



**FY 2007 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST
FOR STATE AND TERRITORIAL COUNCILS ON
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
109th Congress, Second Session**

NACDD'S MISSION

NACDD's mission is to provide support and assistance to its members – State Councils on Developmental Disabilities, in order to promote a consumer and family-centered system of services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Definition of a Developmental Disability:

Developmental Disabilities are severe, chronic disabilities attributable to mental and/or physical impairment, which manifest before age 22 and are likely to continue indefinitely. They result in substantial limitations in three or more areas: self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living and economic self-sufficiency, as well as the continuous need for individually planned and coordinated services.

There are nearly four million Americans living with developmental disabilities.

- Administration on Developmental Disabilities, January 25, 2002

STATE AND TERRITORIAL COUNCILS ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Adequate funding of the DD Act in FY 2007 is critical for Councils and persons with developmental disabilities and their families. NACDD requests an appropriation of \$84.5 million to allow Councils to continue their critical work under the Act.

DD Act History and Council Mission

Congress reauthorized the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act) on October 30, 2000 (P.L. 106-402). The DD Act is scheduled to be reauthorized in 2007. Originally authorized in 1963, this legislation has a rich history of bipartisan support, focusing on our nation's most vulnerable citizens – individuals with developmental disabilities. The DD Act ensures that these individuals participate fully in their communities through full integration and inclusion in the economic, political, social, cultural, religious and educational sectors of our society. DD Councils strive to improve the quality of supports and services for people with developmental disabilities in a more family-friendly manner, regardless of where they choose to live.

Title I, Subtitle B: Authorizes DD Councils and Funding Levels

Title I, subtitle "B" authorizes State and Territorial DD Councils and establishes funding levels. Appointed by State Governors, Council members, most of whom are people with developmental disabilities and their family members, represent individuals who have DD and their families through advocacy, capacity-building and systems change activities. Councils work to educate policymakers on approaches that will increase the independence and productivity of individuals with developmental disabilities in each State and Territory.

Councils must develop a State Plan every five years, based on public input regarding the specific needs of each State. The plans are quantifiable, thus assuring accountability to Congress, the Administration and residents of the State or Territory. The Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) is the Federal Agency responsible for implementing the DD Act. Once the public identifies the needs, the Councils structures activities in areas such as quality assurance, childcare, housing, transportation, faith-based programs, recreation, education, health and employment.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES	FY 2006 FINAL	FY 2007 PRESIDENT	FY 2007 NACDD Request
Developmental Disabilities Act Programs			
Basic State Grants - Councils on DD	71.8	72.0	84.5
Protection & Advocacy Systems --DD	38.7	39.0	
University Centers for Excellence in DD	33.2	33.0	
Projects of Nat'l Sig. & Family Support	11.4	11.0	

NACDD FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2007

It is imperative that Congress appropriate adequate funding to State and Territorial Councils on Developmental Disabilities in FY 2007. NACDD, on behalf of its Member Councils, is asking Congress to appropriate \$84.5million.

For over thirty years, Councils have played a critical role at the State and Federal levels in helping States and Territories develop, improve and expand the system of services and supports for people with developmental disabilities. The impact of Councils can be dramatic, as they work to leverage both public and private funds to maximize Federal dollars.

Recently, policymakers have called upon Councils to address and troubleshoot:

- Burgeoning Medicaid waiting lists
- Planning for the long-term care requirements of an aging Baby Boomer generation
- Emergency preparedness for people with disabilities
- Emergency Medicaid and other issues facing people with disabilities who survived the recent hurricanes
- Abuse and neglect facing children and adults who have DD, particularly in institutional settings
- Implementation of the protections afforded by the Americans with Disabilities Act
- State responses to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Olmstead*
- Implementation of the President's New Freedom Initiative and No Child Left Behind program
- Impact of changes to Medicaid and State plan amendments resulting from the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-171).

Due to limited resources and increasing priorities, many Councils have had to reduce the scope of their grant-funded projects and initiatives.

FUNDING JUSTIFICATION

The needs of people with developmental disabilities are expanding at an alarming rate. Unfortunately, Council resources are not! Councils struggle not only to meet their obligations under the DD Act, but also to address unmet needs within their States. When the 106th Congress reauthorized the DD Act in 2000, the authority for State Councils on Developmental Disabilities was increased to \$76 million and "such sums as necessary" for FY 2001-2007, in recognition of the significant work of these entities within each State and Territory. **To date, Councils have not been funded at this authorization level, nor have they received a standard cost of living adjustment in recent appropriations bills.**

In FY 2001, 2002 and 2003, some Councils lost up to 20% of their funding as a result of a legislative drafting error when specific "hold harmless" language was inadvertently omitted during the drafting of the last reauthorization of the DD Act in 2000. Further, over the last two fiscal years, Councils have experienced a one- and two-percent rescission that dealt a serious blow to their individual budgets. During this period, our sister agencies authorized by the DD Act – University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs) and Protection & Advocacy (P&A) agencies – have received appropriation increases (see funding chart). The intent of the DD Act is that all three entities in each State and Territory work in partnership to produce positive systems change. **As Councils fall further behind in funding, they find it increasingly difficult to be full collaborators in these partnerships. We, ask, therefore, that the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies provide funding that makes up for these rescissions, as well as a cost of living adjustment.**

Despite these cuts, Councils have continued to make a positive impact on the lives of people with developmental disabilities in each State and Territory. Their work has gone well beyond the original investment of Federal dollars. Still, Councils are struggling to fulfill their responsibility of improving the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities in this country.

For more information about NACDD's FY 2007 appropriations request or to learn more about the key activities of a specific State Council, please contact Anne P. Rohall, Director, Government Relations, NACDD, at: (703) 739-4400, ext. 4 or arohall@nacdd.org