

Fiscal Policy Task Force
2012 Annual Report

2012 in review

The Fiscal Policy Task Force continued work this year advocating for sufficient funding to support programs that serve people with disabilities. Our primary areas of work were the following:

- 1) **Budget Response** – The Task Force coordinated efforts of CCD to craft a unified response to the President’s budget proposal released early in the year.
- 2) **Deficit Reduction Act Implementation**– Throughout the year, the Fiscal Policy Task Force led efforts to be the voice of people with disabilities as Congress and the President decided on next steps in deficit reduction activities. Our primary goals and principles are to assure that:
 - a. The budget is balanced without detriment to people with disabilities, for whom government services and supports are vital to their ability to remain healthy, employed, educated and independent in their communities.
 - b. Any modifications to entitlement programs on which people with disabilities depend for their health, long-term supports and income security as their lifeline, such as Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income and veterans disability compensation and pension benefits, do not result in reduced access to needed services either directly, through eligibility restrictions or benefit cuts, or indirectly, through inadequate provider reimbursement rates.
 - c. Deficit reduction strategies reflect a thoughtful, balanced approach and include all aspects of the federal budget in order to protect people with disabilities. Any plan must include an analysis of how it will impact people with disabilities of all ages and other vulnerable populations.
- 3) **Regular Appropriations** – The Task Force continued to serve as the central source for appropriations informant for other Task Forces as Fiscal 2011 and 2012 appropriations were crafted and finalized. CCD helped to motivate its members to reject severe threats to non-defense discretionary funding and helped to pass a continuing resolution that instead provided essentially level funding for thru March 2013.

2013 Priorities

The Task Force foresees that the next year will continue to be volatile in the area of fiscal policy. In addition to regular order appropriations and budget work, Congress will be looking to implement whatever budget changes are put into place to avoid the sequestration process and will continue to undertake massive and potentially harmful deficit reduction efforts, including potential cuts to entitlement programs. The Task Force will continue to coordinate with other task forces around fiscal policy analyses and advocacy.

Co-Chairs:

Julio Abreu – Mental Health America

Jennifer Dexter – Easter Seals

Donna Meltzer – National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

Kim Musheno – AUCD