



The State Council for Persons with Disabilities Celebrates 33 years of Promoting Voluntary Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

July 26, 2023, marks the 33rd anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This historic law gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities similar to those provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion. The ADA guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities to access goods and services, employment opportunities, accessible telecommunication, as well as participation in State and local government programs and services.

The core to almost all the goals of the State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) are built on the promise of the 1990 law and those that preceded it. SCPD works closely with the State of Delaware ADA Coordinator, the Architectural Accessibility Board, as well directly with the legislature and State agencies to increase awareness and knowledge of the ADA with the ultimate goal of improving access to equality and full community inclusion for people with disabilities. This is accomplished through education, advocacy and sharing information on the training, technical assistance, and resources developed by various experts, including the federal agencies responsible for enforcement of the ADA. More information about the Americans with Disabilities Act can be found on the SCPD website at: <https://scpd.delaware.gov/ADA/index.shtml>.

“I applaud the State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) as they continually unite disability advocates and State agency policymakers to ensure that individuals with disabilities are empowered to become fully integrated within the community and are celebrated for their accomplishments. The fundamental civil rights for people with disabilities is the cornerstone of what it means to be a fully participating member of our society. The Council’s tireless advocacy, education, and support have created a significant impact on both individuals and organizations, promoting a culture of accessibility and inclusiveness,” said Secretary of Safety and Homeland Security Nathaniel McQueen, Jr.

“We have made substantial gains in access to employment, transportation, voting and overall inclusion in the community for people with disabilities thanks to the Americans with Disabilities Act.” states John McNeal, Director of the State Council for Persons with Disabilities. “Still much work must be done to fulfill the full promise of the ADA in the 21st century. Such things include accessible housing, accessible web content and home and community supports. The State Council for Persons with Disabilities looks forward to being a part of that progress in Delaware.”

The mission of the State Council for Persons with Disabilities is to unite, in one Council, disability advocates and State agency policy makers to ensure that individuals with disabilities are empowered to become fully integrated within the community.

Part of the State Council's purpose is to:

- Promote coordination among all state programs, services and plans established for or related to persons with disabilities.
- Review, on a continuing basis, all state policies, plans, programs, and activities concerning persons with disabilities which are conducted or assisted, in whole or in part, by state departments, agencies or funds in order to determine whether such policies, programs, plans, and activities effectively meet the needs of persons with disabilities; and
- Propose and promote legislation, regulations and policies affecting state programs and persons with disabilities.

More information regarding our agency is available at: <https://scpd.delaware.gov/>.