



## Civil Rights

People have a right to make their own decisions, have opportunities like people without disabilities, live and work in the community, and be paid a fair wage. People with disabilities include people from different groups. People with disabilities are parts of all races, ethnicities, gender identities, sexual orientations, and other identities. Race means a way we talk about groups of people based on how they look or their family history. Ethnicity is a person's background that can include many things that are important to them, such as religion, culture, language, or family values. Sexual orientation means who you love or who you are attracted to. People with disabilities can have a hard time getting services from government programs, like Medicaid, and they do not always work the same for people with disabilities.

### Priorities:

- Protect and improve civil rights laws, like the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Collect information on how people with disabilities receive supports and services to try to improve supports and services.
- Make sure people who respond to emergencies have needed training.
- Make sure people with disabilities can vote in federal elections.



## Medicaid Long-Term Services and Supports

People have a right to live in the community. People with disabilities have a hard time being able to live in their communities. Medicaid pays for people with disabilities to live in the community. Medicaid needs to pay people who provide services and supports with a fair wage and more opportunities in their jobs.

### Priorities:

- Improve and provide more money to home and community-based services (HCBS).
- Move people from institutions to HCBS.
- Make sure that Direct Service and other providers are treated as professionals and are paid a fair wage.

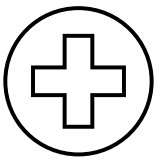


## Employment

People should have a good job and be paid a fair wage. People with disabilities have a harder time finding good paying jobs than people without disabilities. Many people with disabilities continue to work in sheltered, separated workshops for subminimum wages. Minimum wage is the lowest possible amount of money that employees can pay their workers. Subminimum wage means a paid wage less than the federal minimum wage.

### Priorities:

- Improve opportunities for real jobs at real wages in the community, known as competitive integrated employment.
- Over a few years, end paying people with disabilities subminimum wage, which is when people are paid less than minimum wage, often in sheltered workshops.



## Healthcare

People should receive good, affordable, and accessible healthcare. People with disabilities have a hard time getting good healthcare and finding doctors who respect them and can provide good healthcare.

### Priorities:

- Improve healthcare and make healthcare more accessible to people with disabilities.
- Provide better access to mental health services for people with disabilities.
- Work to make sure the Autism CARES Act and Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) programs continue in 2025.
- Make sure people with disabilities are not discriminated against and have the information they need when making decisions about their healthcare.
- Make sure doctors and other professionals that provide healthcare have training they need to provide good healthcare.
- Make sure children can get good healthcare when they become adults.

## Budget and Appropriations

Appropriations means money that is set aside by Congress for a specific use. Appropriations happen once a year. AUCD will make sure that the Network Centers and Programs have enough funding so they can keep doing research and helping people with disabilities get health care, receive a quality education, be employed, and live in the community. All AUCD Network Centers and Programs are affected by the annual federal budget and appropriations process.

