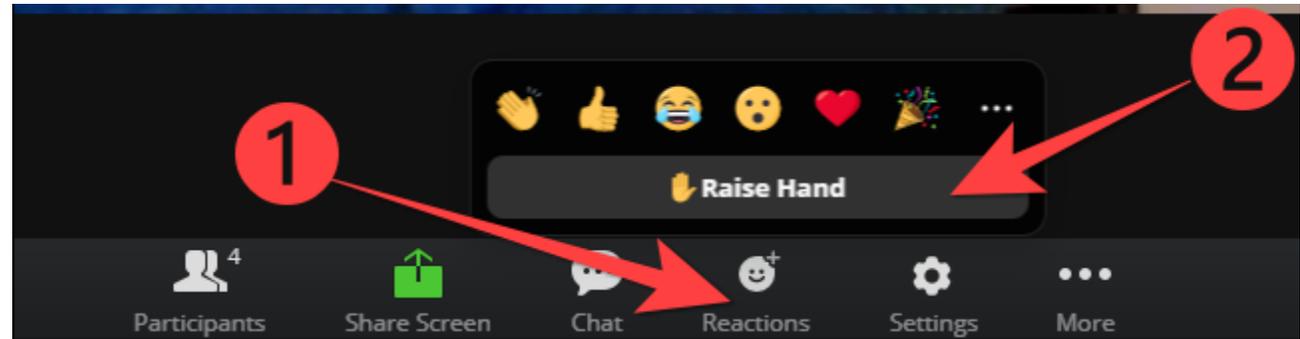




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