

## **AUCD Public Policy Committee Purpose, Leadership & Member Expectations**

### **Purpose**

The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) advocates for improvements in public policy that are critical to people with disabilities, their families, and the researchers, service providers and educators who are interested in improving outcomes for people with disabilities across the lifespan. The AUCD Public Policy Committee is created by the Board of Directors to support the mission, vision, and values of AUCD by supporting AUCD's efforts to advance policies and practices that improve lives of people with disabilities.

The AUCD Public Policy Committee:

- Receives updates on and monitors key federal policy changes that will impact persons with disabilities and their families;
- Develops bi-annual priority policy priorities in collaboration with the AUCD Board of Directors and supports implementation of them each year;
- Develops the leadership skills of the diverse network members ([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)];
- Improves communication and understanding of federal policy issues among network members by supporting network members to engage in advising policymakers including individuals directly affiliated with network members, such as emerging leaders (e.g., trainees and early career professionals, self-advocates, family members, and other individuals with lived experience); and

### **Public Policy Committee Composition**

The AUCD Public Policy Committee is composed of the full AUCD Public Policy Team (AUCD staff), three co-chairs (one of whom is also the Board Liaison), and AUCD network member representatives either appointed by individual member Centers/Programs or self-selected with the approval of the individual's supervisor.

Each network member is encouraged to assign at least one representative to the AUCD Public Policy Committee.

## Public Policy Committee Leadership

- 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 two-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 co-chairs meet monthly with the AUCD Public Policy Team to review and set the monthly agenda for the full committee meeting. The co-chairs serve as network advisors to the staff, as needed. Committee leadership requires approximately 60-90 minutes per month, in addition to general committee member participation. On occasion, the co-chairs will be called on to advise the AUCD Public Policy Team on time-sensitive issues.

## Committee Member Responsibilities, Time Commitment & Expectations

- Maintain confidentiality of strategic discussions and plans for advocacy and information shared during meetings;
- Attend and contribute during monthly meetings (approximately 60 minutes per month);
- Review and distribute, as appropriate policy updates (e.g., Disability Policy News) sent to AUCD member organizations (approximately 10 - 20 minutes per month);
- Report updates on policy issues to Centers/Programs leadership or program staff, as determined locally;
- Review Committee materials and follow-up on action items (varies; approximately 10 - 20 minutes per month).
- Be an ambassador of the AUCD Public Policy Committee to encourage other individuals in the network to engage in advising policymakers at the federal, state and local levels;
- Keep home program (e.g., IDDRRC, LEND, UCEDD) colleagues apprised of policy issues (10 - 20 minutes per month); and,
- When possible, attend Public Policy Committee meetings held in conjunction with the annual AUCD Conference and/or Disability Policy Seminar meetings.