

- Advise the Interagency Disability Coordinating Council on priorities for its activities and review the recommendations of the council for legislative and administrative changes.
- Prepare and submit to the President and Congress an annual report, *National Disability Policy: A Progress Report*.

## *Population Served and Current Activities*

Many government agencies deal with issues and programs that affect people with disabilities, but NCD is the only federal agency charged with addressing, analyzing, and making recommendations on issues of public policy that affect people with disabilities regardless of age, disability type, perceived employment potential, economic need, functional ability, veteran status, or other individual circumstance.

NCD recognizes its unique opportunity to facilitate independent living, community integration, and employment opportunities for people with disabilities by ensuring an informed and coordinated approach to address their concerns and eliminate barriers to their active participation in community and family life.

NCD plays a major role in developing disability policy in America. In fact, the agency originally proposed what eventually became ADA.

Key issues include personal assistance services, health care reform, the inclusion of students with disabilities in high-quality programs in typical neighborhood schools, equal employment opportunity, community housing, monitoring the implementation of ADA, improving assistive technology, and ensuring that persons with disabilities, including minorities, fully participate in society.

### **National Council on Disability**

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*National  
Council  
on  
Disability*

*At a Glance*



# Background and Mission

**The National Council on Disability (NCD) was initially established in 1978 as an advisory board within the Department of Education. The council is composed of 15 members, appointed by the President of the United States and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. The Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1984 transformed NCD into an independent agency.**

**The overall purpose of the agency is to promote policies, programs, practices, and procedures that guarantee equal opportunity for all people with disabilities, regardless of the nature or severity of the disability, and to empower them to achieve economic self-sufficiency, independent living, and inclusion and integration into all aspects of society.**



and Rehabilitation Research, and other officials of federal agencies regarding ways to promote equal opportunity, economic self-sufficiency, independent living, and inclusion and integration into all aspects of society for Americans with disabilities.

- Provide Congress with advice, recommendations, legislative proposals, and other information that NCD or Congress deems appropriate.
- Gather information about the implementation, effectiveness, and impact of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.
- Advise the President, Congress, the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration, the Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services in the Department of Education, and the Director of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research on the development of programs to be carried out under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
- Advise the Commissioner on the policies and conduct of the Rehabilitation Services Administration.
- Make recommendations to the Director of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research on research affecting people with disabilities.

## Specific Duties

**The statutory mandate of NCD includes the following duties:**

- Review and evaluate federal policies, programs, practices, and procedures concerning people with disabilities, including programs established or assisted under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act.
- Review and evaluate all statutes and regulations pertaining to federal programs that assist people with disabilities, to assess their effectiveness in meeting the needs of these people.
- Review and evaluate emerging federal, state, local, and private sector policy issues that affect people with disabilities, including the need for and coordination of adult services, access to personal assistance services, school reform efforts and the impact of these efforts on persons with disabilities, access to health care, and policies that operate as disincentives for individuals to seek and retain employment.
- Make recommendations to the President, Congress, the Secretary of Education, the Director of the National Institute on Disability