



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

Developmental Disabilities, Autism, and Family Support Task Force

**Principles for Reauthorization of the Autism Collaboration, Accountability,
Research, Education, and Support (CARES) Act**

The Autism CARES Act of 2014 (P.L. 113–157) amended the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize research, surveillance, and education activities related to autism spectrum disorders conducted by various agencies within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The law authorized \$1.3 billion in funding for fiscal years 2015-2019 and has a hard sunset of September 30, 2019.

The undersigned members of CCD's Task Force on Developmental Disabilities, Autism, and Family support the following principles for reauthorization:

PROGRAMMATIC PRIORITIES

- The research, surveillance, public education, and professional training efforts authorized by the Autism CARES Act should be continued and improved.
- The research portfolio should place greater emphasis on studying the needs of persons with ASD from under-represented groups and across the lifespan and on developing improved services and supports for people with ASD.
- Agencies should prioritize funding projects that follow the principles of community-based, participatory research.

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCESSIBILITY

- The research of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) should be made more transparent and made available to the public and in a timely manner.

REPRESENTATION ON THE INTERAGENCY AUTISM COORDINATING COMMITTEE (IACC)

- The minimum number of persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder represented on the IACC should be meaningfully increased.
- Representatives of other federal agencies that administer key programs for persons with ASD throughout the lifespan should be required members of the IACC:
 - Administration for Community Living
 - Department of Justice

- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Department of Labor

FUNDING

- Current annual authorization amounts for federal agencies should be maintained or increased.

ENDORSED BY:

American Music Therapy Association
American Network of Community Options & Resources
American Therapeutic Recreation Association
ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Autism Society of America
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Easterseals
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Disability Rights Network
National Down Syndrome Congress
TASH
The Arc of the United States