



Transition Programs for Students with Intellectual Disability (TPSID)



Since 2010, the Transition Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID) program has supported the creation or expansion of replicable model programs at 127 colleges and universities serving almost 5,000 students with intellectual disabilities (ID) in 34 states. The programs are authorized under Title VII, Part D of the Higher Education Act (P.L.110-315). Students in these programs are experiencing substantially better outcomes in employment, social engagement and community living.

A critical component of the TPSID initiative is the continued funding of 1) the National Coordinating Center (NCC), which provides technical assistance and training nationwide to TPSID programs, and 2) the National Technical Assistance and Dissemination Center (NTADC), which addresses needed collaboration with Vocational Rehabilitation and Developmental Disabilities agencies, expansion of options for students with ID at Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, and developing state and regional alliances to strengthen college access and improved outcomes for students with ID.

“One thing I have learned while in college is no matter how independent you are, it is okay to ask for help. College has helped me become more independent and realize what I want to do with my life. After college, I want to work as a paraprofessional in a high school and gain more experience working in a school setting. Programs like CarolinaLIFE help you to discover what you want to do and can give you a lot of opportunities.”

David Canipe
Student, University of South Carolina,
CarolinaLIFE Program

FY 2025 Funding Request:

AUCD requests that Congress appropriate \$15.18 million for the TPSID Programs for FY 2025.

Funding History (in millions):

FY18	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25
11.8	\$11.8	\$11.8	\$13.8	\$13.8	\$13.8	---	\$15.18





Justification:

Students who graduate from TPSID programs demonstrate much higher employment rates than the general population of adults with ID. One year after graduation, 73% of TPSID program graduates are employed, far higher than the 15% employment rate of individuals with IDD in general (National Core Indicators, 2022). A majority of employed students with ID had never held a paid job until being enrolled in the TPSID program. The TPSID program supports continued development of meaningful credentials (e.g. certificate, associate degree, or industry certification) aligned with current higher education certificates and recognized by employers and other colleges and universities. By creating viable paths to and through higher education and coupling these experiences with a continued focus on employment, the TPSID programs support increased independence as well as personal and professional growth for students with intellectual disability. The NCC and the NTADC gather data on these experiences and provide technical assistance to those outside of the TPSID initiative to support continued growth of such programs across the country. These centers ensure the translation of research into practice, support the development state and regional collaboration, and develop tools and resources supporting positive outcomes for students with ID.

Recommended Report Language:

The increased funding for the Transition Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID) Model Demonstrations will provide institutes or consortia of institutions of higher education with the tools needed to create or expand high quality inclusive model comprehensive transition and postsecondary education programs for students with intellectual disabilities. This will also fund the two technical assistance centers, the TPSID National Coordinating Center (NCC) and the National Technical Assistance and Dissemination Center (NTADC), to properly disseminate research, evaluation, and practices to programs nationally. Funds will be used by the Department of Education to build on the important work being done to develop postsecondary opportunities for students with ID that lead to positive employment and independent living outcomes.

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