



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

Fiscal Policy

2016 ACTIVITIES

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) Throughout the year, the Fiscal Policy Task Force served as the voice of the disability advocacy community as Congress and the President negotiated the details of the budget and annual spending bills. Our primary message has been to ensure 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.
- 2) The Task Force continued to serve as the central source for appropriations and budget information for other task forces during the appropriations process and to be CCD's liaison to groups such as the Coalition for Health Funding and the coalition for non-defense discretionary programs (NDD United), providing input into their letters, press releases, and participating in Hill visits. Task force co-chairs responded to Congressional budget proposals with press releases and letters after coordinating with other task force co-chairs.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The task force will continue to coordinate with other task forces around fiscal policy analysis and advocacy.

CO-CHAIRS IN 2015:

Annie Acosta – The Arc

Jennifer Dexter – Easter Seals

Donna Meltzer – National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

Kim Musheno – AUCD