

# Support Funding for DD Councils, PADD, UCEDDs, and PNS

Sending Office: Honorable James R. Langevin

Sent By: Katherine.Lee@mail.house.gov

Request for Signature(s)

## ***Support Funding for DD Councils, PADD, UCEDDs, and PNS***

### ***In the FY20 Labor-HHS Appropriations Bill***

**\*\*\*DEADLINE: April 23rd\*\*\***

Dear Colleague:

Please join me in supporting funding for four programs to assist individuals with developmental disabilities in the FY22 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill. These programs are vital to the disability community, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Located in every state and territory in the nation, these programs work together to advance the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live full lives in the community. As such, I hope you will join me in requesting funding at the levels below for State and Territorial Councils on Developmental Disabilities (DD Councils), Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (PADD), University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs), and Projects of National Significance in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (PNS).

•\$85 million for DD Councils: DD Councils utilize federal funding to support model demonstration grant projects that have increased access for inclusive education, housing, transportation, employment, and secondary transition services for persons with developmental disabilities and their families.

•\$45 million for PADD: PADD funding is utilized to ensure that children and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities are free from abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation. PADD's efforts also emphasize critical supports and services, including education, employment, housing, and transportation, that make community living a long-term reality.

•\$45 million for UCEDDs: UCEDDs provide interdisciplinary, pre-service preparation of students and fellows, continuing education, community training, research, model services, technical assistance, and information dissemination.

•\$14 million for PNS: PNS gather and report longitudinal data on the costs of, status of, and trends in residential, in-home, individual, family, and employment services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Please sign this form to add your boss and contact Katherine Lee ([katherine.lee@mail.house.gov](mailto:katherine.lee@mail.house.gov)) in my office with any questions.

The deadline to sign is COB April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Sincerely,

Jim Langevin  
Member of Congress

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Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As you prepare the Fiscal Year 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we respectfully request a funding level of \$85,000,000 for the State and Territorial Councils on Developmental Disabilities (DD Councils), \$45,000,000 for the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (PADD) program, which is utilized by Protection and Advocacy (P&A) Systems, \$45,000,000 for the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs), and \$14,000,000 under the ACL/AIDD program for Projects of National Significance in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (PNS). These programs are authorized under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 and are located in every state and territory. The current levels of funding for the DD Councils, P&As, and UCEDDs have not kept pace with the increased need. Persons with developmental disabilities are living longer lives as a result of better diagnosis and treatment, and new issues around aging and caregiving must be met by these programs. There is an increasing demand for services to address ongoing issues for the disability community, such as barriers to education and employment that prevent persons with developmental disabilities from becoming economically self-sufficient taxpayers. Each program is actively working to implement numerous federal statutes passed in a bi-partisan manner in recent years, including the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the Achieving Better Life Experience Act of 2014, and the Every Student Succeeds Act. They are also helping states work towards implementation of Medicaid Home and Community Based Services and ending waitlists for these services.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, states turned to these programs to identify and fill critical gaps in emergency services, challenge and change outdated and discriminatory medical protocols, and expose dangerous neglect in nursing homes that may have contributed to disproportionately higher rates of COVID-19 infection and death. It is even more critical that DD Councils, UCEDDs, P&As and PNS have adequate funding to support the work of states who are fighting the systemic barriers to healthcare, education, employment, housing, and transportation that were made worse by the pandemic. The DD Act programs will build on these efforts to continue driving programs and policies that benefit individuals with developmental disabilities and our society as a whole.

DD Councils invest in programs tailored to the needs of states that help people with developmental disabilities live in the community. Appointed by governors - and with memberships that are at least 60% people with DD and their families - DD Councils assess problems or gaps in state systems and design solutions accordingly. DD Councils often bring about public-private partnerships in transportation, education, healthcare, housing, and more to increase the percentage of individuals with developmental disabilities who are independent, self-sufficient, and integrated into the community. During COVID-19, states called on the DD Councils to help with emergency services such as identifying and delivering personal protective equipment to people with disabilities and their families in isolated communities, partner with local organizations to help individuals and families access supports and services, and more. The request for \$85,000,000 for DD Councils is based on increased demand for services and language in the authorizing statute.

P&As utilize PADD funding to provide direct services to ensure that children and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities are free from abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation. PADD programs also emphasize critical supports and services, including education, employment, housing, and transportation, that make community living a long-term reality. P&As advocate on behalf of persons with disabilities and are the largest provider of legally-based advocacy services for people with disabilities in the United States. With 57 locations, there is one in every state, the District of Columbia, and each U.S. territory. At the local and state level, PADDs fight for the rights of people with disabilities, including equal access to testing, vaccination, and treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic, along with ending discriminatory medical rationing practices in several states. An increase in PADD funding to \$45 million is needed to address these new issues while maintaining the other important work that the P&As do through the PADD program for people with developmental disabilities.

UCEDDs provide interdisciplinary pre-service preparation of students and fellows, continuing education, community training, research, model services, technical assistance, and information dissemination. UCEDDs exist to provide unique, expert state and community resources to facilitate the independence and full participation in the community of people living with developmental and other disabilities. Centers are housed in universities and translate the best scientifically validated practices into broad-based, high quality, community practices. The UCEDD network used their valuable expertise and resources to help federal, state, and local disability leaders advocate for disability inclusion in COVID-19 response and vaccine distribution plans.

PNS gather and report longitudinal data on the costs of, status of, and trends in residential, in-home, individual, family, and employment services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They provide technical assistance to strengthen and support service networks, disseminate research, and share best practices nationwide. They assist policymakers at the state and national levels to understand and improve policies and practices for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by monitoring progress, measuring outcomes, and identifying or developing new evidence-based practices. They demonstrate promising practices or improve existing practices in areas of national importance such as providing cost-effective family supports, increasing employment opportunities, and ensuring an adequate supply of qualified people to provide supports. They also inform policymakers and stakeholders about critical emerging needs (e.g., COVID-19, babies born with Zika infection, strategies for supporting the rising numbers of children and adults with autism spectrum disorders, and cost-effective supports and services for an aging population).

Despite fiscal constraints over the past decade, DD Councils, P&As, UCEDDs, and PNS have engaged communities and created positive change. Ensuring adequate funding levels for FY 2022 will help to make certain that UCEDDs, P&As, DD Councils, and PNS continue to successfully promote equality of opportunity and inclusion of persons with developmental disabilities across the lifespan in all aspects of community life.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your continued attention to these important national priorities.

### Related Legislative Issues

**Selected legislative information:** Appropriations, Civil Rights, Education, HealthCare

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