

Who We Are

The Disability and Rehabilitation Research Coalition (DRRC) is a coalition of 28 national non-profit disability, research, and provider organizations committed to improving the science of disability, independent living, and rehabilitation. Our mission is to maximize the return on federal investments in research and development, aiming to improve the ability of Americans with disabilities to live and function as independently as possible.

Coalition History

Founded in 2005 as the NCMRR Coalition, our initial focus was on elevating the status of the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research (NCMRR) at the NIH. In 2008, we expanded our mission and became the DRRC, broadening our scope to include all federal agencies that fund and support disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research. A significant milestone was achieved in 2016 with the enactment of the *Enhancing the Stature and Visibility of Medical Rehabilitation Research at the NIH Act*, and DRRC leadership worked with NIH to implement its provisions. As a result, the NIH now conducts and supports over \$900 million annually in rehabilitation and disability research across its 29 institutes and centers.

What We Do

The DRRC engages in education and advocacy before Congress and the Administration to ensure robust federal support for:

- **Medical rehabilitation research** focused on restoring, maintaining, or improving physical and cognitive function following injury, illness, or disability.
- **Independent living research** focused on strategies, supports, and technologies that empower people with disabilities to live autonomously and participate fully in their communities.
- **Disability research** focused on the social, environmental, and health-related factors that affect the lives of people with disabilities, aiming to reduce barriers and promote equal access.

Support for Federal Research Agencies

We advocate for targeted research funding in annual appropriations and build support for legislative and regulatory changes to address barriers in these fields at key agencies such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR).