



ADA TODAY



Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 12

October 2012

2012 Mayor's Annual Disability Awareness Expo

Wednesday, October 10, 2012
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

This FREE event is for all the DC residents and consumers with and without a disability to share information and valuable resources; build new relationships; participate in activities that are fun, relaxing and empowering!

Opening Remarks by Mayor Vincent C. Gray

Featuring:

- FREE Health Screenings
- Health & Wellness
- Fitness Fun
- Employment Workshops
- DC Lottery BINGO
- WMATA
- Kids Sensory Story-time
- Students Programs
- DC Government Agencies
- And much more!

The event will held at the
Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library
901 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Register now: www.2012dcdae.eventbrite.com

Local News & Information

Mayor Vincent C. Gray Announces Launch of the VALOR Program for D.C. Veterans

Gray Kicks Off Citywide Financial Capability Initiative for Veterans

Mayor Vincent C. Gray announced the launch of VALOR, a financial empowerment program created through a public/private partnership between the D.C. Office of Veterans Affairs (OVA) and FELA (Financial Education & Literacy Advisers).

The announcement highlights the Mayor's commitment to offering District residents ways to increase their financial literacy and OVA's commitment to provide access to innovative solutions for the District's veterans. Through the program, veterans will gain assistance in maintaining their finances, supporting their households and building wealth.

For more information about VALOR and the financial empowerment series, contact the Office of the Veterans Affairs at (202) 724-5454 or visit their web site at www.o.va.dc.gov.

5TH Annual Olmstead Conference

November 15, 2012 ~10:00AM - 3:00PM

Kellogg Conference Hotel at Gallaudet University ~ 800 FLORIDA AVE. NE, WASHINGTON DC 20002
The D.C. Department of Mental Health (202) 673-4376 ~ To register by email, complete the attached registration form and send via email to: Rossene.minard@dc.gov . Space is limited, early registration is recommended. To register by phone call Rossene Minard. Sponsored by: DC Department of Mental Health, and DC Office of Disability Rights.

SmarTrip Card Dispensers

Metro is in the process of installing new SmarTrip Card dispensers in all of our stations. Late last month you may have heard or read news stories about these machines and their lack of some accessibility features. This notice is intended to provide you with some background and an update on the machines.

As a part of Metro's fare policy, and in an effort to provide convenient access to SmarTrip Cards and the discount that comes with using them, Metro procured 100 dispensers designed to be used only for the sale of new SmarTrip Cards. It is Metro's policy to ensure accessibility on all new equipment introduced to Metro customers. Unfortunately, the procedure to ensure that this happens was not fully followed, thereby resulting in a delay in the operational implementation of the SmarTrip Card dispensers and the benefit they will provide.

Metro has a plan in place to have all of the machines fully accessible with Braille, tactile, and audio enabled information by November 12, 2012. Metro will then replace all legacy machines (approximately 50 that have been in service prior to the current accessibility requirements) by June 30, 2013. These machines are currently located in high-volume locations and are serving a valuable purpose for customers.

Going forward, Metro will strictly adhere to its policy of having the Department of Access Services inspect and sign off on accessibility features prior to the deployment of any such equipment in the future. Thank you for your support of Metro. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 202-962-1125 or by email at cblake@wmata.com.

Achieving Inclusion Across the Globe

October 25-28, 2012 ~Grand Hyatt Washington

Join The Arc and Inclusion International at the 2012 National Convention and International Forum to connect with members of the intellectual and developmental disability community from across the globe.

This four-day event offers informative and inspiring sessions from experts in the field, fun social events, networking opportunities and The Arc's annual business meetings. This year we're partnering with Inclusion International, a global federation of family-based organizations advocating for the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities worldwide.

Our program will offer an international perspective on living and being included in the community starting with a pre-conference dedicated to leadership and self advocacy sessions, a variety of thought-provoking plenary and concurrent sessions, a film festival, closing dance event and more. Enjoy the event's international flavor at the Grand Hyatt in downtown Washington, D.C. and explore everything our vibrant capital city has to offer. Register at <http://www.thearc.org>.

U.S. International Council on Disability (USICD)

[World Mental Health Day](#)

Wednesday, October 10, 2012 - Wednesday, October 10, 2012

[Panel discussion on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(CRPD\)](#)

Wednesday, October 10, 2012 - Wednesday, October 10, 2012

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Federal News & Information

Held each October, **National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)** is a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. This year's theme is "A Strong Workforce is an Inclusive Workforce: What Can YOU Do?"

NDEAM's roots go back to 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month." Upon its establishment in 2001, ODEP assumed responsibility for NDEAM and has worked to expand its reach and scope ever since.

Although led by ODEP, NDEAM's true spirit lies in the many observances held at the grassroots level across the nation every year. Employers, schools and organizations of all sizes and in all communities are encouraged to participate in NDEAM, and ODEP offers several resources to help them do so. Activities range from simple, such as putting up a poster, to comprehensive, such as implementing a disability education program. Regardless, all play an important part in fostering a more inclusive America, one where every person is recognized for his or her abilities - every day of every month. **For more information:**

For Information about ODR's Newsletter call 202-724-5055 or visit the web at odr.dc.gov.



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Visit us on the web: <http://odr.dc.gov>

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the District Office of Disability Rights (ODR) is to ensure that the programs, services, benefits, activities and facilities operated or funded by the District of Columbia are fully accessible to, and useable by people with disabilities. ODR is committed to inclusion, community-based services, and self-determination for people with disabilities. ODR is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the City's obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as well as other disability rights laws.