

Media Talking Points for NDD Effort

- Nearly 3,000 national, state, and local organizations have come together to raise awareness of, and build support for, nondefense discretionary or “NDD” programs. With one voice, we are urging lawmakers to avoid sequestration by working together to find a balanced approach to deficit reduction that recognizes the contributions NDD programs have already made.
- NDD programs are the core functions of government provided for all Americans. They include medical research, education, public safety, infrastructure, and [INSERT YOUR EXAMPLE]. They support economic growth, strengthen safety and security, and enrich the lives of every American in every state and community across the nation.
- In our state/community, federal funding for NDD programs support...
- These programs are a small and shrinking share of our federal budget and economy. And yet, they are always the first place lawmakers look for cuts. NDD programs have already been cut to levels not seen since at least the 1960s. If sequestration is allowed to take effect, the cuts to NDD will be even deeper, which will mean fewer cures for drugs, fewer teachers, fewer National Park visitor hours, fewer air traffic controllers, and fewer law enforcement officers.
- Our goal is to speak with one voice in educating policymakers and the public about what NDD is and what we all stand to lose through sequestration. When you do the math, you quickly realize even completely eliminating all NDD programs would still not balance our nation’s budget. Only a balanced approach can make a meaningful impact on the deficit.
- What do we mean by a balanced approach? Every bipartisan commission of experts, from Simpson-Bowles to Domenici-Rivlin, has recommended a balanced approach to deficit reduction—where everything is on the table. Not just cuts to entitlements and defense and NDD spending, but also increased revenue through tax reform. Yet to date, 100 percent of deficit reduction efforts has targeted just one-third of the budget—defense and NDD programs. Our community is saying that NDD has already done its part to reduce the deficit. It’s time to heed experts’ recommendations, and look beyond NDD programs.
- The organizing body for this effort known as the “NDD Summit” is comprised of 60 delegates representing the breadth of diverse interests in NDD programs. This network of networks will continue to serve as a forum for coordinating efforts to educate the public and policymakers on the importance of NDD and to protect these programs from additional cuts.