



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Commission on Persons with Disabilities

APPLICATION GUIDE

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSION

If you have a demonstrated interest in improving the life opportunities for District citizens with disabilities and are looking for an opportunity to volunteer your services for make a difference, you need look no further than the District of Columbia's Commission on Persons with Disabilities.

We are currently looking for volunteers with special interests and skill who are willing to serve as Auxiliary Members of the Commission.

The job requires *service, responsibility and integrity*.

This guide has been prepared to inform you about the opportunities for service with the Commission and to explain the process.

We want to ensure that each participant's service is a positive, rewarding and beneficial experience. Citizen involvement contributes not only to the success of our government, but to our overall quality of life as well.

Your service and dedication in providing service on the Commission on Persons with Disabilities is highly valued by the Mayor, officials and citizens of the District of Columbia. It is indeed government by the people in the most fundamental way.

We thank you for taking this step in the application process, and look forward to welcoming you to the team.

Sincerely,

Don Galloway
Acting Chair, DCCPD

AN INVITATION FOR AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP WITH THE COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The District of Columbia Commission on Persons with Disabilities is currently recruiting volunteers to serve as Auxiliary Members of the Commission.

Once selected, Associate Members will serve with regular Commissioners on any standing or ad hoc committee of the Commission and may attend and participate in a limited capacity at regular and special meetings of the Commission.

Criteria for Auxiliary Members is similar to that required of regular Commissioners, e.g., a demonstrated interest and commitment to enhancing the quality of life for persons with disabilities in the District of Columbia.

Applicants must submit an application form and resume to the Commission for consideration. Applications should include information about the individual's interest, experience, skills and abilities that would further the purposes and functions of the Commission.

Auxiliary Members will generally work with specialized committees, subcommittees or task forces of the Commission with the aim of identifying, researching and proposing improvements in quality-of-life issues for residents of the District of Columbia with disabilities.

HOW TO APPLY

Application Instructions:

- Obtain a copy of ***Application for Appointment to Commission on Persons with Disabilities***. *(Available as an attachment to this guide.)*
- Complete the entire application form and sign it. *(Copies of the form are acceptable).*
- Applicants must attach a current resume or biography (detailed).
- Specifically list the activities or subcommittees in which you are interested. *(multiple selections are allowed).*
- Return the completed application, along with your Resume or Biography, to:

Christina R. Mitchell
Special Assistant
DC Commission on Persons with Disabilities
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 729N
Washington, DC 20001
Direct: 202-481-3877
Main: 202-724-5055
Fax: 202-727-9484

The Application form can also be obtained electronically by contacting Ms. Mitchell at the telephone number or address shown above.

ABOUT THE DC COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (DCCPD)

The Commission was established by Mayor Adrian Fenty on March 13, 2008 by Mayor's Order 2008-38 within the DC Office of Disability Rights, replacing the former Mayor's Committee on Persons with Disabilities.

Eight members of the new DC Commission on Persons with Disabilities were sworn in at a ceremony in the John A. Wilson building in July 2008.

Purpose of the Commission

The Commission is committed to enhancing the image, status, inclusion, and quality of life for all District of Columbia residents, visitors, and employees with disabilities, and to ensuring that they have the same rights and opportunities as those without disabilities. The Commission serves as an advisory body to inform and advise the District on programs, services, facilities, and activities that impact the lives of residents with disabilities in the District of Columbia.

The Commission advocates on behalf of persons with disabilities and/or families of such persons to promote inclusive communities and service delivery systems and to provide opportunities for public input, outreach, and education. The Commission works within the Office of Disability Rights (ODR) and in collaboration with the Office of Human Rights, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance and training programs, the Department on Disability Services, and all other agencies, boards, and commissions of the District of Columbia that affect the lives of residents with disabilities.

Auxiliary Membership

The By-Laws of the Commission provide that individuals may be selected to serve as Auxiliary Members of any standing or ad hoc committee of the DCCPD. Auxiliary Members shall be entitled to advise and participate with respect to the official activities of their assigned committee, and may attend and participate (but not vote) in regular and special meetings of the DCCPD subject to rules of procedure prescribed by the Chair or the DCCPD. Auxiliary Members shall be subject to all applicable qualifications and rules that apply to the voting members of the DCCPD.

Functions of the Commission

Mayor's Order 2008-38 provides that the Commission shall:

- (a) Advise the Mayor, the Office of Disability Rights, the Department on Disability Services and all District agencies that work directly and indirectly with persons with disabilities, and work closely with District of Columbia community organizations on issues affecting persons with disabilities to recommend strategies and identify and address unmet needs;
- (b) Review, monitor, comment on, design, and advocate on proposed and existing legislation, regulation, budgets, policies, programs, performance measures, state plans, and any other activities of District government agencies that may impact the lives of persons with disabilities;
- (c) Work cooperatively with the Statewide Independent Living Council, the Developmental Disabilities State Planning Council, the State Rehabilitation Council, the Special Education Advisory Taskforce, and any other councils, boards or commissions dealing with services, supports or rights of persons with disabilities;

- (d) Work with the Office of Disability Rights on the development and implementation of the District of Columbia ADA Compliance Program and the annual Olmstead Compliance Plan;
- (e) Promote services, supports, and initiatives to improve the quality of life and inclusion of persons with disabilities, including but not limited to public accommodations, accessible and affordable housing, education and transition from school to work, employment, health, emergency preparedness, and identifying barriers for public and private transportation and paratransit services for persons with disabilities;
- (f) Conduct public hearings and other forums to determine views of persons with disabilities and other members of the public on matters affecting the health, safety, and welfare of persons with disabilities in the District of Columbia;
- (g) Organize, represent, and publicize input from individuals and community stakeholders regarding sentiments, needs, gaps, and priorities for persons with disabilities;
- (h) In collaboration with relevant District agencies, conduct community outreach, education, and awareness, and information and referral activities to disseminate resource information for and about persons with disabilities and raise the profile of persons with disabilities in the District of Columbia;
- (i) Beginning in fiscal year 2009, produce a five-year strategic plan, an annual statement of goals and objectives, and develop an annual report on the activities of the Commission;
- (j) Undertake any other activities to advance the mission of the Commission that may be determined by the Commission or assigned by the Mayor or his designee.

Officers and Committee Structure of the Commission

The Commission is composed of 12 to 15 members, presided over by a Chair and Vice Chair. The Commission Chair, Vice Chair and the Chairs of the Standing Committees comprise the Executive Committee which is authorized to act when the Commission is not in session.

There are three Standing Committees:

Policy and Planning Committee,
Events and Outreach Committee, and
Evaluation and Monitoring Committee.

In addition to the Standing Committees, the following subcommittees have been designated to develop proposed projects involving the following areas:

1. Olmstead and Independent Living – Erica Nash
2. Visitability and Housing – Frank Anderson
3. Parking – Erica Nash
4. Transportation – Karen Wolf Branigan
5. Employment– Don Galloway
6. Sign Language Certification – Jon Mitchiner
7. Training --
8. Case Handling by OAG – Seth Galanter
9. Technology – Denise Decker
10. Sidewalks and Speedbumps – Karen Wolf Branigan
11. Resident Surveys – Don Galloway
12. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) –

When applying for Auxiliary Membership, applicants should express their interests and experience as related to one or more of the above project areas.