



*Become a member of the
Mayor's Commission on Disabilities*

Help remove barriers and promote equal rights and opportunities for individuals with disabilities within the City of Baltimore

What is the Mayor's Commission on Disabilities?

The Mayor's Commission on Disabilities (MCOB) was created by Ordinance #93-237 adopted in 1976 by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City. Article 1, Subtitle 23 of the Baltimore City Code established MCOB with the explicit purpose of advising the City on the accessibility of City facilities, programs, and services for citizens with disabilities, assisting the City to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and assisting the City in providing information and education programs to City government, businesses, and industries with regard to reasonable accommodations for employment and other issues concerning persons with disabilities. Commission members can serve on five different committees: Access, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Employment, Legislative, and Transportation.

The mission of the Mayor's Commission on Disabilities is to work to remove barriers and promote equal rights and opportunities for individuals with disabilities within the City of Baltimore.

The Mayor's Commission on Disabilities is now housed within the Baltimore City Office of Civil Rights & Wage Enforcement. The Office of Civil Rights and Wage Enforcement is a city agency devoted to upholding the federal and local civil rights laws, as well as the local minimum, living, and prevailing wage laws. The overarching mission of the Office of Civil Rights is to carry out activities to eliminate discrimination and protect individuals' civil rights

PURPOSE:

1. Assist the City with the accessibility of city facilities, programs, employment opportunities, and services for residents with disabilities.
2. Assist the City in complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.
3. Assist the City in providing information and educational programs for City government, businesses, and industries regarding reasonable accommodations for employment and other issues concerning persons with disabilities.
4. Assist the City with ensuring the implementation of the City's Master Plan for Accessibility and Universal Design.

COMMISSION:

The Board of the Mayor's Commission on Disabilities consists of 23 members as follows:

1. A Mayor's representative
2. A representative of the City Council
3. 21 members appointed by the Mayor under Article IV, § 6 of the City Charter as follows:
 - (i) **9 persons with disabilities, not employed in the field of disabilities;**
 - (ii) **3 family members of persons with disabilities**
 - (iii) **9 representatives of business, industry, community organizations, non-profit organizations, and organizations representing persons with disabilities, at least 3 of whom are persons with disabilities.**

The current vacancies are BOLDED.

Of the members appointed, at least one must be appointed from each of the 14 council districts. Each member must work or reside in the City.

The Commission has 5 sub-committees which include: Legislative, Access, Employment, Transportation, and Emergency Preparedness & Response. Representatives from various City Agencies/Departments are members of these Committees. They are non-voting members but work collaboratively with the Board to fulfill the Commission purpose and execute the duties.

DUTIES:

1. Assist in the identification and evaluation of all City programs and services that impact the major life activities of persons with disabilities.
2. Recommend modification of services or new services for persons with disabilities;
3. Research, assemble, analyze and disseminate pertinent data and educational materials relating to activities and programs which will assist in meeting the needs of persons with disabilities;
4. Work to eliminate discrimination of persons with disabilities.
5. In consultation with the Division of Occupational Medicine and the Community Relations Commission, institute and conduct educational programs, meetings, and conferences designed to promote equal rights and opportunities for persons with disabilities.
6. Cooperate with interested citizens, general community, business, professional, technical, educational, and civic organizations in furthering the interests of persons with disabilities;
7. Work jointly with other jurisdictions on conducting similar activities.
8. Work to remove inequalities due to unmet needs or discrimination on the basis of disability in the areas of housing, recreation, employment, education, community services, and related matters.

DUTIES (CONT.):

9. Cooperate and collaborate with all municipal agencies, including the Division of Occupational Medicine and the Community Relations Commission, to avoid duplication of efforts.
10. Provide information to the residents of the City, the Mayor's Office, the City Council, and various offices of the city, state, and federal government on matters involving the needs of persons with disabilities.
11. Recommend programs or legislation as necessary to promote and insure equal rights and opportunities for all persons with disabilities.
12. Work to assure that information and referral needs are met and that information about City programs is disseminated.
13. Hold a public forum at least yearly to give persons with disabilities an opportunity to voice their concerns.
14. Work to assure the development of an effective delivery system of public, private, and consumer resources to all persons with disabilities.
15. Assist the Director of the Commission with regard to inquiries, complaints, and other problems with City services for persons with disabilities.
16. Assist in the coordination of state and federal programs and services available to the City, business, and industry.
17. Provide other advice as requested by the Mayor, City Council, and municipal agencies.

MEMBERSHIP:

Members serve for a term of 4 years concurrent with the Mayor's term of office. Members and associates serve without compensation. At the end of a term, an appointed member serves until a successor is appointed and qualifies. A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves out the rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

The Commission meets a mandatory six times per year. The separate committees within the Commission may meet additional times throughout the year to ensure goals are met.

To apply and serve on the Mayor's Commission on Disabilities, interested individuals must submit the following information: Name, contact information, which Commission position you are applying for, copy of CV or résumé, and a written explanation as to why you would like to serve on the Mayor's Commission on Disabilities. This information can be submitted via email to CivilRights@Baltimorecity.gov or mailed or hand delivered to: 7 E. Redwood Street, 9th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202.

