

The Olmstead Commission’s goal is to move North Dakota towards greater integration and inclusion for individuals with disabilities.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT

Olmstead Advisory Council

Oct. 7th at 1pm

Disability Advocacy Training Day (Fargo)

Oct. 13th at 10am

Beyond the Job Description: Customized Employment in Action

Oct. 13th at 2pm

Legislative Training Day (Bismarck)

Oct. 14th at 10am

Cross Disability Advisory Council

Oct. 15th at 9:30am

Walking Beside You, Family and Caregiver Support Group

Oct. 27th at 6:30pm

NEXT OLMSTEAD
MEETING:

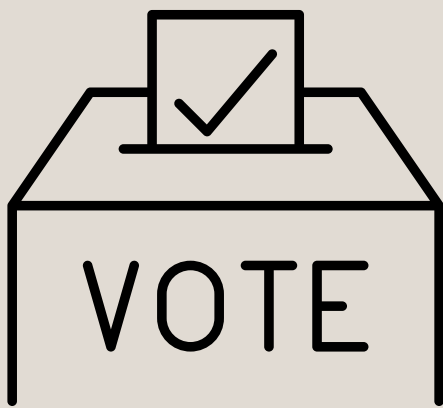
Wednesday, Nov. 4th
1–3pm in the
Peace Garden Room
at the Capitol

Discussion Topic:
Goal #4– Housing

Join meeting [here](#).

PROTECTION & ADVOCACY FOR
VOTING ACCESSIBILITY

The Protection & Advocacy for Voting Access (PAVA) program was established under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) which was signed into law on October 29, 2002. HAVA provides funding to Protection & Advocacy (P&A) agencies to help ensure that individuals with disabilities have access to voting and the opportunity to participate fully in the electoral process. Through the PAVA program, P&A agencies work to promote voting accessibility in a variety of ways, including providing voter education and surveying polling places for accessibility. These efforts help identify and address barriers that may prevent individuals with disabilities from fully participating in elections.



One important thing to know is that the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requires voting systems to provide individuals with disabilities the same opportunity for access and participation, including privacy and independence, as other voters. This means voters with disabilities should have access to voting systems and assistance that allow them to make their own choices and mark, cast, and verify their ballots privately and independently. Accessible elections help ensure that every voter has an equal opportunity to participate in the democratic process and make their voice heard.

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT
AWARENESS MONTH

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)! Each year, NDEAM celebrates the many contributions individuals with disabilities make in the workplace and highlights the importance of creating inclusive employment opportunities for everyone. Individuals with disabilities bring valuable skills, perspectives, talents, and experiences to the workforce. For individuals with disabilities, employment can provide more than a paycheck, it can offer opportunities for independence, connection, personal growth, and being an active and valued part of the community. Having a job can also help individuals pursue personal goals, build relationships, develop new skills, and make choices about the lives they want to lead.

NDEAM also reflects the principles of the Olmstead decision, which recognizes the importance of individuals with disabilities having opportunities to live, work, and participate in their communities in the most integrated setting. Meaningful employment is an important part of community inclusion and can provide greater choice, independence, and control over everyday life. Creating inclusive employment opportunities requires all of us to work together. Employers, coworkers, service providers, families, and communities can help remove barriers, provide reasonable accommodations, recognize and build on an individual’s abilities and strengths, and ensure individuals with disabilities have equal opportunities to apply for, obtain, and advance in employment.

This October, let’s celebrate disability employment by recognizing the talents, skills, and contributions of workers with disabilities. Let’s continue building communities and workplaces where individuals with disabilities have the opportunity to work, contribute, build relationships, and pursue the careers and lives they choose, because inclusion means having opportunities to be a full and valued part of the community.



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