



State Councils on Developmental Disabilities (DD Councils) promote person-centered and family-centered system improvements with and for people with developmental disabilities.

Since 1970, Congress has recognized that DD Councils are in a strategic position in each state and territory to invest in dynamic and innovative programs that improve services and systems that help people with developmental disabilities live in the community. Appointed by Governors, and consisting of at least 60% people with DD and their families, DD Councils serve as the entity in each state or territory that assess problems or gaps in the system and design solutions. Innovative solutions often bring about public-private partnerships that make real changes to systems such as transportation, education, healthcare, housing and more. All of these solutions are led by and created for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Photo: Nandi Isaac, GA DD Council Member

Recommendation:

NACDD respectfully requests that Congress appropriate \$76 million for the DD Councils for FY 2019 within the Administration for Community Living (ACL) in the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill.

Funding History:

	FY 12	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18/19
NACDD’s Request	\$75M	\$75M	\$75M	\$75M	\$76M	\$76M	\$76M
Actual Appropriations	\$74.774M	\$70.661M*	\$70.876M	\$71.692M	\$73M	\$73M	TBD

*After sequestration

Justification:

The FY 2019 request for DD Councils is \$76,000,000. This request will provide continued support for advocacy, systems change and capacity building activities that improve services for people with developmental disabilities and their families. In FY 2019, the program expects to increase the percentage of individuals with developmental disabilities who are independent, self-sufficient and integrated into the community because of Council efforts. It is crucial to continue funding for DD Councils, as they are the entity in the states and territories able to build and organize systems change efforts aimed at turning fragmented approaches into innovative and cost-effective strategies that create opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and their families. Advances in self-advocacy would be greatly impacted if funding were no longer available for DD Councils. All 56 Councils work to build leadership skills by providing individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members a variety of opportunities including opportunities to educate policymakers and participate in the design and redesign of systems affecting their lives.



Photo: Tennessee DD Council

For more information on your state’s DD Council, visit www.nacdd.org or contact Erin Prangley, Director, Public Policy at eprangley@nacdd.org.