# NCDA Federal Advocacy

2023-2024

**NOTE: Policy Areas are not in order of priority. Priority of these areas will be ever-evolving to mirror prominent issues within the legislature.**

## **Policy Areas**

**1. Employment Opportunities and Job Market Adaptability**

* **Focus 1**: Advocating for federal policies that foster a dynamic and inclusive job market, ensuring opportunities for all skill levels and backgrounds.
* **Focus 2**: Pushing for legislation that supports job transition programs, particularly for workers in declining industries or those impacted by automation and digital transformation.
* **Focus 3:** Collaboration with federal agencies to develop and promote initiatives that match job seekers with opportunities based on current and forecasted labor market trends.

**2. Student Career Services**

* **Focus 1:** Educate policymakers and advocate for the continuum of career services from early education through the end of life, with particular emphasis on meaning and purpose derived from work.
* **Focus 2:** Advocating for and supporting funding for high-quality career services in K-12 settings.
* **Focus 3:** Advocating for and supporting funding for high-quality career services in higher education institutions at the undergraduate, graduate, and professional (e.g. law and medical school) levels.
* **Focus 4:** Advocating for and supporting funding for high-quality career services in vocational programs, community programs, and additional services for minors and adults.

**3. Professional Accreditation and Certification Standards**

* **Focus**: Lobbying for federal standards and support for the accreditation and certification of career development professionals to ensure quality and uniformity across the field, with particular emphasis on NCDA’s professional and ethical standards, including credentials approved by the NCDA Credentialing Commission.

**4. Access to Professional Development**

* **Focus**: Advocacy for federal grants or subsidies aimed at promoting ongoing professional development among practitioners and educators in the career development field.

**5. Workforce Development and Education**

* **Focus**: Collaboration with federal agencies, including the Department of Education and the Department of Labor, to integrate career development into national education policies and workforce development programs.

**6. Equal Opportunity and Inclusion**

* **Focus**: Promoting legislation that ensures all individuals, especially those from underrepresented and marginalized groups, have equitable access to career development resources and opportunities.
* **Focus:** Advocating for legislation to protect workers from discrimination, especially those from underrepresented and marginalized groups.

**7. Special Populations**

* **Focus:** Advocating for legislation and programs that support special populations, including military veterans, individuals with disabilities, reentering formerly incarcerated individuals, immigrants, and other groups with barriers to workforce participation.

**8. Mental Health and Career Development**

* **Focus**: Pushing for policies that integrate career development as part of broader mental health and well-being initiatives at the federal level.

**9. Funding for Research and Innovation**

* **Focus**: Advocating for federal funding to facilitate research in career development trends, technologies, and best practices.

**10. Small Business Development**

* **Focus:** Support funding and programs supporting small businesses, including tax structures to support small businesses and their owners.

**11. Data Privacy and Ethical Compliance**

* **Focus**: Advocacy for ethical standards and data protection laws relevant to the gathering and storage of client information in the career development sector.