



Office of the Chief
Disability Officer

**THE NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF
THE CHIEF DISABILITY OFFICER**

PROTECTING YOUR RIGHTS



About Us

Established in 2022 by Governor Kathy Hochul, the Office of the Chief Disability Officer (CDO) advocates on behalf of people with disabilities. We work continuously with state agencies and other partners to break down barriers to services and improve accessibility, diversity, equity, integration and inclusion for people with disabilities.

Our Mission

We elevate the voices, priorities, and issues of a wide spectrum of New Yorkers with disabilities. We are committed to protecting the right of all New Yorkers to live and work in our state free from the fear of discrimination. We work to ensure that people with disabilities are represented and heard at every level of state government, and to build a more integrated, inclusive, and accessible New York.

Our Mandate:

- ▶ Advise and assist state agencies and the Executive Chamber in developing policies designed to help meet the needs of persons with disabilities.
- ▶ Act as the state's ADA coordinator for the implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act by state agencies.
- ▶ Coordinate state activities to ensure that state programs do not discriminate against, and are accessible to, persons with disabilities.
- ▶ Review and report to the governor upon proposed legislation and regulations, and submit comments to state agencies regarding how they might affect people with disabilities.
- ▶ Chair the Most Integrated Setting Coordinating Council (MISCC) established in 2002, which is charged with ensuring New York State has a plan to serve people with disabilities in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs.

Nothing about us without us.

This motto of the disability rights movement has served as a rallying cry for decades. Today, it is the heart of our work.

Our Priorities

- ▶ Advancing health care and home care for people with disabilities.
- ▶ Expanding meaningful employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
- ▶ Increasing accessibility in state programs, state services, and public transportation.
- ▶ Improving fair, available, affordable and accessible housing opportunities in our communities.
- ▶ Facilitating communication between government agencies that work on issues affecting the disability community.
- ▶ Including New York's disability community in all statewide planning efforts regarding emergency preparedness.
- ▶ Ensuring ALL people with disabilities have a voice in state government.



Contact Us

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