
Agency Summary

GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

Agency Mission

The Commission's mission is to ensure "that people with disabilities are afforded the opportunities to exercise all the rights and responsibilities accorded to citizens of this state".

The Commission's goals are: 1) The adoption of state government policies that will ensure every person with a disability: a) Is able to work; b) Is able to live on her/his own; with the right services, at the right time, and in the right place; and c) Is involved in her/his neighborhood and community. 2) That every person with a disability is able to exercise all the rights and responsibilities accorded to citizens of this State. 3) That every working age person with a disability has the opportunity to work with supports and/or accommodations if needed. 4) That entrepreneurship opportunities and supports are available for working age persons with disabilities. The Commission's vision for Rhode Island is that every Rhode Islander with a disability is able to accomplish their maximum potential in independence, human development, productivity and economic self-sufficiency.

Agency Description

The Commission has 18 volunteer Commissioners, appointed by the Governor as well as numerous volunteers who serve on several committees, mediate disability discrimination complaints, monitor polling place accessibility on Election Day, and mentor young adults in the Mary Brennan Fellowships. Much of the Commission's work is conducted by volunteers serving on: the Accessibility Committee, developing state's 504/ADA Transition Plan, for removing access barriers in state owned buildings, schools, colleges, beaches, and parks and also monitors accessibility to elections; the Disability Business Enterprise Committee certifying small businesses owned by person(s) with a disability to receive preferential points when bidding on state contracts for goods and services; the Employment Committee overseeing the ADA employment outreach and training and promoting work and work incentives; the Legislation Committee, conducting forums to understand the concerns of people with disabilities and their families, drafting bills that will improve the lives of people with disabilities and issuing legislative impact statements on pending legislation to the General Assembly and the Governor; and the Public Awareness Committee developing and implementing a broad public awareness campaign.

Statutory History

The Commission's responsibilities are defined in R.I. General Laws § 42-51, § 42-87, § 37-8-15, § 15.1, § 42-46-5(b), § 42-46-13(f), § 37-2.2, § 30-15-6, 28-5.1-9 and § 17-9.1-31; Article I § 2, RI Constitution and federal laws: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability (29 USC 794); Section 705(e) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. § 796c); the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 USC 12101 et. seq.); and Section 261 of the Help America Vote Act, Election Assistance to Individuals with Disabilities (42 USC 15461).

Budget

Governor's Commission On Disabilities

	2018 Actuals	2019 Actuals	2020 Enacted Budget	2020 Revised Budget	2021 Recommended
Expenditures by Program					
Central Management	710,175	1,167,624	1,558,659	1,536,796	1,618,797
Total Expenditures	710,175	1,167,624	1,558,659	1,536,796	1,618,797
Expenditures by Object					
Salary And Benefits	382,820	370,535	436,563	421,981	431,140
Contract Professional Services	27,236	25,046	131,299	134,234	151,231
Operating Supplies And Expenses	42,068	52,902	72,188	58,855	79,863
Assistance And Grants	258,051	717,913	918,609	921,726	950,563
Subtotal: Operating	710,175	1,166,396	1,558,659	1,536,796	1,612,797
Capital Purchases And Equipment	0	1,228	0	0	0
Operating Transfers	0	0	0	0	6,000
Subtotal: Other	0	1,228	0	0	6,000
Total Expenditures	710,175	1,167,624	1,558,659	1,536,796	1,618,797
Expenditures by Source of Funds					
General Revenue	444,657	864,214	1,055,069	1,080,665	1,107,634
Federal Funds	254,817	280,462	458,689	389,455	400,000
Restricted Receipts	10,701	22,949	44,901	66,677	111,163
Total Expenditures	710,175	1,167,624	1,558,659	1,536,796	1,618,797
FTE Authorization	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0

Performance Measures

Governor's Commission On Disabilities

Barrier-Free Voting

The Commission seeks to ensure voters with disabilities are able to cast votes independently, in secret, and at the same polling location as their neighbors. The figures below represent the percentage of polling places barrier-free on Election Day. Measure includes data from "special elections" that take place in RI. [Note: Missing values appear as zeros in the measure.]

	<i>Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year</i>				
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Target	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Actual	75.90%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Adopting Policies that Benefit Persons with Disabilities

The Commission's goal is to ensure that people with disabilities have the opportunity to exercise all rights and responsibilities accorded to RI citizens and are able to reach their maximum potential. The figures below represent the percentage of successful outcomes for GCD's advocacy for disability-friendly policy adopted by the General Assembly (laws and budget articles), Executive Branch and General Officers (regulations), and Judiciary and quasi-judicial entities (decisions). [Notes: Legislation that was recommended as "beneficial if amended", that were neither amended nor enacted, has been re-categorized as "not a successful outcome". Missing values appear as zeros in the measure.]

	<i>Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year</i>				
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Target	75.00%	75.00%	75.00%	75.00%	75.00%
Actual	37.80%	47.00%	24.00%	0.00%	

Promoting and Protecting the Rights of People with Disabilities

The Commission works to foster voluntary compliance with federal and state disability rights laws and regulations. The figures below represent the percentage of accessibility complaints resolved prior to hearing. [Note: Missing values appear as zeros in the measure.]

	<i>Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year</i>				
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Target	70.00%	70.00%	70.00%	70.00%	70.00%
Actual	91.00%	100.00%	98.00%	0.00%	

Promoting Employment of Working Age People with Disabilities

Only 14% of Rhode Islanders with a Disability are college graduates vs. 35% of Rhode Islanders with No Disability. Only 36% of Rhode Islanders with a Disability are Employed vs. 78% of Rhode Islanders with No Disability. The Median Earned Income of Employed RI Workers with a Disability is more than \$10,965 less than Employed RI Workers with No Disability. Only 64% of Rhode Islanders with a Disability have an income at or above 150% of the poverty level (FPL) compared to 81% Rhode Islanders with No Disability. [Note: Missing values appear as zeros in the measure.]

	<i>Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year</i>				
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Target	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%
Actual	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	0.00%	

Personnel

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Central Management

		FY 2020		FY 2021	
		FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Classified					
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY GOVERNOR'S COMM ON THE HANDICAPPED	00132A	1.0	93,205	1.0	93,671
Subtotal Classified		1.0	93,205	1.0	93,671
Unclassified					
ASSISTANT ADA COORDINATOR	00824A	2.0	119,394	2.0	121,781
SENIOR PLANNING & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST	00824A	1.0	54,797	1.0	56,857
Subtotal Unclassified		3.0	174,191	3.0	178,638
Subtotal		4.0	267,396	4.0	272,309
Total Salaries			267,396		272,309
Benefits					
FICA			20,459		20,831
Health Benefits			31,918		32,894
Payroll Accrual			1,556		1,586
Retiree Health			17,780		15,984
Retirement			72,309		76,781
Subtotal			144,022		148,076
Total Salaries and Benefits		4.0	411,418	4.0	420,385
Cost Per FTE Position			102,855		105,096
Statewide Benefit Assessment			10,563		10,755
Payroll Costs		4.0	421,981	4.0	431,140
Purchased Services					
Clerical and Temporary Services			36,246		41,478
Design and Engineering Services			29,777		41,310
Information Technology			3,158		3,271
Management & Consultant Services			37,029		30,714
Medical Services			360		384
Other Contracts			18,665		34,073
Training and Educational Services			9,000		0
Subtotal			134,234		151,231
Total Personnel		4.0	556,215	4.0	582,371
Distribution by Source of Funds					
General Revenue		4.0	517,152	4.0	529,650
Restricted Receipts		0.0	39,064	0.0	52,721
Total All Funds		4.0	556,215	4.0	582,371