

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 developmental disabilities, including where they live, where they work, the wages they earn, and the costs and outcomes of long-term services and supports. The PNS have contributed to the development of evidence-based practices and improved federal and state policies that support people with developmental disabilities to lead inclusive lives in their communities and avoid more expensive services in segregated settings and institutions. The Association of University Centers on Disabilities supports the national Network of university-based interdisciplinary programs that collect and analyze the longitudinal data that is part of the PNS.

FY 2025 Funding Request:

AUCD requests that Congress appropriate \$15.35 million for PNS within the Administration for Community Living (ACL) in the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill.

Funding History (*in millions*):

FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25 Request
\$12.0	\$12.25	\$12.25	\$12.25	\$12.25	\$12.25	\$15.35

Justification:

The increased level of funding will be used to fund innovative, timely projects to develop solutions to identified needs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, such as addressing the direct support workforce crisis through the Direct Care Workforce (DCW) Strategies Center that provides technical assistance, training, and other resources to state systems, service providers, and aging and disability stakeholders to improve recruitment, training, and retention of the nation’s direct care workforce. The funds will also continue to support the ongoing longitudinal data collection and analysis studies that inform national and state policymakers about the current status of, cost of, and emerging trends in long-term supports and services and employment.

Recommended Report Language:

The Projects of National Significance are critical to improving access to services and supports for people with developmental disabilities. The Projects improve policies and practices for people with developmental disabilities by providing training and technical assistance, collecting and analyzing data, and identifying or developing evidence-based practices in areas of national importance. The Projects will also continue to fund the longitudinal data projects that gather and report data over time on the status of, costs of, and trends in residential, in-home, individual, family, and employment services for people with developmental disabilities.

