

# AUCD Public Policy Committee

## Purpose, Leadership & Member Expectations

### Purpose

The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) advocates for legislative issues critical to individuals with disabilities, their families, and the researchers, service providers and educators interested in improving outcomes for individuals with disabilities across the lifespan. The AUCD Public Policy Committee supports the mission, vision, and values of AUCD by supporting AUCD's efforts to advance disability-related policies and practices that improve lives. The AUCD Public Policy Committee:

- Develops policy advocacy leadership across the diversity of network members (e.g., IDDRC, LEND, UCEDD);
- Develops bi-annual priority legislative issues in collaboration with the AUCD Board of Directors;
- Monitors key policy issues at the federal level that affect the disability community;
- Improves communication and understanding of federal (and key state) policy issues among AUCD network members;
- Engages AUCD network members in federal and state policy advocacy; and,
- Supports policy advocacy involvement of individuals directly affiliated with network members, including emerging leaders (e.g., trainees and early career professionals, self-advocates, family members, and other individuals with lived experience).

### Public Policy Committee Composition

The AUCD Public Policy Committee is composed of the full AUCD Public Policy team (AUCD staff), one Chair, three Co-Chairs, and AUCD network member representatives either appointed by individual member organizations or self-selected with the approval of the individual's supervisor. Each AUCD network member organization [i.e., Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center (IDDRC), Leadership in Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND), and University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)] is encouraged to assign at least one representative to the AUCD Public Policy Committee.

### Public Policy Committee Leadership

- Public Policy Committee Chairperson is elected for a two-year term from among current Committee Co-Chairs. Current Co-Chairs elect the Chair. The election opens on February 1<sup>st</sup> of every other year, starting in February 2021. The elected Chair may serve no more than two consecutive terms.
- Public Policy Committee Co-Chairs consist of one elected member from the Committee membership, one appointed member by the AUCD Public Policy Team (AUCD staff), and

one AUCD Board of Directors liaison. The elected and appointed Co-Chairs serve a 2-year term. The elected Co-Chair election opens on February 1<sup>st</sup> of every other year, starting in February 2021. The appointed Co-Chair begins service in February of every even year starting in February 2020. Elected and appointed Co-Chairs may serve no more than two consecutive terms as Co-Chair.

The AUCD Board of Director Liaison is appointed by the President of the AUCD Board of Directors. The appointment is renewed annually. The Liaison may not serve as Chairperson.

- **Committee Leadership Expectations.** Elected and appointed leaders meet monthly with the AUCD Public Policy Team to review and set the monthly discussion agenda for the full committee meeting. They serve as network advisors to the staff, as needed. Committee leadership requires approximately 60 minutes/ month in addition to general committee member participation.

### **Committee Member Responsibilities, Time Commitment & Expectations**

- Attend and contribute during monthly meetings (approximately 60 minutes/ month);
- Review and distribute, as appropriate and determined locally, weekly policy updates (e.g., Disability Policy News) sent to AUCD member organizations (10 minutes/ week);
- Report policy issues to member organization leadership or program staff, as determined locally; and,
- Review Committee meeting minutes and follow-up on action items (varies; 10 minutes/ month is typical).
- Maintain confidentiality of strategic plans for advocacy and information shared during meetings;
- Be an ambassador of the AUCD Public Policy Committee to encourage other individuals in the network to engage in advocacy at the federal, state and local levels;
- Keep home program (e.g., IDDRC, LEND, UCEDD) colleagues apprised of policy issues at the federal and state levels; and,
- When possible, attend Public Policy Committee meetings held in conjunction with the annual AUCD Conference and Disability Policy Seminar meetings.