

Access Forward

CCDA Summer Newsletter

Upcoming Public Events: CCDA Checklist Committee Meeting

September 9, 2026
1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.

CCDA Commission to Community Event

September 16, 2026
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

CCDA Industry Specific (Retail) Webinar

September 22, 2026
10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

CCDA Executive Committee Meeting

September 30, 2026
1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.

CCDA Full Commission Meeting

October 14, 2026
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

CCDA Lunch and Learn Webinar

October 21, 2026
12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

CCDA Commission to Community Event

November 4, 2026
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.



CCDA Update:

The California Commission on Disability Access (CCDA) hosted a Commission to Community event in the City of San Francisco. This in-person CCDA Commission to Community event brought together small business owners, people with disabilities, community members, and government officials for a meaningful conversation about advancing accessibility and inclusion throughout the city. The

program opened with remarks from President Mandelman, Supervisor Mahmood, the San Francisco Department of Disability and Aging Services, the San Francisco Office of Small Business (OSB), the San Francisco Office on Disability and Accessibility (ODA), and CCDA. The event was moderated by CCDA Commissioner Olivia Mae M. Asuncion, AIA.

Following the opening remarks, Debby Kaplan, Deputy Director of Programmatic Access for the San Francisco Office on Disability and Accessibility (ODA), and Michelle Reynolds, Programs and Communications Manager for the San Francisco Office of Small Business (OSB), presented the "Beyond the Front Door" initiative. Their presentation was followed by a discussion moderated by CCDA Commissioner Olivia Mae M. Asuncion, AIA.

The program continued with a panel discussion on disability access, also moderated by Commissioner Asuncion. Panelists included Ida Clair, FAIA, State Architect and CCDA Commissioner; the Division of the State Architect (DSA) Representative; Anni Chung, President and CEO of Self-Help for the Elderly; Katy Tang, Director of the San Francisco Office of Small Business (OSB); Lana Nieves, Executive Director of the Independent Living Resource Center San Francisco (ILRCSF); and William Ortiz-Cartagena, San Francisco Office of Small Business Commission.

The event concluded with an open discussion and audience participation, which provided attendees with an opportunity to share perspectives, ask questions, and engage directly with panelists. Whether participants were business owners, members of the disability community, or community advocates, the event fostered collaboration, encouraged learning from one another, strengthened community connections, and supported more inclusive practices across San Francisco and California.

CCDA has two additional Commission to Community events planned for later this year in Monterey County and Los Angeles County. The Monterey County event is scheduled for September 16, 2026, and registration is now open. The Los Angeles County event will take place on November 4, with registration details coming. Stay tuned for updates!

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Commissioners in the Community



Commissioner Olivia Mae. M. Asuncion, AIA

Commissioner Olivia Asuncion served as moderator for CCDA's second Community Listening Forum of 2026 in San Francisco, bringing her professional experience as a Project Architect and personal perspective to the conversation. As moderator, Commissioner Asuncion helped create a welcoming and inclusive space for dialogue. She guided the discussion, kept the conversation moving, and ensured that attendees had opportunities to share their experiences, ask questions, and be heard.

Her approachable style and thoughtful facilitation were especially valuable during the discussion of the "Beyond the Front Door" initiative. Commissioner Asuncion helped encourage an open exchange between presenters and attendees, connecting the conversation to the experiences and perspectives shared by community members and small business owners.

Commissioner Highlights



Commissioner Hector Ramírez

Since joining the CCDA in January 2023, Commissioner Hector Ramírez has served as a dedicated advocate for the disability community. Originally appointed by the California State Assembly in January 2023 and reappointed in May 2026 to serve through January 2029, Commissioner Ramírez brings more than three years of experience on the Commission and a longstanding commitment to ensuring communities have access to services, resources, and representation.

Commissioner Ramírez's advocacy extends throughout Los Angeles and Los Angeles County as well as across state and national disability communities. Their work focuses on improving access to mental health services and promoting equity and inclusion. Through their community involvement, Commissioner Ramírez works to ensure that individuals and families can access services in ways that are accessible, inclusive, and responsive to their needs.

Commissioner Ramírez's service with Third District of Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities, Los Angeles County Community Prevention & Population Health Task Force, Inter-Tribal Disability Advocacy Council at the Native American Disability Law Center, National Disability Rights Network, Disability Rights California, and Governor Newson's Behavioral Health Task Force reflects the span of their advocacy and community engagement. These roles allow Commissioner Ramírez to bring diverse community perspectives and firsthand knowledge of the challenges people encounter when seeking behavioral health and other essential services.

Through their continued advocacy and community engagement, Commissioner Ramírez's brings a broad and diverse perspective to their service on CCDA. Their commitment to equity, inclusion, and disability advocacy reflects a deep dedication to ensuring that individuals and communities in California are heard, represented, and able to access the services that they need.

CCDA Projects



Commission to Community Listening Forum Events 2026

CCDA kicked off 2026 with its Commission to Community Listening Forum event in Kern County and hosted its second event in June in the City and County of San Francisco. These events bring together small business owners, people with disabilities, community members, and government officials to discuss advancing accessibility and inclusion across local communities and California. With upcoming events in Monterey County and Los Angeles County, CCDA will continue building on this momentum through the remainder of 2026 and into 2027. Stay tuned for updates!



CCDA 2025 - 2030 Strategic Plan Development Complete

The 2025-2030 CCDA Strategic Plan has been approved by the Commission and serves as CCDA's road map through 2030, guiding the projects, initiatives, and activities that advance the Commission's mission. The 2025-2030 CCDA Strategic Plan provides a framework to organize CCDA's work, measure progress, and ensure accountability, with ongoing updates presented at publicly noticed Commission meetings.

The Strategic Plan is organized around four strategic pillars:

1. Outreach, Education, and Public Awareness
2. Compliance Resource Innovation
3. Partnerships, Ambassadors, and Community Engagement
4. Operational Excellence and Data

Together, these pillars establish the goals and priorities that will guide CCDA's work through 2030.

To learn more and review CCDA's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan, visit:

[2025-2030 CCDA Strategic Plan](#)

www.dgs.ca.gov/CCDA/Resources/Page-Content/California-Commission-on-Disability-Access-Resources-List-Folder/2025-2030-CCDA-Strategic-Plan

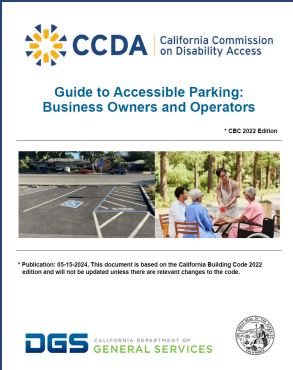


CCDA Busting Barriers - Fact or Fiction Mini-Series

CCDA's Busting Barriers - Fact or Fiction: Myths and Misconceptions video series is currently in development. The series will provide educational videos that address common misconceptions about disability access compliance and clarify accessibility requirements for places of public accommodation in California.

CCDA plans to produce 10 videos by 2030. The first video is currently being finalized, with nine additional videos to follow. Stay tuned to CCDA's YouTube channel and future newsletters for updates!

CCDA Projects



CCDA Accessible Parking Guide Translations

CCDA Accessible Parking Campaign Guides have now been translated into 17 different languages, expanding access to these informational resources for stakeholders and businesses across California. The guides provide valuable information for business owners and operators as well as licensed construction professionals who design, construct, and maintain places of public accommodation.

The translated documents help support California's diverse disability and business communities by making important accessibility information more widely available. Please note that current guides reflect the 2022 California Building Code (CBC). CCDA is currently updating the guides to reflect the 2025 CBC.

To view the translated CCDA Accessible Parking Campaign Guides, visit:

[Accessible Parking Campaign Guide Translations](#)

www.dgs.ca.gov/CCDA/Resources/Page-Content/California-Commission-on-Disability-Access-Resources-List-Folder/Accessible-Parking-Campaign-Translations



2025 CCDA Annual Report to the California State Legislature

CCDA is proud to announce that the 2025 CCDA Annual Report to the California State Legislature has been published! This report outlines CCDA's ongoing efforts to implement Government Code Sections 14985.5 and 14985.6. CCDA compiles an annual report to the Legislature on disability access issues and compliance with data collection. This report also provides an overview of the work of our commissioners and staff, completed and ongoing projects, and outreach efforts.

To view our 2025 CCDA Annual Report, visit:

[2025 CCDA Annual Report](#)

www.dgs.ca.gov/-/media/Divisions/CCDA/Tabs/Resources-Page/Annual-Reports/2025-CCDA-Annual-Report.pdf

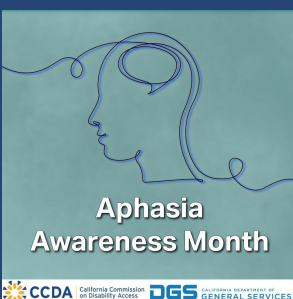
National and Community Disability Awareness Observances

June:



Migraine and Headache Awareness Month

In 2018, the federal government officially recognized Migraine and Headache Awareness Month as a national health observance. The observance provides an opportunity to increase awareness of migraine and other headache disorders. More than 50% of people who have migraine go undiagnosed each year. An estimated 40 million people in the United States have migraine, and may encounter barriers to full participation in employment, education, and community activities.

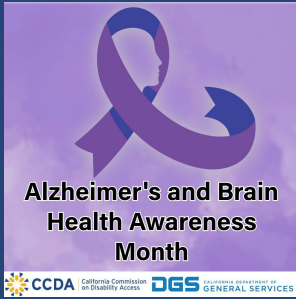


Aphasia Awareness Month

Aphasia is a communication disorder that may occur after a brain injury or stroke, or as a result of Primary Progressive Aphasia. People with aphasia may experience difficulties when speaking, understanding language, reading, writing, or using numbers. Communication experiences vary from person to person and may involve one or multiple aspects of communication. This year's theme, "United for Aphasia Awareness," supports efforts to increase public awareness and encourage recognition of June as National Aphasia Awareness Month across all states.

National and Community Disability Awareness Observances

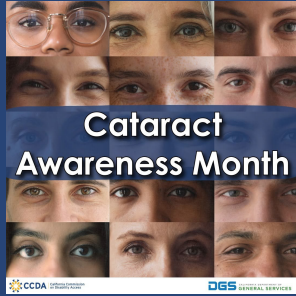
June:



Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month

More than 55 million people worldwide have Alzheimer's disease or another form of dementia. In the United States, many people have one or more factors that may increase the risk of developing dementia.

Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month is recognized each June, with the color purple serving as a symbol of awareness and support for people with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.



Cataract Awareness Month

Cataract Awareness Month is observed each June to raise awareness about cataracts, a common eye condition that can affect vision and daily activities. This observance encourages greater understanding of vision-related disabilities and highlights the importance of maintaining eye health and ensuring accessibility for people with vision impairments. Cataracts occur when the eye's natural lens becomes cloudy, which can cause blurred, dimmed, or reduced vision. Although cataracts are often associated with aging, the effects of cataracts on vision can vary from person to person.



Autistic Pride Day

Autistic Pride Day, first observed on June 18, 2025, recognizes individuals on the autism spectrum and promotes awareness, acceptance, and inclusion. The day highlights the importance of self-advocacy, dignity, and equal opportunity.

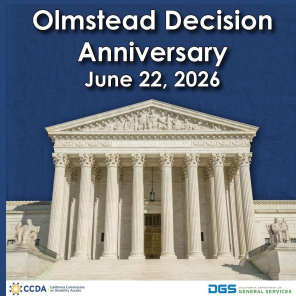
National and Community Disability Awareness Observances

June:



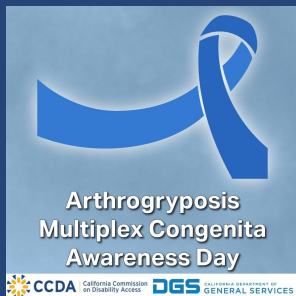
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month and Day

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) Awareness Month and Day serve to emphasize the importance of acknowledging nonvisible disabilities. PTSD is a mental health condition that can affect individuals regardless of background; approximately 5% of adults in the United States are affected by PTSD annually. This condition can result from traumatic experiences, causing symptoms like recurring distressing memories, flashbacks, nightmares, increased anxiety, and strong reactions to trauma triggers.



Olmstead Decision Anniversary

June 22 marks the anniversary of the Olmstead Decision! In 1999, the United States Supreme Court issued its decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, recognizing that unnecessary segregation of individuals with disabilities may constitute discrimination under Title II of the ADA. The decision is considered a significant milestone in advancing opportunities for individuals with disabilities to participate in community life.



Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita Awareness Day

June 30 marks Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita (AMC) Awareness Day. AMC is a group of conditions characterized by multiple congenital joint contractures, meaning some joints have limited range at birth. AMC occurs in approximately 1 in 3,000 births. While there is currently no cure, treatment and early intervention can help people with AMC maximize mobility, function, and independence.

National and Community Disability Awareness Observances

July:



Disability Pride Month

Disability Pride Month is dedicated to accepting and honoring each person's uniqueness as part of human diversity. Disability Pride has been officially celebrated since July 2015 which coincided with the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Each stripe of the Disability Pride flag has an individual meaning:

Red – Physical disabilities

Gold – Neurodiversity

White – Invisible disabilities and undiagnosed disabilities

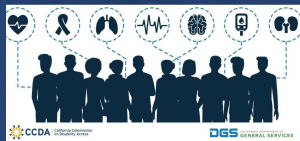
Blue – Psychiatric and emotional disabilities, including mental health conditions

Green – Sensory disabilities, including deafness, blindness, loss of smell, loss of taste, auditory processing disorder, and other sensory disabilities

The black background represents mourning for those lost to ableist violence, as well as resilience and the ongoing fight for disability rights.

Chronic Disease Awareness Day

Friday, July 10, 2026



Chronic Disease Awareness Day

July 10 is Chronic Disease Awareness Day, a time to raise awareness of chronic health conditions and recognize the experiences of people with chronic diseases. Chronic diseases include a range of conditions, such as, stroke, heart disease, diabetes, lupus, and many others. Some chronic diseases may result in disabilities that are visible or non-apparent, and accessibility needs can vary from person to person.



Anniversary of the ADA

CCDA is proud to celebrate the 36th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on July 26, 2026! This civil rights law requires people with disabilities to have the same equal rights and opportunities as any other individual.

National and Community Disability Awareness Observances

August:

International Assistance Dog Week August 2 - 8



International Assistance Dog Week

International Assistance Dog Week is observed in the first week of August each year to celebrate the service and facility dogs that help individuals with disabilities. From guiding people who are blind to assisting wheelchair users, altering to certain medical conditions, or helping individuals manage symptoms of PTSD, service dogs are trained to perform specific tasks that support their handlers' independence and daily lives. International Assistance Dog Week is an opportunity to recognize the important role service animals play in expanding access and independence, while also raising awareness of disability access rights. Understanding these rights helps create more welcoming and inclusive public spaces for everyone.

National Senior Citizen's Day



National Senior Citizen's Day

In 1998, the federal government recognized August 21 as National Senior Citizen's Day to honor the achievements of senior citizens. As people age, they may experience changes in mobility, vision, hearing, cognition, or mental health. These changes are natural parts of the aging process. Some senior citizens may identify as having a disability. However, disability is simply one aspect of human diversity. It reflects the various ways individuals navigate and engage with the world, not a limitation on a person's value or potential.

Disability Access and Community Resources



U.S. Access Board

Established in 1973, the U.S. Access Board is an independent federal agency dedicated to advancing accessibility through the development of accessibility guidelines and standards. The U.S. Access Board provides information on federal accessibility requirements, including ADA Accessibility Standards, which establishes requirements for accessible design.

To learn more about ADA accessibility standards visit:

[About the ADA Accessibility Standards](#)

www.access-board.gov/ada/



Pacific ADA Center

The Pacific ADA Center is a regional resource that helps individuals, businesses, governments, nonprofits and employers understand the ADA and other federal disability rights laws. They provide free, confidential technical assistance, training sessions, and guidance on topics like accessibility standards, employment accommodations, service animals, and effective communication. Additionally, they offer publications, fact sheets, webinars and tools to support ADA coordinators and organizations in creating inclusive environments.

To view the list of webinars, trainings and events offered by Pacific ADA Center visit:

[Pacific ADA Center Events](#)

www.adapacific.org/events

Resources for Promoting Disability Access



Small Business Development Center

The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) mission is to empower small businesses by providing expert advisors, no-cost counseling, tailored training, and funding opportunities through a range of partnerships. With 56 centers across California, SBDC offers both in-person and virtual programs to support entrepreneurs at every stage of their journey.

To find the nearest SBDC visit:

[Find My SBDC](#)

www.californiasbdc.org/find-your-sbdc



U.S. Access Board - Technical Assistance and Training Resources

The U.S. Access Board also provides technical assistance and training to help individuals, businesses, and organizations better understand and apply accessibility guidelines and standards. This U.S. Access Board is useful for those seeking additional guidance or assistance with accessibility questions.

For technical assistance or to contact the U.S. Access Board, visit:

[U.S. Access Board Contact Information](#)

www.access-board.gov/contact



Stay up to date with CCDA on our Facebook [@CaliforniaCommissionOnDisabilityAccess](#) and subscribe to our YouTube Channel [@AccessCCDA](#)

Want to get involved with CCDA? Attend our public meetings and events to learn about our latest activities. To view the latest event calendar, visit our website: www.dgs.ca.gov/CCDA

California Commission on Disability Access | 400 R Street, Suite 310, Sacramento, CA 95811

(916) 319-9974 | ccda@dgs.ca.gov | www.dgs.ca.gov/CCDA