

**Invitation to Interagency Conference:
Aging with Disability: Demographic, Social and Policy Considerations
May 17 – 18, 2012**

Location:

Department of Health and Human Services
Room 800, Hubert Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue
Washington, DC

Please plan to join us on May 17 and 18 for a meeting of research, policy and practice leaders to focus on the Nation's challenge in meeting the needs of the growing numbers of Americans who are aging *with* disability. Significant advances over the past 30 years in health care, technology and other supports have increased the lifespan of all Americans, including those who have acquired significant disabilities prior to middle age. The implications of aging with disability, as opposed to aging into disability in later life, are less recognized and understood by researchers, practitioners, policy makers and the public. The focus of this conference will be on bridging gaps in knowledge, awareness, and service and support policies and practices between the fields of aging and disability to enhance the health, functioning, self-determination, and community inclusion of persons aging with long-term disabilities.

This two- day conference is sponsored by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), at the Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Aging (NIA) at the National Institutes of Health, and National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) at the Department of Education, with co-sponsorship provided by Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR). The purpose of the conference is to bring together experts and advocates in the fields of aging and disability to address complementary goals to improve the health and well-being of older adults and persons with disabilities.

Presentations will examine the demographics, health, economic, and life course characteristics of persons aging with long-term disabilities and their access to and needs for health and social support services (see enclosed agenda). Together, speakers and meeting participants will explore the implications of this research for programs, policies and practices in an interactive format intended to bring focus to the challenges faced by members of this population and those who support them, and to begin bridging the gaps in intra-governmental research and policy activities.

To RSVP to attend the Interagency Conference on Aging with Disability, please register at the conference website located online at www.awdconference.com. For those who are unable to attend in person, please indicate on your registration form that you wish to participate remotely. If you have questions about registration, please contact Lauren Dorsey at (301) 429-5982 or at ICDRemail@getingears.com. Questions about the conference should be directed to Robert Hornyak at Robert.Hornyak@hhs.gov or Margaret Campbell at Margaret.Campbell@ed.gov.

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