



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

Fiscal Policy

2015 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. CCD was a vital part of ongoing larger coalition work, particularly the NDD United coalition, to raise the non-defense discretionary (NDD) spending caps and thus discontinuing the damaging cuts that first took effect in 2012. Our work helped push for the eventual Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 that lifted the budget caps and provided overall budget totals for the next two fiscal years. 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 the liaison to the NDD United efforts, providing input into their documents, press releases, and 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. We anticipate being actively involved in helping to fight efforts in state legislatures to enact resolutions calling for a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution and/or a Constitutional Convention.

CO-CHAIRS IN 2015:

Annie Acosta – The Arc

Jennifer Dexter – Easter Seals

Donna Meltzer – National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

Kim Musheno – AUCD