



ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY CENTERS ON DISABILITIES  
RESEARCH, EDUCATION, SERVICE

## **Disability Funding Alert**

**June 13, 2017**

### **SUMMARY:**

President Trump's [budget](#) proposes steep cuts to health, education, employment and research programs that support people with disabilities. The plan cuts \$54 billion from non-defense discretionary programs and increases defense programs by the same amount. Every agency that supports people with disabilities and families is cut by 15-30 percent. Some critical disability programs would be eliminated. The budget fundamental alters the Medicaid programs and cuts other safety net programs that provide critical health and supports that allow people with disabilities to live and work in the community.

The AUCD network must work with allies to help educate Members of Congress about the cumulative impact these cuts would have on people with disabilities, families and state budgets.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The President's Budget makes drastic changes to several disability programs. **State Councils on Developmental Disabilities**, one of our DD Act partners, would be zeroed out. Instead, the President proposes folding the activities of the Councils into a new block grant along with Independent Living programs and the state Traumatic Brain Injury program. **Total cuts: \$57 million**

The National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) is reduced to \$95 million: **Total cut: \$9 million**

Several other discretionary programs, including the **Leadership Education and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND)** network, the Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics (DBP) training program and the Autism Intervention Research Network on Physical Health (AIR-P), and the Autism Intervention Research Network on Behavioral Health (AIR-B) research programs would be eliminated. These programs are all funded under the \$47 million "Autism and other DD" line item in the budget authorized by the Autism CARES Act. Of that amount, \$31 million was allocated to the LEND programs: **Total cut: \$47 million**

The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute for Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) would receive 33 percent less funding, or \$1.032 billion. NICHD funds the 14-site Intellectual and Developmental Disability Research Centers (IDDRC) network: **Total cut: \$348 million**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) budget would see a \$1.3 billion cut, or approximately \$5 billion, down from its FY 2017 total of \$6.3 billion. The steepest cuts would be to programs for environmental health, occupational safety, emerging infectious diseases, and prevention

of HIV/AIDS and other chronic diseases. The National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (**NCBDDD**) would be cut 28 percent from the FY 2017 spending level and receive \$100 million. (In addition, it is important to note that approximately 12 percent of all CDC funding depends on the Prevention and Public Health Fund which would be eliminated if the House-passed America's Health Care Act becomes law.) **Total cut to the Center: \$37 million**

The President's Budget assumes that the House-passed American Health Care Act (AHCA) will be passed by the Senate and signed into law. The AHCA cuts **Medicaid** by more than \$800 billion over 10 years. The President's request proposes an *additional* \$610 billion in cuts to Medicaid. In addition, Medicaid funding would be allocated based on a per capita cap formula or, at state option, a block grant. Both scenarios would result in a radically different Medicaid program that would adversely affect the community living options and supports for people with disabilities. **Total cut:** According to the [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities analysis](#), the total cuts to Medicaid in the President's request is **\$1.9 trillion over the next decade.**

### **TAKE ACTION:**

#### **Call your Representative/Senator/Member of Congress:**

- Dial the Capitol Switchboard at **202-224-3121** and ask for the office of your Representative/Senators
- Ask to speak to the person working on health and/or disability funding issues
- Email your members of Congress directly using [AUCD's Action Center](#).

**Message:** "I am calling Representative/Senator \_\_\_\_\_ to urge your support of federal funding for disability programs that support people with disabilities to live, work, and play in the community."

#### **Additional Talking Points:**

- Current federal investments don't meet the needs of a growing and aging population of Americans with disabilities.
- This budget represents an aggressive retreat from a decades-long, bipartisan commitment to supporting the health and inclusion of people with disabilities.
- Record numbers of people with disabilities are thriving in the community. By eliminating many federal programs and dramatically cutting others, this proposal puts the entire national support system for our community at risk.
- There is a nationwide shortage of disability competent care providers in today's health system to assess and meet the complex needs of children with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities.
- The LEND network is currently made up of 52 programs in 44 states, with an additional six states and five territories reached through program partnerships.
- With the expanded number of LEND grant recipients and trainees, the LEND programs provided interdisciplinary diagnostic evaluations for over 94,000 infants and children in 2014-15.

- By continuing to meet the growing demand for these services, the LEND programs are reducing wait times for diagnostic evaluation and entry into intervention services.
- AUCD's FY2018 funding recommendation of \$31 million for LEND (as part of the \$52 million for Autism and other DD line item in the Autism CARES Act) will allow the current 52 sites to continue training professionals to screen, diagnose, and provide evidence-based interventions for individuals with ASD/DD.
- NICHD funds critical rehabilitation research through the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research (NCMRR), as well as the network of Intellectual and Developmental Disability Research Centers (IDDRC). Now in their 50th year, the 14 IDDRC sites represent the nation's first and foremost sustained effort to prevent and treat disabilities through biomedical and behavioral research.
- Please do not support the budget proposal to consolidate funding for the DD Councils and two other disability programs to create a new grant program within the Administration on Community Living in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- As a partner funded under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act), UCEDDs are deeply concerned about the impact of this proposal on services and supports for people with developmental disabilities (DD).
- The DD Act was designed by and for individuals with DD. It was masterful in linking three distinct programs that work collaboratively to meet the goal of the DD Act.
- The DD Councils, Protection and Advocacy agencies, and University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs) are linked in their responsibilities to ensure:
  - a well-trained cadre of experts providing services to individuals with DD and their families;
  - the protection of the rights of individuals with DD; and
  - that people with DD are fully included in the work to improve services and systems to make them inclusive.
- Together, the three DD Act programs work to ensure that our nation's people with developmental disabilities can be fully included in all aspects of daily life. Investments in these programs are cost-effective.
- NCBDDD reduces health disparities and the severity of additional conditions that may occur due to disability.
- NCBDDD improves the health of people living with life-long disabilities.
- Targeted health promotion programs funded by NCBDD, like *Living Well with a Disability*, have been shown to save nearly \$1,000 per person in annual healthcare costs.