



UCEDDs

University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities-

RESEARCH

EDUCATION

SERVICE



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 Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) within the US Department of Health and Human Services. The UCEDD network has grown to include 67 Centers—at least one in every US state and territory. Each UCEDD is

Performing interdisciplinary training, providing services, supplying technical assistance, conducting research, and sharing important information...

affiliated with a major research university 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.

UCEDDs

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, and social service systems.

Each year, UCEDDs provide education and training to:

- University students in multiple disciplines at the undergraduate, graduate, and post-doctoral levels
- Practicing professionals who implement evidence-based practices
- Policy makers who are charged with setting future policy directions
- Direct care providers who provide supports for people with disabilities
- Individuals and families as they engage in self-determination and self-advocacy

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

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

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.

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

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

For more information call 301-588-8252 or visit aucd.org

The UCEDD Framework

AIDD

The Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) is the federal agency responsible for implementation of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000. AIDD is part of the Administration for Children and Families within the US Department of Health and Human Services and administers the core funding received by each UCEDD.

Developmental Disability

The term developmental disability means a severe, chronic disability of an individual that (a) is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments; (b) is manifested before the individual attains age 22; (c) is likely to continue indefinitely; (d) results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity: self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living, or economic self-sufficiency; and (e) reflects the individual's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic services, individualized supports, or other forms of assistance that are of life-long or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.

Other Disabilities

In addition to their work in the field of developmental disabilities, UCEDDs also work with a variety of other populations with significant, life-long disabilities, including traumatic brain injury, mental illnesses, and sensory or physical disabilities.

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.



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NIRS is the national database that UCEDDs use for data collection and reporting purposes. UCEDD projects and products information is available for public search on the AUCD website. Visit aucd.org/nirs/search.

The **AUCD Directory** assists network members, federal and state agencies, and the general public in finding network members by position, discipline, or area of expertise. The Directory is organized by position making it easy to quickly locate someone by interests and expertise. Access the UCEDD Directory at aucd.org/directory.