

University Centers for Excellence in
Developmental Disabilities:
In Research, Education and Service

An Overview

By

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Purpose

- Found in every state and territory of US
- Affiliated with major university
- Working to achieve a shared vision where all people, including people with disabilities, fully participate in their communities

Network of UCEDDs

- Grown from 12 to 61 UCEDDs
- Working for nearly four decades
- Linked through AUCD...the Association of University Centers on Disabilities
- Meet in annual conference with other UCEs from across the country
- Share expertise and innovative practices

Education

- The quality of life for individuals with disabilities depends upon well-trained professionals
- UCEs provide high quality, local, state, and national personnel training in collaborative, coordinated, interdisciplinary fashion to address issues that effect people throughout the lifespan in health, ed, employment and social service systems

Education & Training

- Each year UCEs provide education and training to 500,000 health, education, mental health, human service and policy-making professionals to help them understand the needs of people with disabilities and their families.
- UCEs also provide information resources to parents, guardians and family members

Information & Training Topics

- Rights and responsibilities of people with disabilities
- Self-Advocacy
- Early Intervention
- Education
- Employment
- Community living
- Medicaid
- Social Security
- Access to Assistive Technology

Educational Activities For:

- University students from multiple disciplines with emphasis on leadership
- Practicing professionals so that evidence-based practices are implemented
- Direct care providers who provide supports for people with disabilities
- Individuals and families as they engage in self-determination and self-advocacy
- Policy-makers who are charged with setting policy directions for the future

Research

- UCEs conduct research on a wide variety of issues related to individuals with developmental and other disabilities and their families. This includes from basic to applied research and policy analysis
- Centers work to link research to public policy and professional practice
- UCE's are committed to sharing information and research findings with the community they serve
- UCEs share through publishing, presentations and the use of technology (websites, etc)

Research & Innovation Topics:

- How people learn and how best to teach
- Evidence regarding the link between early literacy and educational success
- Determinants of workplace success
- Access to quality community services
- Disability prevention
- Health access across the lifespan

Service

- UCEDDs provide direct supports and services to people with disabilities, their families and communities. Through technical assistance to other providers, these supports build capacity within the communities to reduce disparities in health care, enhance educational opportunities, develop work skills & enrich daily living.

Technology Services

- UCEDDs lead in improving the lives of people with disabilities through new technologies...assessing needs, obtaining equipment needed to read, hear, speak, write ,learn, work play, and fully participate in community life.

UCEDDs assist families and individuals with disabilities:

- Interdisciplinary evaluation and intervention
- Connecting with technology for learning and workplace accommodation
- Working with schools to deliver evidence-based programs in inclusive settings
- Linking families of young children with health care services in the community

Responding to National Needs

- Addressing issues regarding victimization of people with disabilities
- Developing responses to terrorism and emergency evacuation procedures for people with disabilities
- Collaborating to address Medicaid and New Freedom Initiatives
- Developing and testing early literacy intervention
- Analyzing the prevalence of specific disabilities
- Improving access to social security benefits