

ADD Fact Sheet

March 16, 2004

What is ADD?

The Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) is the Federal agency responsible for implementation and administration of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act) and the disability provisions of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). Organizationally, the Administration on Developmental Disabilities is located in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and is part of the Department's Administration for Children and Families. ADD's FY 2004 funding for the DD Act is \$149,861,569 and for HAVA is \$14,911,500.

ADD's mission is to improve and increase services to and assure that individuals with developmental disabilities have opportunities to make their own choices, live in and contribute to their communities, have any necessary supports so they can be independent, and are free of abuse, neglect, financial and sexual exploitation, and violations of their legal and human rights.

What is Developmental Disability?

There are approximately 4.5 million individuals with developmental disabilities in the United States. Developmental disabilities (DD) are severe, life-long disabilities attributable to mental and/or physical impairments, manifested before age 22. Developmental disabilities result in substantial limitations in three or more areas of major life activities:

- . self-care
- . learning
- . mobility
- . self-direction
- . receptive and expressive language
- . capacity for independent living
- . economic self-sufficiency

Without appropriate services and supports, the choices open to people with developmental disabilities including where they live, work, and play are minimal. They are isolated rather than fully integrated and included in the mainstream of society. Persons with developmental disabilities require individually planned and coordinated services and supports (e.g., housing, employment, education, civil and human rights protection, health care) from many providers in order to live in the community.

What Programs does ADD Administer?

The **Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-402)** contains four grant programs designed to assist individuals with developmental disabilities in reaching their maximum potential through increased independence, productivity, inclusion, and community integration. The major purpose of these four programs is for grantees to assist individuals with developmental disabilities and their families by working with State government, local communities, and the private sector in nine areas of emphasis and goals related to them. Grants fund activities in these areas of emphasis: early intervention and education, child care, employment, health care, housing, transportation, recreation, quality assurance, and community supports. The four grant programs provide funds for:

- . *State Councils on Developmental Disabilities (SCDDs)* that pursue systems change in some aspect of service/support availability, design or delivery that promotes improved outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Councils also pursue capacity building to sustain and expand projects that successfully delivery services and supports. Councils also support advocacy activities that promote self-determination and inclusion in the community. Examples of Council activities include demonstration of new approaches, outreach, training, public education, and providing information to policy-makers.
- . *Protection and Advocacy (P&As) Systems*, one in each State and Territory as well as a Native American Consortium, that protect the legal and human rights of individuals with developmental disabilities. P&A strategies include legal, administrative, and other remedies; information and referral; investigation of incidents of abuse and neglect; and education of policy-makers.
- . *University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs)* that are either components of a university system, or are public or not-for-profit entities associated with a university. UCEDDs provide interdisciplinary training to students and fellows, conduct community service activities and research, and disseminate information and research findings.
- . *Projects of National Significance Program (PNS)* that fund emerging areas of concern. This program supports local implementation of practical solutions and provides results and information for possible national replication. PNS also supports technical assistance; research regarding emerging disability issues; conferences and special meetings; and the development of Federal and State policy. Additionally, funding is provided for states to create or expand statewide systems change.

The disability provisions of the **Help America Vote Act (P.L. 107-252)** have three grant programs that enable grantees to establish, expand, and improve access to and participation in the election process by individuals with the full range of disabilities. These funds are intended to address four specific areas: 1) access to voting facilities, 2) private and independent voting experience, 3) training of poll workers and election volunteers on promoting access and participation, and 4) providing information and outreach on access to polling places. ADD administers these programs:

- . *Payments to States* to improve accessibility and participation in the voting process
- . *Payments to State Protection and Advocacy Systems* to assist individuals with disabilities in the voting process
- . *Payments to Eligible Public or Private Entities* to provide training and technical assistance to P&As to assist them in meeting their responsibilities

Want More Information about ADD Programs?

Visit the ADD website at www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/add or contact ADD Regional or Central Office staff. Contact information is available at www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/add/Staff.htm