

UCEDDs

University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities



RESEARCH • EDUCATION • SERVICE

 **UCEDD**
Resource Center
A project of AUCD, in partnership with ACL, to strengthen the network of UCEDDs

THE UCEDD NETWORK INCLUDES AT LEAST ONE CENTER IN EVERY U.S. STATE AND TERRITORY.

UCEDDs were created in 1963 with the enactment of Public Law 88-164 to serve people with intellectual disabilities through advocacy, capacity-building, and systemic change efforts. Currently authorized under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (PL 106- 402), UCEDDs are now a resource for Americans with a wide range of disabilities. The UCEDDs receive their core funding from the Administration on Community Living (ACL) within the US Department of Health and Human Services. The UCEDD Network Includes at least one center in every U.S. State and Territory. Each UCEDD is affiliated with an institute of higher education and serves as a resource for all people in the areas of education, research, and service relative to the needs of people with developmental disabilities. In addition to their work in the field of developmental disabilities, UCEDDs also work with a variety of other populations with significant, lifelong disabilities, including traumatic brain injury, mental illnesses, and sensory or physical disabilities.

The National Network & AUCD

Through the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), the network of independent yet interlinked Centers represents a tremendous national resource for addressing issues relevant to people with disabilities and their families. Using advanced information technology, the network functions in a rapid and coordinated fashion. UCEDDs can respond quickly to emerging state, national, and international needs and avoid redundancy. This national network of collaborating Centers embraces the concept that the quality of life for people with disabilities and their families is built upon the values of choice, control, and self-determination. Together, UCEDDs work to achieve a shared vision where

all people—including individuals with disabilities—participate fully in their communities.

- Find your State/Territory UCEDD <https://www.aucd.org/directory>
- Find UCEDD Projects and Areas of Expertise <https://www.aucd.org/nirs/search/search.cfm>

Collaboration

UCEDDs achieve their goals through collaborations with individuals with disabilities, their family members, federal and state agencies, service providers, and others. Within their states, UCEDDs collaborate with two additional programs that also receive core funding through AIDD:

- State Councils on Developmental Disabilities (DD Councils) that engage in advocacy, capacity

building, and systemic change activities to promote the integration and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life.

- State Protection and Advocacy (P&A) Systems that protect the legal and human rights of individuals with developmental disabilities.



Research

UCEDDs engage in cutting-edge research, evaluation, and analysis in areas of importance to the field of disabilities. UCEDD research activities include:

- Engaging in basic and applied research
- Performing policy analysis
- Translating research to practice
- Evaluating the effectiveness and impact of services and policies

Education

UCEDDs deliver high quality local, state, national, and international education and training in a collaborative, coordinated, and interdisciplinary fashion to address issues that affect people with disabilities across the lifespan and across the health, education, employment, service and other systems. Each year, UCEDDs provide education and training to:

- University students in multiple disciplines at the undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral levels
- Practicing professionals who implement evidence-based practices
- Policy makers who are charged with setting future policy directions

- Direct service providers who provide supports for people with disabilities
- Individuals and families as they engage in self-determination

Service

UCEDDs provide direct services and supports to people with disabilities of all ages and their families to minimize disparities in health care, enhance educational opportunities, develop work skills, and enrich daily living. UCEDD services include:

- Conducting state-of the-art interdisciplinary evaluations
- Providing clinical and other intervention services
- Connecting individuals with disabilities with emerging technologies that supports their learning, employment, and community participation
- Providing direct health care services that link young children with community resources
- Working with schools to deliver evidence-based educational programs in inclusive settings

Dissemination

UCEDDs are committed to communicating and sharing information and research findings

with a broad constituency and bringing the most current findings to the communities they serve. UCEDD dissemination activities include:

- Authoring articles in academic journals
- Publishing reports and newsletters
- Presenting at conferences and meetings
- Distributing information on the internet
- Sharing information at community events

**UCEDDs
have played
key roles in
every major
disability
initiative
over the past
four decades.**



ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY CENTERS ON DISABILITIES

THE LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION, ADVOCACY & RESEARCH NETWORK

www.aucd.org

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