



2024
Annual
Report



A Letter from the CEO

Dear Friends,

Reflecting on 2024, I am energized by the progress we've made together in advancing opportunity, understanding, and equity for individuals with learning disabilities. This year has been marked by innovation, collaboration, and bold action across all areas of our work.

We deepened our impact on policy and advocacy by using data and youth voices to shape change at both the state and federal levels. From advancing the Virginia RISE Act to developing the Policy Accelerator initiative with Young Adult Leadership Council members, our work is bringing meaningful improvements to education and workforce systems.

Our research efforts continue to shed light on what supports success for students and young adults with learning disabilities. Through the State of LD Young Adult Report, the Educator Survey, and The GRAD Partnership, we are providing actionable insights for policymakers, educators, and families—helping to translate data into real-world impact.

We also expanded our community of champions. The inaugural LD Summit, our Everyday Champion Awards, and scholarships, such as the Anne Ford, Allegra Ford Thomas, and ADHD College Success programs, enabled us to recognize leaders, amplify voices, and support the next generation of advocates. NCLD's 2024 Annual Benefit further strengthened our network, raising \$375,000 to fuel advocacy, programs, and innovation.

Ultimately, we sought to dismantle stigma and increase access through targeted communications and strategic media engagement. From *USA TODAY* and *The Washington Post Live* to initiatives like our LD Awareness Month campaign, we are amplifying awareness, influencing public perception, and making resources accessible to families, educators, and partners nationwide.

None of this work would be possible without your support. Together, we are creating a world where individuals with learning disabilities have unrestricted access and unlimited opportunity.

With gratitude,

Dr. Jacqueline Rodriguez
Chief Executive Officer



Shaping Equitable Policies

We actively work to shape local and national policy to reduce barriers and ensure equitable opportunities and accessibility.

Driving Advocacy Across States

In 2024, NCLD refined its state policy strategy, bringing advocacy and action directly to state legislatures. With support from the policy and advocacy team, Young Adult Leadership Council (YALC) member Matthew Savage helped move Virginia's RISE Act (HB 509/SB 21) through the House Education Committee with bipartisan support, a crucial step toward expanding postsecondary access.

At the federal level, NCLD remained a strong voice on Capitol Hill and within the U.S. Department of Education, using direct engagement, letters, and briefings to advance equity in education and workforce systems.

Using Data to Inform Policy

We believe that strong policy starts with accurate and comprehensive data. This year, our team leveraged Civil Rights Data Collection to identify areas where students with disabilities continue to face inequities, such as school discipline and access to advanced coursework. These insights help us shape stronger, evidence-based recommendations that reflect what's really happening in schools.

We also led a joint advocacy letter—signed by 55 organizations and 43 individuals—urging the U.S. Department of Education to improve its collection and data reporting on postsecondary students with disabilities. Better data enables better decisions, and that is central to our work.

Building a More Inclusive Workforce

Through our Workforce Development Initiative, we strive to ensure that individuals with learning disabilities are included in job training and career programs that lead to real opportunities. We partnered with leaders at the U.S. Department of Education, the House Workforce Committee, and the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee to strengthen disability inclusion in the workforce development legislation, while also analyzing Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) data on individuals with disabilities' participation and outcomes in Vocational Rehabilitation programs.

Looking Ahead

Our 2025-2027 Policy Agenda lays the foundation for a national grassroots advocacy network, equipping families, educators, and young people with tools to drive change in their own communities.

We also shared a transition memo with the incoming administration, outlining key steps to keep learning disabilities at the forefront of national policy conversations.





Advancing Research & Understanding

Sharing the State of Learning Disabilities (Young Adult Report)

We create and disseminate factual and insightful data and reports focused on strengthening understanding and fueling equitable futures.

Transitioning to adulthood is a pivotal time for all young adults, bringing opportunities and challenges. For those living with a learning disability, these experiences are even more pronounced. NCLD's latest report, "Navigating the Transition to Adulthood," developed in collaboration with WestEd, examines how family support, school climate, and social connections influence graduation, college enrollment, well-being, and early career outcomes. Using advanced analyses, we identified the factors most strongly associated with a successful transition to adulthood. We shared these findings through an overview video, a technical report, and a snapshot at the LD Summit. These resources are designed for educators, policymakers, advocates, and families, helping ensure research leads to real-world impact.

Supporting Educators

Teaching students with learning disabilities requires a deep understanding, specialized training, and access to adequate resources. Our State of LD Educator Survey, conducted in partnership with WestEd, captures the experiences of K–12 teachers across both general and special education professionals. The survey highlights professional development needs, resource gaps, and opportunities to improve school climate. Analysis is underway, with results expected in 2026, and these insights will help guide policy, practice, and educator support nationwide.

Further Understanding the High School Experience

Through The GRAD Partnership, we are examining the experiences of young adults who considered leaving high school—or did leave—without graduating. By identifying the supports and challenges that shape students' decisions, we can offer schools practical strategies to improve engagement and graduation rates. This research will inform upcoming "Call to Action" reports and guidance for educators, school and district leaders, and technical assistance providers shared through the GRAD Partnership network.

Sharing Research Around the World

Our research extends beyond U.S. borders with Dr. Saashya Rodrigo, NCLD's Principal Researcher, leading a full-capacity discussion at the U.S. Embassy's American Center in Sri Lanka. Educators, psychologists, clinicians, and university faculty participated in meaningful conversations grounded in our research.

Turning Data Into Action

At NCLD's inaugural LD Summit, we connected research to advocacy. Community members and young adult leaders participated in over 20 Capitol Hill meetings and a roundtable with 10 officials from the U.S. Department of Education to discuss actionable strategies for improving outcomes for students with learning disabilities. This work ensures that research not only informs understanding but actively drives change.



Building Coalitions of Champions

We work to identify and support leaders – including subject matter experts, parents, young adults, and employers – who are working to create lasting change, and we support and network diverse organizations to build powerful and durable coalitions.

LD Day of Action

Our annual LD Day of Action returned to Washington, D.C., June 12–14 in partnership with Eye to Eye National (now ND Alliance). Thirty-three young adult advocates met with nearly 50 congressional offices to share their experiences and policy priorities. Advocates also heard from Assistant Secretary of Education Glenna Wright-Gallo and White House Director of Disability Policy Rachel Patterson in a panel led by YALC alumni, which helped connect personal experiences to national policy.

Our Young Adult Leadership Council (YALC)

Cohort 7 welcomed 16 passionate new members, each bringing diverse educational, professional, and personal backgrounds. Orientation included a mock Hill meeting led by YALC alumni to prepare the cohort for advocacy, networking, and leadership. Plans are underway to strengthen the YALC alumni network, creating structured opportunities for continued engagement and mentorship.

Inaugural LD Summit

In October, we hosted our inaugural LD Summit, emceed by disability advocate Marguax Joffee. The Summit featured new findings from the *State of LD: Navigating the Transition to Adulthood* report, two panel discussions, and an address from our CEO, Dr. Jacqueline Rodriguez, who shared NCLD's refreshed mission and vision. The event brought together experts, advocates, and community members to discuss actionable insights and strategies for enhancing outcomes for students and young adults with learning disabilities.





Dismantling Stigma by Increasing Access & Opportunity



We work to develop effective advocates and emissaries who dismantle stigma by sharing their lived experiences, informing policy priorities, and participating in coalitions of community-facing activities.

Expanding Our Reach with Purpose



This year, NCLD elevated conversations about learning disabilities onto some of the nation’s most influential stages. We secured two major media moments—a *USA TODAY* feature breaking down the realities of IEPs, and a *Washington Post Live* discussion with U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona and the Ford Foundation’s Rebecca Cokley. Beyond these highlights, NCLD earned coverage in over 30 publications nationwide. Together, these opportunities expanded our national presence, strengthened our influence, and pushed LD issues further into the public consciousness.

Our reach extended beyond the media. CEO Dr. Jacqueline Rodriguez participated in a National Institutes of Health roundtable to emphasize the critical need for the representation and inclusion of individuals with disabilities in early childhood research. Her participation underscored NCLD’s growing role in shaping the direction of disability advocacy at the highest levels.

Because policy only works when people understand it, we’re committed to sharpening our communications. By making our work clearer and more accessible, we equip individuals, families, educators, and partners with the knowledge they need to advocate, navigate, and lead.

Celebrating with Our Community



The 2024 Annual Benefit energized our mission and amplified our impact. With over \$375,000 raised at the Bryant Park Grill, the event strengthened our network of supporters and champions, fueling advocacy, innovative programming, and NCLD’s leadership in the disability movement.

We also proudly honored the Anne Ford and Allegra Ford Thomas scholarship recipients and our 2024 Everyday Champion Awardees—highlighting the individuals whose talent, dedication, and influence embody the heart of this work.

Everyday Champions & Scholarships

This year, we recognized educators and supporters of students with learning disabilities through expanded award and scholarship opportunities:



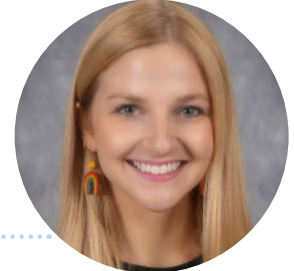
Everyday Champion Award Winners



K-5 EDUCATOR
Emily Gasca



6-12 EDUCATOR
Nicole Greene



SERVICE PROVIDER
Kyra Martiny



Scholarships Winners



ANNE FORD SCHOLARSHIP
Justice Peterson



ALLEGRA FORD THOMAS SCOLARSHIP
Kathleen Senatus



ADHD College Success Scholarships

ADHD College Success Scholarships were awarded to 10 young adults, each receiving a one-time \$1,000 award to support continued education and future success.

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

Financial Report

Total Revenue and Support

\$3,155,295

Total Expenses

\$4,495,927

Net Assets

Beginning of the Period

\$7,778,895

Net Assets

End of the Period

\$6,438,263

Breakdown of Program Services Expenses

LD Resources and Research

\$1,087,127

Public Policy and Advocacy

\$662,160

Leadership

\$556,575



Breakdown of Support Services Expenses

Management and General

\$1,118,459

Fundraising and Development

\$612,001

Communications

\$459,605

Board of Directors

Margi Booth, Co-Chair
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Keight Tucker Kennedy
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G.M. O'Connell
Cassia Schifter
Anne Ford, Chair Emerita

Team

Jacqueline Rodriguez, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer
Laura Stelitano, Ph.D., Director of Research and Programs
Cierra Mangal, Director of Communications
Lindsay Kubatzky, Director of Policy and Advocacy
Nick Boerum, Director of Development
Maura Pavalow, Ph.D., Director of Organizational Health
Saashya Rodrigo, Ph.D., Principal Researcher
Brittany Greer, Senior Program Manager
Kate Bartlein, Senior Project Manager
Nicole Fuller, Policy Manager
Alicia Martinez, Development Manager
Victoria Rayol, Project Manager, Digital Marketing
Shayna Harris, Research Associate
Mackenzie Schondelmayer, Brand Strategy Specialist
Jessica Snyderman, Senior Policy Associate
Patricia Cook, Executive Assistant