



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

Fiscal Policy

2014 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 led efforts to be the voice of people with disabilities as Congress and the President decided on next steps in the ongoing issue of implementing/avoiding sequestration and other deficit reduction activities. CCD was a vital part of ongoing larger coalition work, particularly NDD United, to cancel the sequester and assure that severe threats to non-defense discretionary funding were rejected. This included the release of the report *The Faces of Austerity* with CCD vignettes included. Our work helped push for the eventual budget deal that restores regular order to the budget and appropriations process and allows funding decisions to be made on a case-by-case basis with an overall funding level that, while not ideal, allows for some programs to remain viable. 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.
- 2) The Task Force continued to serve as the central source for appropriations and budget information for other Task Forces during the Fiscal 2014 and 2015 appropriations process.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

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 continue to attempt 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 analysis and advocacy.

CO-CHAIRS IN 2014:

Annie Acosta – The Arc

Jennifer Dexter – Easter Seals

Donna Meltzer – National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

Kim Musheno – AUCD