

DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH COALITION

1501 M STREET, N.W. SUITE 700 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

2020 DRRC Policy and Advocacy Priorities

I. FISCAL YEAR 2021 APPROPRIATIONS

Advocate for additional funding and applicable report language to support DRRC goals.

- Solicit membership for priority programs and prepare DRRC appropriations and report language recommendations.
- Advocate before congressional appropriations leadership to support DRRC budget requests.
- Meet with relevant agency and administration officials as appropriate regarding budget needs.
- Prepare charts summarizing President's budget proposals and House/Senate/Conference numbers and accompanying analyses.

II. NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY, INDEPENDENT LIVING, AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH (NIDILRR)

Advocate in support of NIDILRR and its research mission.

- Closely monitor and help facilitate the implementation of the 2018-2023 NIDILRR Long Range Plan.
- Meet with Acting Director and ACL officials to reaffirm commitment to disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research.
- Monitor all developments regarding new permanent director search to ensure continuity with NIDILRR efforts.
- Work to more closely involve NIDILRR in CMS activities, especially regarding the role that NIDILRR's data stores and disability expertise may play in improving the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

III. National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Implementation of Legislation to Improve the Stature, Visibility, and Coordination of Medical Rehabilitation Research at the NIH

- Follow up with those senior NIH leaders with whom DRRC has already engaged.
- Pursue meetings with IC Directors we have not yet contacted, including NIMH and NIMHD.

- Participate in NIBIB’s strategic planning process and additional opportunities to comment on NIH priorities for disability and rehabilitation research.
- Monitor all developments regarding new permanent director search for NCMRR and engage with new personnel to ensure continued strong relationship between DRRC and the Center.
- Work with NICHD to clarify funding levels for NCMRR and ensure adequate resources for the Center.
- Engage with NIMHD and other federal agencies to prioritize disability as a health disparity, beginning with formation of a DRRC working group to develop a position paper on the subject.
- Collaborate with NCMRR to highlight advancements in disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research through participation in the NIH Rehabilitation Research 2020 conference in October and engage in efforts to recognize NCMRR’s 30th anniversary.

IV. INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY RESEARCH (ICDR)

Promote the implementation of the government-wide strategic plan on disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research.

- Continue to advocate with ICDR and ACL to encourage commitment to the plan and implementation of its stated goals.

V. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC) ADVOCACY

Engage with leaders at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to ensure that the health of individuals with disabilities is always considered in the CDC’s work.

- Engage with the appropriate leaders at the CDC to re-appoint a Chief Disability and Health Officer and re-establish the Disability and Health Working Group.
- Advocate before key officials and work in tandem with the research community to address next steps and try to restore CDC’s view of rehabilitation and disability research.

VI. PATIENT-CENTERED OUTCOMES RESEARCH INSTITUTE (PCORI)

Engage with PCORI to support further emphasis on disability and rehabilitation research within the Institute’s portfolio, in light of the Institute’s recent reauthorization through FY 2029.