



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

CCD Financial Security Task Force Annual Report for 2015

2015 ACTIVITIES

Throughout 2015, the Task Force worked with partners on Capitol Hill, in federal agencies, in the states, and among disability organizations regarding implementation of the new Steven Beck Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act enacted in December 2014. This included work with the Internal Revenue Service regarding development of regulations (notice of proposed rulemaking was published on June 22), comments on the NPRM, a public hearing on the NPRM, and a November 20 publication of guidance on several issues of concern to the disability community and state administrators. Efforts also included working with the Social Security Administration (SSA) regarding critical implementation issues. SSA published POMS (Program Operations Manual System) instructions to SSA staff, effective December 18, to provide guidance on how to handle contributions to and distributions from ABLE accounts for beneficiaries who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and other disability benefits.

The Task Force monitored the progress of the Special Needs Trust Fairness Act, a bill to make a technical correction to statutory language authorizing the use of certain special needs trusts by Medicaid beneficiaries. The bill would ensure that individuals could establish a trust without having to go through a parent, grandparent, guardian, or court.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- The Task Force will work to ensure an amendment to the ABLE program to increase the age of onset of disability for eligibility for ABLE, along with other improvements; will continue ABLE work with other federal agencies regarding their respective roles; and will continue to monitor implementation and work with the IRS, SSA, and the state agencies regarding the ABLE program.
- The Task Force will continue to monitor the Special Needs Trust Fairness Act.
- The Task Force will continue to address public policy issues which could improve the financial security of individuals with disabilities.

CO-CHAIRS IN 2015:

Marty Ford, The Arc

Susan Goodman, National Down Syndrome Congress

Sara Meek, Lutheran Services in America

*The Task Force mourns the loss of **Tony Young**, Co-Chair, former Chairperson of CCD, and former Co-Chair of the Social Security Task Force for many years.*

