



Standing committees:

- **Access Concerns**
- **Education**
- **Employment**
- **Health and Welfare**

www.gcpd.ohio.gov

800. 282. 4536, ext. 1391

Mission Statement

The Governor's Council on People with Disabilities exists to:

- Advise the Governor and General Assembly on statewide disability issues.
- Educate and advocate for:
 - ◇ Partnerships at the local, state and national level;
 - ◇ Promotion of equality, access and independence; and
 - ◇ Development of employment opportunities.
- Promote the value of diversity, dignity and the quality of life for people with disabilities.
- Be a catalyst to create systemic change to promote awareness of disability-related issues that will ultimately benefit all citizens of Ohio.

History and Legislative Base

The Governor's Council on Disabled Persons was created by Amended Substitute House Bill 881, which became law on August 20, 1982. It became the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities when House Bill 177 went into effect September 13, 1989. The Governor's Council, originally the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, meets at least six times a year.

Office and Staff Functions

In addition to carrying out the projects of the Council, the staff is involved in other activities that enhance the quality of life for Ohioans with disabilities, such as:

- making presentations demonstrating the capabilities of people with disabilities;
- making presentations regarding the rights of people with disabilities;
- preparing and distributing printed materials on issues of concern to people with disabilities;
- providing information and referral regarding appropriate services, equipment, educational opportunities, job training, etc.;
- serving in an advisory capacity to a variety of committees to create awareness about issues concerning people with disabilities; and
- providing technical assistance on the implementation of federal and state laws affecting people with disabilities.

Composition of the Council

The Governor's Council on People with Disabilities consists of 21 members, the majority of whom must be people with disabilities. The members are appointed by the Governor for three-year terms, which are staggered so that seven members are appointed each year. The chair of the Council is appointed annually by the Governor. The chair and council members may serve no more than two terms.

The Council is assigned to the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) for administrative purposes, and the OOD executive director serves as an ex-officio member. Personnel for the Council are assigned by the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities.



Council Powers

The Council has the following powers and abilities:

- To cooperate with the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy;
- To cooperate with all employers, both public and private, in locating or developing opportunities for people with disabilities;
- To encourage and assist in the creation of committees at the community level;
- To assist local, state and federal agencies in coordinating their activities for the purpose of securing maximum use of funds and efforts that benefit people with disabilities;
- To encourage cooperation among employers, unions, rehabilitation agencies, and public and private organizations, to facilitate employment of people with disabilities;
- To serve in an advisory capacity to the Office of the Governor directly, and, as

needed, to the General Assembly on issues relating to the inclusions, needs and other concerns of people with disabilities;

- To conduct educational programs to acquaint the public with the abilities and accomplishments of people with disabilities;
- To promote the elimination of architectural barriers to make buildings used by the public accessible and usable by persons with physical limitations;
- To promote the elimination of programmatic barriers increasing access to alternative formats such as Braille, sign language and audio description; and
- To make such rules as it determines advisable for the conduct of its own business.

The Council is to report annually to the Governor on the activities of the Council and on the status of Ohioans with disabilities.

Member of the
National Association of
Governor's Committees

The Governor's Council on People with Disabilities sponsors the following:

Accessible Parking Enforcement Award

Advocacy Award

Best Practices Award

Employer of the Year Award

Karla M. Lortz Scholarship

Legislator of the Year Award

Maureen Fitzgerald Leadership Award

Youth Leadership Forum

Governor's Council on People with Disabilities

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