

Self-Determination

Client Assistance Program (CAP): Operated under a federal grant and housed at MOD, CAP provides information and advocacy to people with disabilities who seek and receive vocational rehabilitation (VR) services from the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission and/or the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, as well as independent living (IL) services from Independent Living Centers. CAP discusses how VR and IL services can best work for individuals, informs applicants and consumers about their rights and responsibilities under state and federal regulations, and assists individuals in receiving the VR and IL services they are eligible for through advocacy and appeal representation.

Client Assistance Program (CAP)

- Advocacy
- Information & Referral
- Help with VR/IL Appeals

Additional Resources: MOD serves as the state affiliate to the New England Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) center. As one of 10 regional centers comprising the ADA National Network, the center provides information, guidance, and training on the ADA. Trainings are tailored to meet the needs of businesses, governments and individuals at local, regional and national levels.

More Information:

Community Access Monitoring Training: mass.gov/mod/cam

The Municipal ADA Improvement Grant Program: mass.gov/mod/adagrant

Commissions on Disability: mass.gov/mod/cod

Personal Emergency Preparedness Program: mass.gov/mod/prepare

Client Assistance Program: mass.gov/mod/cap

New England ADA Center: newenglandada.org

Massachusetts Office on Disability

One Ashburton Place, Room 1305

Boston, MA 02108

(617)-727-7440

(800)-322-2020

For TTY users call Mass Relay at 711 or

(800)-439-0183

For access to MOD's blogs, FAQs and more information, visit our website and other social media platforms:



www.mass.gov/mod



www.twitter.com/MassDisability



blog.mass.gov/mod



bit.ly/2LJMUFZ

Brochure updated 4/19/2021



Promoting the rights of people with disabilities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts since 1981

Charles D. Baker, Governor
Karyn E. Polito, Lt. Governor
Mary Mahon McCauley,
Executive Director

MOD's Duties and Functions

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 6, Sections 185-189: Establishes the Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD), and outlines our mission to, “bring about full and equal participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of life in a manner that fosters dignity and self-determination.”

Alongside our partners in state government, MOD works to ensure the Commonwealth is a place of equal opportunity and access.

Executive Order 592: This order further affirmed the Commonwealth's commitment to non-discrimination, diversity, and equal opportunity in state employment, programs, services, activities, and decisions. This order establishes that:

- MOD is responsible for advising, overseeing and coordinating compliance with federal and state laws protecting the rights of persons with disabilities.
- MOD shall serve as the Executive Branch's designated Americans with Disabilities (ADA) and Rehabilitation Act Coordinator, and provide information, training, and technical assistance.

Member of the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB): Under MGL C.22 §13A, MOD serves as one of the nine members of the Board. The MAAB develops and enforces regulations (521 CMR) that are designed to make public buildings accessible, functional, and safe for persons with disabilities. As one of the board members, MOD assists with reviewing potential building code complaints, variance requests, provides advisory opinions, and assists the Board in ensuring compliance with 521 CMR.

Civil Rights, Inclusion, Access

Technical Guidance: MOD advises the public on civil rights and obligations under various disability laws by offering guidance and technical assistance. MOD answers inquiries from the public and offers a wide range of trainings to employers, Massachusetts state agencies, municipal governments, businesses, places of higher education, and housing providers. MOD works to create and tailor trainings to address the specific needs of agencies and organizations.

Areas of civil rights and training include:

- Employment
- Activities of state/local government
- Places of public accommodation
- Higher education
- Reasonable accommodations in housing
- Architectural access.



Community Access Monitor (CAM) Training: This two day classroom-style training highlights architectural, communication, programmatic, and policy barriers that frequently prevent individuals from having the ability to fully participate in society. The goal of this training is to motivate individuals to encourage voluntary architectural compliance around the Commonwealth. This training teaches attendees how to survey a building for accessibility, allowing attendees to subsequently use the skills gained during the training to advocate for compliance with various rules, regulations, and laws.

Community and Civic Life

The Municipal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Improvement Grant Program: Funded through the Governor's Capital Investment Plan and administered by MOD, this grant provides communities with financial resources necessary to remove barriers and improve accessibility in municipal buildings and properties. Eligible applicants include any Massachusetts city or town.

This competitive grant program helps communities comply with requirements under Title II of the ADA and includes two types of grants.

Planning Grants: Used for creating or updating an ADA Title II Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan.

Project Grants: Used for the removal of architectural or communication barriers to programs, services and/or activities.

Commissions on Disability (CODs): Under MGL C.40 §8J, MOD serves as the lead technical advisor to the local CODs. CODs are established in cities and towns to promote full integration and participation of people with disabilities in community life. CODs serve as an advisor to their municipality on disability related matters and provide information and referral on issues that may include reducing architectural, procedural, attitudinal, and communication barriers.

Personal Emergency Preparedness Program (PEPP): Funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, this program aims to educate people with disabilities on how to individually prepare for an emergency. Partnered with local emergency management teams and first responders, the PEPP provides resources, materials, and information about local emergency planning efforts, and addresses questions from the public regarding these efforts. Subsequently, this open dialogue facilitates constructive communication between community members and officials.