



## COMMONWEALTH COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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Chastity Ross  
Chairperson  
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Executive Director

March 24, 2016

RE: Recruiting Students with Developmental Disabilities for Close Up (learning opportunity) in Washington, DC

Dear Parent:

The Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities (CCDD) is offering scholarships to up to 20 Kentucky students to participate in a dynamic, hands-on, civic education program in Washington, DC. This opportunity will allow students with developmental disabilities who are enrolled in middle school or high school to travel to Washington the week of June 19-24, 2016, to learn through *Close Up*.

With over 40 years of experience, *Close Up* is the nation's largest non-profit and non-partisan citizenship education organization; and they are driven by a mission to help students become more effective and informed citizens. While in Washington, DC, students have the opportunity to live and learn with peers from around the country while engaging in seminars with policymakers and explorations of historical sites and government offices. This 6 day program prepares young citizens to meet the challenges of governing themselves and their nation through:

- Discussions of key domestic and international issues with members of Congress and their staff, Washington insiders, and other leading policy experts;
- Comprehensive study visits to the significant historical sites and cultural neighborhoods of our nation's capital; and
- Daily small-group workshops that encourage students to connect what they see in DC with what they are learning in the classroom back home.

CCDD is excited about making this opportunity to Kentucky students with developmental disabilities. CCDD will cover all lodging and travel expenses for participants. This will include meals, materials, all entrance fees, and 24 hour supervision (including night monitors).

Scholarships will also cover costs for personal care attendant services, for those students who need such services. Generally, funding will not be provided for parents to attend. However, support for parents may be available in cases where it is necessary for a student to participate. Also, if five (5) or more students affiliated with the same school or program are selected, we will also cover the cost of one adult to attend.

With this letter I have included a *Close Up* brochure & an application for this special opportunity. Please note that the deadline for applications is April 22. We will be providing two informational videoconferences to share information about program logistics. Please join us on:

- Monday, April 4, at 3:30pm EST or
- Tuesday, April 12 at 6pm EST.

To join the presentation, log-in to <http://chfs.adobeconnect.com/publicpolicy/> (to view the PowerPoint presentation), and call 1-866-889-3903, Passcode: 186576# (to hear the presentation and discussion). Please visit [www.CloseUp.org](http://www.CloseUp.org) to learn more about *Close Up*.

And please feel free to contact me to discuss this further. I can be reached by phone at 502-564-7841 or email at [marylee.underwood@ky.gov](mailto:marylee.underwood@ky.gov). I look forward to working with you to provide this incredible opportunity to students with developmental disabilities from Kentucky!

Sincerely,



MaryLee Underwood

MaryLee Underwood, JD, BSW  
Executive Director