

9th International Congress  
On Community Services for Children, Youth and  
Families with Special Health Care Needs

Washington, DC · December 1-7, 2006



## FACT SHEET

### HISTORY:

Since 1992, international meetings have been held every other year in countries around the world to give nations the chance to discuss ways to form broad national policies and to develop specific, practical local programs that promote the inclusion of children and youth with special health care needs in the everyday life of the communities in which they live. The last Congress, held in 2004 in Stavanger, Norway, drew 400 people from over 40 countries.

### THEME:

The theme of the 9<sup>th</sup> International Congress to be held in Washington, DC, is “Community Access and Resources for Everyone” (CARE). The meeting will include general sessions for all to attend, as well as smaller workshop sessions. Speakers will address the important roles of families and communities in supporting children and young adults with special health care needs. They will describe ways to build programs that combine health, education, recreation, and social services and use professionals from different disciplines to help these children participate in everyday community activities. Sessions will also explore how to use adaptive technology and computers to promote these goals.

### LOCATION:

The program will be held at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC. For more information on this hotel please visit the Web site:

[www.marriottwardmanpark.com](http://www.marriottwardmanpark.com).

### LANGUAGES:

The Congress language is English. Plenary sessions will be translated into Spanish and French. Sign language will be available in both plenary and parallel sessions.

### TEAMS:

Nations are requested to send *teams* of people that include policymakers; providers of services (health, education, social, and mental health); disability advocates; non-governmental organizations involved with disability issues; young people with disabilities; parents; parent advocates; and community-level providers.

## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS:

The program will open with addresses from international dignitaries and high level officials. The conference agenda is based on the components of President Bush's New Freedom Initiative, which is committed to tearing down barriers to full integration into community life by: increasing access to assistive technology and universal design; expanding educational and vocational opportunities; promoting homeownership; improving health and medical care; integrating into the workplace; expanding transportation options; and promoting full access to community life.

Family members and youth with disabilities will also participate in workshops, which will focus on the critical role that families play in promoting access to community life.

Participants will be offered site visits to successful programs in the Washington, DC area. Optional tours of the city will also be offered.

## COSTS:

In order to encourage participation, there is no registration fee to attend the Congress. Participants are responsible for covering their own travel and hotel expenses.

- **Travel:** Washington, DC is served by three airports with frequent connections to New York, Los Angeles, and other major cities.
- **Hotels:** A block of rooms has been set aside at the Marriott Wardman Park at the prevailing government rate. Details will be available on the Congress' Web site.

## REGISTRATION AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Registration, program details, and other information are available at [www.9thCongress.us](http://www.9thCongress.us). Questions can be asked via e-mail to: [9thcongress@neweditions.net](mailto:9thcongress@neweditions.net).

## USAID'S SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S CONGRESSES:

Since 1998, USAID field offices have supported the participation of over 40 countries from all regions of the world at these Children's Congresses. USAID field missions are encouraged to support teams wishing to attend this Congress.