





# Mission

**AUCD's mission is to advance policies and practices that improve the health, education, social, and economic well-being of people with developmental and other disabilities, their families, and their communities by supporting our members in research, education, health, and service activities that achieve our vision.**



## The Role of AUCD

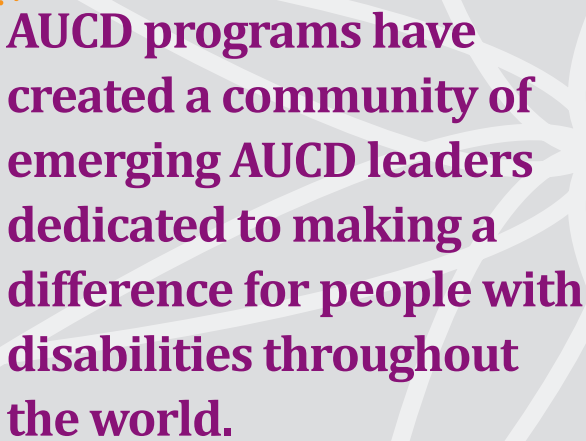
AUCD supports its member networks through:

- \* Leadership on major social issues affecting all people living with developmental or other disabilities or special health needs
- \* Public policy advocacy
- \* Partnering with other national organizations to advance the network's national agendas
- \* Promoting communication within the network and with other groups by collecting, organizing and disseminating data on network activities and accomplishments
- \* Providing technical assistance on a broad range of topics

Membership in AUCD is open to UCEDDs, LENDs, IDDRCs, and related national and international university-based centers and entities with similar missions and values.

An elected Board of Directors, which includes professionals, individuals with disabilities, trainees, and family members, governs AUCD.





**AUCD programs have created a community of emerging AUCD leaders dedicated to making a difference for people with disabilities throughout the world.**


## **The AUCD Network**

AUCD supports and promotes a national network of university-based, interdisciplinary programs.

Network members consist of:

- \* **University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs)**, funded by the Administration on Community Living (ACL)
- \* **Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities programs (LENDs)** funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB)
- \* **Eunice Kennedy Shriver Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Centers (IDDRCs)** funded by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute for Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)

AUCD members represent every state and territory in the United States. They engage in a range of interdisciplinary activities, including:

- \* Exemplary health and other services for children, adults, and families
  - \* Academic training
  - \* Basic and applied research
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- \* Training and technical assistance to schools, communities, and all levels of government
- \* Public policy advocacy
- \* Program evaluation
- \* Dissemination of best practices and new information

AUCD members have unique strengths that they share in support with each other and the greater disability community. They serve as a bridge between the university and the needs of their local communities. Some members are exemplary educators. They train professional leaders, individuals with disabilities, and family members in areas such as early care and education, primary health care, special education, and innovative housing and employment programs. Other members excel in basic and applied research, model demonstration programs, systemic reform, and policy analysis. Because these programs work collaboratively, innovations from one program can be rapidly implemented in communities throughout the country—affecting more lives than any one program could touch.



ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY CENTERS ON DISABILITIES

THE LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION, ADVOCACY & RESEARCH NETWORK

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