

Disability Connections

A networking event
for the Massachusetts disability community

Hosted by the
Massachusetts Office on Disability



What is the Massachusetts Office on Disability?

The Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) provides **information**, **guidance**, and **training** on disability-related civil rights and architectural access.

We help people understand their rights and obligations under disability laws and how they apply to different situations so they can self-advocate and comply with the law.

What MOD provides to the public*

Information

- Clarification of disability civil rights laws and how they apply to different situations, including:
 - Fair housing
 - Reasonable accommodations at work
 - Service animals
 - Architectural access

Guidance

- How to address issues and file complaints effectively
- Applying for vocational rehabilitation (VR) and independent living (IL) services and issues
- Site visits to assess architectural accessibility

Training

- Community Access Monitor (CAM) training
- Emergency preparedness for people with disabilities
- Disability and Employment workshop series
- Reasonable accommodations and modifications in housing
- And more!

**"Public" = People with disabilities, housing providers, employers, businesses that serve the public, etc.*

What MOD provides to municipalities

Professional development for Municipal ADA Coordinators

- Guidance and training for municipal ADA Coordinators on their role, municipal ADA compliance, and more
- Municipal ADA Coordinator Peer Resource Group for training and idea sharing

Municipal ADA Improvement Grant funding

- Reimbursement funding to municipalities for:
 - ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plans
 - Accessibility-related projects, including removing architectural barriers and providing effective communication

Guidance for local Commissions on Disability

- Information, guidance, and training on establishing a Commission and being successful
- Statewide networking meetings for local Commissions on Disability

What MOD provides to state agencies

Support for Executive Branch ADA Coordinators

- Oversight of Executive Branch ADA compliance
- Training and approval of agency ADA Coordinators
- Technical assistance to ADA Coordinators

Digital accessibility consulting

- Guidance on complying with the Enterprise Information Technology Accessibility Policy
- Consulting on procurement
- Small-scale accessibility testing on electronic documents, trainings, websites, and software

Reasonable Accommodation Capital Reserve Account (RACRA)

- Funds for reasonable accommodations for Executive Branch employees

Welcome!

The program will begin at 10:30.

Please introduce yourself in the chat.

Put your answer in the chat:

How are you connected to MOD?

Put your answer in the chat:

What's your favorite thing about being part of the Massachusetts disability community?

Put your answer in the chat:

What areas of professional development are you looking for support with?

Examples: Making documents accessible, finding funding sources, etc.

Put your answer in the chat:

What questions do you have about disability rights?

Examples: Municipal ADA obligations, fair housing laws, how to make local communities more accessible, etc.

Put your answer in the chat:

What skills or knowledge can you offer the disability community?

Examples: Connections to legal aid, user testing, etc.

Let's connect!

Select **To: [Name]** in the chat to send a private message

Or, select **To: Everyone** to share your answer publicly

Mary Mahon McCauley

Executive Director

Massachusetts Office on Disability

Julia O'Leary

General Counsel

Massachusetts Office on Disability

Matthew Gorzkowicz

Secretary

Executive Office for Administration and Finance

Tom Hopkins Disability Access Award

Recognizing local
advocates for accessibility



Tom Hopkins Memorial Video



Oh, it always got worse, always got worse.



Daniels-Finegold Settlement Agreement Plaintiffs

Boston Center for Independent Living
Maureen Cancemi
Myrnairis Cepeda
Reginald Clark
Joanne D. Daniels-Finegold
Andrew Forman

Thomas Gilbert
Madelyn Joan Golden
Greater Boston Legal Services
Danford Larkin
Robert D. Park
Rogera Robinson
Gene Smith

Video: 10th Anniversary of MBTA Settlement Agreement

We Will Ride
Ten Years After The Settlement

Bill Henning

Executive Director

Boston Center for Independent Living (BCIL)

Transportation Access: Then and Now

Panelists:

Named plaintiffs

- Myrnairis Cepeda
- Joanne D. Daniels-Finegold
- Thomas Gilbert

MBTA Department of System-Wide Accessibility

- Laura Brelsford
Assistant General Manager
- Chris Hart
Deputy Director

15-minute break

We will see you again soon for closing remarks.

Mary Mahon McCauley

Executive Director

Massachusetts Office on Disability

Julia O'Leary

General Counsel

Massachusetts Office on Disability

Upcoming MOD events and trainings

- **Municipal ADA Grant Information Session**
 - April 17 | 1 – 2 PM
- **Serving Customers with Disabilities: Legal Obligations for Organizations**
 - May 29 | 1 – 2:30 PM
- **Two-day Community Access Monitor (CAM) training**
 - June 6 and 13 | 10 AM – 3 PM each day
 - October 2 and 9 | 10 AM – 3 PM each day
- **Reasonable Accommodations and Modifications in Housing**
 - September 18 | 5:30 – 7:30 PM

CAP Disability in Employment workshops

- **Deciding to Disclose**
 - June 12 | 9:30 – 10:30 AM
 - August 27 | 5:30 - 6:30 PM
 - November 13 | 9:30 - 10:30 AM
- **Reasonable Accommodations in Employment**
 - June 12 | 11 – 12:30 PM
 - August 28 | 5:30 - 7 PM
 - November 13 | 11 AM - 12:30 PM

CAP Disability in Employment workshops

- **Disability Discrimination in Employment**
 - June 12 | 2:30 – 4 PM
 - August 29 | 5:30 - 7 PM
 - November 13 | 2:30 - 4 PM

Register for an MOD event or training

mass.gov/MOD/events

All trainings are virtual.

Contact MOD

For questions about your disability-related legal rights or obligations:

mass.gov/MOD/ContactUs

(617) 727-7440

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Thank you for joining us!

