



LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
for the
111TH CONGRESS

—First Session—

The Arc of the United States United Cerebral Palsy
DISABILITY POLICY COLLABORATION

In Partnership With

**American Association on Intellectual and
Developmental Disabilities**

**American Network of Community Options
And Resources**

**Association of University Centers on
Disabilities**

**National Association of Councils on
Developmental Disabilities**



INTRODUCTION

The Arc of the United States, United Cerebral Palsy, AAIDD, ANCOR, AUCD, and NACDD are national organizations that serve and advocate for people with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities. We work together to shape, expand and protect a strong federal role that provides vital benefits, services and supports and assures civil rights for our constituency. While the United States is one of the wealthiest countries in the world, our nation is far from meeting the diverse needs of our constituents and their families, many of whom find their lives at stake as the federal role in disability policy is being addressed.

The First Session of the 111th Congress faces numerous challenges. Frozen federal funding, escalating federal and state deficits and numerous federal disability laws requiring expansion and modernization combine to put the system of disability benefits and supports at grave risk. This document conveys our positions on those major issues that should be addressed in this Congress.

MEDICAID

Medicaid is a lifeline for most people with significant disabilities. It is overwhelmingly the largest funding source of both long term supports and health care for most of our constituents. State budget crises and actions by the federal government have caused many states to make drastic reductions in their Medicaid programs, creating devastating effects on people with disabilities, families and communities.

- Ensure that Medicaid fully meets the health and long term care needs of all eligible children and adults with disabilities.**
- Provide a significant temporary increase in the federal share of Medicaid spending (FMAP) to address the economic crises facing states across the country and ensure that states maintain their level of effort.**
- Extend moratoria on the rehabilitative services, targeted case management, and school based administrative services/transportation, regulations if they are not withdrawn.**
- Shift the major focus of Medicaid long term support services from institutional to community services.**



- **improve and expand home and community-based services by making such services mandatory.**
- **Expand the ability of consumers and families to exercise control over individualized Medicaid funding.**

LONG TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

- **Create a national, premium-based, non-means-tested, long term supports insurance program.**

DIRECT SUPPORT WORKERS

- **Ensure funding so that workers who provide direct supports to people with disabilities are well trained and paid living wages and benefits.**
- **Require states to address the low wages and reimbursement rates that contribute to the direct support worker shortage.**

HEALTH CARE

- **Protect the individual entitlement to Medicare and Medicaid.**
- **Enact health care reform legislation that meets the needs of our constituents for quality, accessible, appropriate, comprehensive, affordable, portable, and non-discriminatory coverage**
- **Expand training of health care providers to provide appropriate care to people with disabilities**
- **Protect and expand the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and add a dental and mental health benefit.**

EMPLOYMENT

- **Improve employment related services to people with disabilities by reauthorizing the Workforce Investment Act and the Rehabilitation Act, increasing funding for these critical workforce development, supported employment and vocational rehabilitation programs, and ensuring that people with disabilities are included in any new employment initiative.**

HOUSING

- **Increase funding for Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers, Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities and other**



Federal housing programs to increase the availability of affordable and accessible housing for people with disabilities.

FAMILY SUPPORTS

- **Strengthen the capacity of states to assist families in maintaining typical lifestyles for themselves and their family member(s) with disabilities and address their unmet needs by establishing separate federal funding for family supports.**

EDUCATION

- **Fully fund each component of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Elementary Secondary Education Act (also known as No Child Left Behind), and relevant components of the Higher Education Act.**
- **Amend IDEA to place the burden of proof on school systems under the due process provision and to allow courts to award fees to expert witnesses who are not attorneys.**
- **Assure appropriate assessments for all students with disabilities under the No Child Left Behind Act.**

SOCIAL SECURITY

- **Ensure adequate funds for the Social Security Administration to meet the needs of the public, including eliminating the backlog in hearings for applicants with disabilities.**
- **Increase the Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) level to the level used for people who are blind. Substantially increase the resource limit for Supplemental Security Income and annually index it for inflation.**
- **Eliminate marriage penalties.**

TRANSPORTATION

- **Support and expand accessible and affordable transportation options for people with disabilities.**

BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS



- **Ensure that the federal budget does not restrict eligibility, services or benefits to vulnerable individuals in order to achieve budget cuts.**
- **Provide sufficient funding for entitlement programs such as Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security and discretionary programs such as education, housing and job training to address the significant unmet needs of people with disabilities.**

REVENUE AND TAX POLICY

- **Assure that federal tax and revenue policy provides the necessary resources to meet the vital human needs of people with disabilities.**
- **Assure the continued viability of non-profit organizations.**
- **Pass tax policies to enable families of people with disabilities to stay together.**

QUALITY OF SERVICES

- **Assure high quality services, supports, and access in all federally funded programs serving our constituents.**
- **Require federal agencies to include families, people with disabilities, and service providers in all aspects of development and assessment of quality.**

TECHNOLOGY

- **Fully fund all of the provisions of the Assistive Technology Act.**
- **Ensure that people with disabilities have access to affordable, useable technology to support and enhance their lives.**

CIVIL RIGHTS

- **Preserve and enhance all civil rights legislation that pertains to people with disabilities and their families.**
- **Enact protections, including sanctions, against abuse, neglect, and inappropriate use of physical and chemical restraints and seclusion in all settings.**



- **Amend the hate crimes statute to protect individuals with disabilities.**
- **Increase funding to federal agencies to promote stronger enforcement of civil rights laws that affect people with disabilities**

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES Act

- **Reauthorize and increase funding for the Developmental Disabilities Act and ensure that any expansion does not result in negative fiscal effects or program outcomes for the programs currently authorized under the Act.**

RESEARCH AND PREVENTION

Significantly expand funding of basic and applied research conducted by federal agencies to improve the quality of life and to expand prevention efforts.



Disability Policy Collaboration (DPC)
1660 L Street, NW, Suite 701
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202-783-2229
Fax: 202-783-8250

The Arc of the United States
1010 Wayne Ave., Suite 650
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Phone: 301-565-3842
Fax: 301-565-3842
Web: www.thearc.org

United Cerebral Palsy (UCP)
1660 L Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036-5602
Phone: 202-776-0406
Fax: 202-776-0414
Web: www.ucp.org

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD)
444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 846
Washington, DC 20001-1512
Phone: 202-387-1968
Fax: 202-387-2193
Web: www.aidd.org

American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR)
1101 King Street, Suite 380
Alexandria, VA 22304
Phone: 703-535-7850
Fax: 703-535-7860
Web: www.ancor.org

Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)
1010 Wayne Avenue, Suite 920
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Phone: 301-588-8252
Fax: 301-588-2842
Web: www.aucd.org

National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD)
1660 L Street, NW, Suite 702
Washington, DC 20036-5602



Phone 202-??

Fax: 202-???

Web: www.nacdd.org

An expanded version of this document is available on the Web site of each organization.