The American Association on Health and Disability (AAHD) www.aahd.us established the Affordable Care Act (ACA) National Disability Navigator Resource Collaborative (NDNRC) in order to assist the development of cross-disability competence in ACA CMS funded navigator programs and other enrollment specialists. The collaborative is funded through a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation www.rwjf.org. In year one, the NDNRC website was launched with the following URL: www.nationaldisabilitynavigator.org

Prior to implementation of the ACA, an estimated 3.5 million people between the ages of 16 and 65 with pre-existing medical conditions or disabilities were uninsured. Persons with disabilities lacking current health insurance face at least the following options as key elements of the Affordable Care Act went into effect on January 1, 2014: Medicaid in their state, possible Medicaid buy-in in their state, possible Medicaid expansion in their state, and Exchange-Marketplace insurance coverage. The NDNRC aims to provide the information needed help navigators assist people with disabilities consider all these options.

A key strategy of this Collaborative is the National Partner Advisory Board: Ten national disability organizations, representing a cross-disability experience; provide disability-specific content into all materials; review all final draft materials to ensure disability content is accurate and appropriate; help the project decide the scope, content, and techniques for providing more individualized technical assistance to navigators-connectors-assistants; and encourage linkage between their state and local affiliates and navigators-connectors-assistants. The partners are: American Association on Health and Disability (AAHD) - www.aahd.us; Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) - www.aucd.org; Autism Speaks - www.autismspeaks.org; the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation - www.christopherreeve.org; Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF) -www.dredf.org; Family Voices - www.familyvoices.org; NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) - www.nami.org; National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS) - www.nationalmssociety.org; The Arc - www.thearc.org; and United Spinal Association - www.unitedspinal.org.
The American Association on Health and Disability (AAHD) has released a technical assistance guide for the National Disability Navigator Resource Collaborative (NDNRC). The “Guide to Disability for Healthcare Insurance Marketplace Navigators” is designed to inform navigators and other enrollment specialists about special considerations people with disabilities face as they shop for healthcare coverage and it can be found here: [www.nationaldisabilitynavigator.org/ndnrc-materials/disability-guide/](http://www.nationaldisabilitynavigator.org/ndnrc-materials/disability-guide/). In year one, the NDNRC also released 16 topic fact sheets addressing specific issues for individuals with disabilities as they evaluate health insurance plans in the marketplace. These fact sheets can be found here: [www.nationaldisabilitynavigator.org/ndnrc-materials/fact-sheets/](http://www.nationaldisabilitynavigator.org/ndnrc-materials/fact-sheets/).

In year two, the NDNRC is funding eleven Community Outreach Collaboratives (COCs). The COCs will increase collaborations in the community, dissemination and outreach efforts and enrollment of people with disabilities in the ACA. The COCs have two primary tasks: 1) build cross-disability collaborations with other disability organizations; and 2) have the cross-disability collaboration work as a dissemination and outreach resource with their local and/or state navigators and assisters. The 11 COCs are (by HHS regions) as follows:

Region #1 – Rhode Island Parent Information Network, Cranston, RI
Region #2 – Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY, New York, NY
Region #3 – NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Southwest Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh, PA
Region #4 – Lakeshore Foundation, Birmingham, AL
Region #5 – Family Voices Indiana, Indianapolis, IN
Region #6 – Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
Region #6 – University of New Mexico Center for Development and Disability, Albuquerque, NM
Region #7 – NAMI Kansas, Topeka, KS
Region #8 – Family Voices Colorado, Centennial, CO
Region #8 – North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities at Minot State University in partnership with Family Voices of North Dakota, Minot, ND
Region #10 – PAVE Family to Family Health Information Center, Tacoma, WA