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PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA for the 114TH CONGRESS

— 2015-2016 —



FUNCTION
ACCOUNTABLE ACCESSIBLE
HEALTH CARE LONG TERM
QUALITY SERVICES
CUSTOMIZED **MEDICAID**
HOME AND COMMUNITY
TECHNOLOGY
COMMUNICATION SAFETY
BUDGET & TAX NET
FUNDING WELLBEING

REBALANCE
TIMELY
BENEFIT

SAFE HOUSING ACCESSIBLE
SUPPLY SUPPORTIVE
AFFORDABLE SOCIAL
FOOD SECURITY
BASIC SHELTER ELIGIBILITY & SSI
FINANCIAL FUTURE INTEGRATED
BENEFITS POTENTIAL
GATEWAY EXPECTATIONS HIGH
INDEPENDENCE QUALITY
REFERRAL **EDUCATION**
RESPIRE ASSESSMENTS ESSENTIAL
INTEGRATED CAREGIVERS
FAMILY SUPPORT
TRAINING COMMUNITY

An expanded version of this document is available on the website of each organization.

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

American Network of Community Options and Resources

National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

The Arc

United Cerebral Palsy

Key Federal Policy Issues for People with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities (I/DD)

Federal public policy is critical to ensuring that people with I/DD can live fully inclusive and productive lives in the community. These policies include:



Budget and Tax

Sufficient tax revenue must be raised in order to appropriately fund social insurance (Social Security, Medicare), safety net (Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI)), and discretionary programs (such as housing, education, employment, and transportation) that people with I/DD rely on for their health, safety, and wellbeing.



Civil Rights

Civil rights must be preserved through vigilant enforcement of laws and regulations as well as strong opposition to efforts that limit the rights of people with I/DD.



Community-Based Long Term Supports & Services

These must be widely accessible, consumer controlled, and provided in the community without the requirement that people impoverish themselves in order to obtain assistance with activities of daily living, such as getting dressed, taking medication, and preparing meals.



Direct Support Professionals

These professionals must be well trained and fairly compensated to provide the necessary supports and services for people with I/DD where they work and live.



Education

The education system must help people with I/DD to achieve their full potential and independence by having high expectations, integrated instruction by highly qualified teachers, inclusive classrooms, appropriate assessments, and only using positive behavioral supports to address problem behaviors.



Employment

Supported employment programs must be expanded to provide more job development, placement, and coaching, skills training, and other services necessary to help find and maintain integrated employment for people with I/DD.



Family Support

Counseling, support groups, respite, training, cash assistance, and information and referral must be made widely available to family caregivers, especially those who are aging, and who provide supports in the community. This will help avoid costly and unwanted institutional placements of individuals with I/DD.



Health Care

People with I/DD must have timely access to high quality, comprehensive, accessible, affordable, and individualized health care services to improve and maintain health and functioning.



Housing

An adequate supply of safe, accessible, integrated, and affordable supportive housing in the community for people with I/DD must be available.



Medicaid

This program is the single largest funding source of both acute health care and long term supports and services for people with I/DD. It must be preserved and rebalanced to make home and community based services the norm and institutional services the exception.



Social Security & SSI

This system provides the primary income sources for many people with significant disabilities to meet their basic needs for food, shelter, and clothing. Benefits and eligibility must be maintained and the long-term financial future of these programs must be considered outside of deficit reduction efforts.



Technology

Technology must be accessible and made widely available to persons who may benefit from it to make communication, education, independent living, and employment opportunities available for people with I/DD.



Transportation

Accessible transportation programs must be expanded and anti-discrimination policies must be enforced to help people with I/DD access employment, health care, recreational activities, and other aspects of community living.

Many additional federal policy issues greatly affect people with I/DD. They include quality of services, Developmental Disabilities Act programs, research, prevention, and emergency management.

The Arc, AAIDD, ANCOR, NACDD, and UCP are national organizations that serve and advocate for people with intellectual, developmental, and other disabilities. We work together to shape, expand, and protect a strong federal role that provides vital benefits, services and supports and assures civil rights for our constituency.