



August 2017

ADA TODAY

July Headlines

DC Office of Disability Rights Releases 2017 to 2020 Olmstead Community Integration Plan on 27th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act

The DC Office of Disability Rights (ODR) released the District's 2017 to 2020 Olmstead Community Integration Plan on the 27th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The plan outlines DC's commitment to ensuring that our residents with disabilities can make meaningful, informed choices and successfully integrate into the community. ODR, along with our partners including the DC Office on Aging, Department on Disability Services, Department of Behavioral Health, and Department of Healthcare Finance, have created a comprehensive three-year action plan that fosters cross-agency collaboration and transparency in ensuring quality services are provided to individuals with disabilities.

ODR Acting Director Mathew McCollough stated, "The Olmstead Plan represents the District Government and its community stakeholders' strong commitment to ensuring that our District residents with disabilities and senior citizens obtain the necessary home and community-based services and supports in the most integrated, least restrictive environments in order for them to be contributing, productive members – the very principle of the ADA."

For more information regarding the District's Olmstead Plan, visit our [website](#). For questions or comments about the Plan, or to express your interest in becoming a member of the Olmstead Working Group, call our office at (202) 724-5055 or email us at olmstead@dc.gov

Support Independent Living for DC Residents



[The DC Statewide Council on Independent Living](#) is seeking new members. If you are a DC resident with a disability interested in joining, please send a resume, bio and summary of your community involvement to Dahlia.Johnson@dc.gov.

Figure 1. Drawing of a house with the text independent living

Accessible Pools Keep DC Cool

Stay cool and hit the pool! DC is one of the five cities in the nation with the most public swimming pools. There are accessible pools and spray parks in every ward. So grab your beach towel, goggles, flip flops and your favorite swimsuit....and stay cool!. Check out DC's public pools at this [link](#).



Figure 2. Outdoor swimming pool

ODR Buzzfeed

A Few Ways to Make a Public Space Accessible

1. If emergency warning systems are provided, they should include both audible and visual alarms.
2. At least 1 of every 6 accessible parking spaces must be van-accessible.
3. The force required to activate an automatic door button must be 5 pounds or less, and doors without buttons must be operable by a closed fist.
4. Outdoor ramps and approaches shall be designed so that water will not accumulate on walking surfaces.

For more information visit this [link](#)!



Figure 3. A sign that reads accessible entrance

Upcoming Training Events

ODR Online Training Videos

ODR is pleased to announce its online training series for DC government employees featuring our award-winning training video. Employees will receive a basic introduction to ODR and the services we provide as the District's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance office, as well as a primer on disability sensitivity and etiquette. The two (2) training videos are around five (5) minutes each in length and are followed by short questionnaires. All DC government employees can benefit from viewing the training, and all agency front-line employees are strongly encouraged to participate. Through this training series, ODR hopes to connect with employees who may benefit from the technical assistance, guidance, and resource referrals we provide. Each employee who views a video and completes the post-training questionnaire will receive a certificate of completion for that video. Additionally, employees who view both videos and complete the individual post-training questionnaire will receive two individual certificates of completion. You can view the training on the bottom right corner of ODR's homepage, or by accessing the following [link](#).

ADA Title 1 Training for ADA Coordinators

How knowledgeable are you regarding the reasonable accommodation process? Our ADA Specialists are here to help. ODR will be holding a training session on August 17th from 1 pm-3pm, on the 11th floor at 441 4th Street NW in the 11th floor conference center. Click here to [register](#).

Save the Date

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Forum



Nyle Demarco, an advocate for the deaf community once stated, "I think the biggest misconception is that people think the Deaf cannot do things." Help debunk this myth by joining the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Forum, taking place on **September 11th**.

Figure 4. The words pride, with the sign ASL in American Sign Language

Mayor's Annual Disability Awareness Expo

To help people with disabilities learn about successful employment, the Office of Disability Rights will be hosting the Mayor's 10th Annual Disability Employment Awareness Expo on **October 26th**. The Expo is an exciting event and will include: presenters, workshops and information tables from different DC agencies and businesses that provide employment related services for the disability community. We look forward to seeing you all there!

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

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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.



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