

## NDD United FAQ

### 1. What is NDD United?

- NDD United is a coalition of leaders joining forces in an effort to save nondefense discretionary (NDD) programs from more devastating cuts.
- NDD programs are core functions government provides for the benefit of all, including medical research, public health, and education, among others.
- Every day these programs support economic growth and strengthen the safety and security of every American in every state and community across the nation.

### 2. What does NDD - nondefense discretionary - mean?

Discretionary programs differ from mandatory spending that is funded automatically by Congress. Discretionary programs are those that Congress has to fund every year through the appropriations process. Congress has a choice as to whether, and at what level, to fund discretionary programs.

### 3. What are some of the issue areas NDD United represents?

- Nondefense discretionary or “NDD” programs are core functions government provides for the benefit of all, including medical and scientific research; education and job training; infrastructure; public safety and law enforcement; public health; weather monitoring and environmental protection; natural and cultural resources; housing and social services; and international relations. Every day these programs support economic growth and strengthen the safety and security of every American in every state and community across the nation.
- NDD United represents 3,200 organizations from across this spectrum. The following organizations represent our steering committee:

Census: [Census Project](#)

Education: [Committee for Education Funding](#)

Environment: [The Wilderness Society](#), [Natural Resources Defense Council](#)

Health: [Coalition for Health Funding](#)

Housing: [National Low Income Housing Coalition](#)

Justice: [VERA Institute for Justice](#)

Science: [Coalition for National Science Funding](#)

Workforce: [Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce](#)

Children: [First Focus](#)

Hunger/International Issues: [Bread for the World](#)

Civil Rights: [Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights](#)

Defense: [Aerospace Industries Association](#)

### 4. Why can't Congress fix the sequester one program at a time, like they did for the FAA?

- Short term fixes, one-offs and “flexibility” are not the answer.
- These fixes aren't just too small to make an impact, but they're also an illusion.
- They rob the future to prevent inconveniences now, and will actually cost us more in the long-term. It's not only the current cuts in FY 2013, but the ongoing sequester caps in FY 14 and beyond that need to be replaced.