



## **NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY**

### **Sunshine Act Meetings**

**TIME AND DATE:** The Members of the National Council on Disability (NCD) will hold a two-day in-person Council meeting on Thursday, August 28, 2025, 9:30 a.m.– 3:40 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) and Friday, August 29, 2025, 9:30 – 11:55 a.m., EDT.

**PLACE:** This meeting will occur at the U.S. Access Board Conference Room, 1331 F Street, NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20004. The event will also be streamed live via Zoom videoconference for those not able to attend in person. Details are available on NCD's event page at <https://www.ncd.gov/meeting/2025-08-28-aug-28-29-2025-council-meeting/>

### **MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:**

**Day 1** – Following welcome remarks and introductions, the Council will receive a policy update; panel discussion on the current state of ground transportation for people with mobility disabilities including taxis, rideshares, microtransit, and shuttles; and a lunch break; followed by a panel discussion on access to autonomous vehicles for people with mobility disabilities; a break; and a public comment period; before adjourning.

**Day 2** – Following welcoming remarks, the Council will receive the Chairman's report; council member reports; Executive Committee report; and a panel discussion on improving state and local disaster preparation plans for people with disabilities; before adjourning.

**Agenda:** The times provided below are approximations for when each agenda item is anticipated to be discussed (all Eastern Daylight Time):

### **Thursday, August 28, 2025**

9:30 – 9:45 a.m. – Welcome Greetings, Roll Call, Acceptance of Agenda

9:45 – 10:00 a.m. – Policy Update

10:00 – 11:45 a.m. – Current State of Ground Transportation for People with Mobility

Disabilities: Taxis, Rideshares, Paratransit, Microtransit, Shuttles

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Lunch Break

1:00 – 2:45 p.m. – Access to Autonomous Vehicles for People with Mobility Disabilities:

Today and the Future

2:45 – 3:00 p.m. – Break

3:00 – 3:40 p.m. – Public Comment Period and Staff Overview of Online Public

Comments

3:40 p.m. – Adjourn until August 29 at 9:30 a.m.

### **Friday, August 29, 2025**

9:30 – 9:40 a.m. – Welcome and Call to Order

9:40 – 9:55 a.m. – Chairman’s Report

9:55 – 10:10 a.m. – Council Member Reports

10:10 – 10:25 a.m. – Executive Committee Report

10:25 – 11:55 a.m. – Improving State and Local Disaster Preparation Plans for People with Disabilities

11:55 a.m. – Adjourn

**Public Comment:** Your participation during the public comment period provides an opportunity for us to hear from you -- individuals, businesses, providers, educators, parents and advocates. Your comments are important in bringing to the Council’s attention the issues and priorities of the disability community.

For the August 28 Council meeting, NCD will have a public comment period of 40 minutes and requests comments on any topic related to our open projects: improving the outcomes of people with disabilities during and after disasters; disability clinical competency training for healthcare provider training programs; ADA accommodations during court proceedings; and youth and younger adults with disabilities in nursing

homes. Additional information on specifics of the topic is available on NCD's public comment page at <https://ncd.gov/public-comment>.

The Council will receive comments in-person only but will share during the meeting a summary of comments received on these topics ahead of the meeting via email. Due to the hybrid nature of the event, in-person comments will be given priority.

To provide public comment during an NCD Council Meeting, NCD requires advanced registration by either signing up to present while registering for the meeting or sending an email to [PublicComment@ncd.gov](mailto:PublicComment@ncd.gov) with the subject line "Public Comment" and your name, organization, state, and topic of comment included in the body of your email.

Deadline for public comment registration is August 26, 8:00 p.m. EDT. Please indicate if you are providing the comment in-person or only submitting via email. All individuals desiring to make public comment are strongly encouraged to read NCD's guidelines for public comment in advance of the meeting at: <https://ncd.gov/public-comment>.

While public comment can be submitted on any topic over email, comments during the meeting should be specific to the requested topics in the following information.

Please send NCD your comments, experiences, articles, data, and other research on the following topics, which are all projects currently underway or soon to be underway.

Please send your comments and any attachments to [PublicComment@ncd.gov](mailto:PublicComment@ncd.gov). Your contributions will help strengthen our investigations and provide for a more comprehensive view for federal policymakers.

### **Information on Public Comment Topics:**

#### **I. Improving the Outcome of People with Disabilities During and after Disasters**

This project will focus on how state and local governments execute their emergency management plans; identify promising practices; and provide resources and recommendations. The following are areas comment:

1. What elements are lacking in state and local disaster preparation plans that would

mitigate the adverse impact of disaster recovery and response on people with disabilities?

2. How do states encourage local emergency management operators to be inclusive of people with disabilities before, during and after disasters?

3. What is FEMA's role and responsibility to ensure people with disabilities' needs are included in disaster preparation at the local level?

4. What states have an infrastructure that promotes the inclusivity of people with disabilities?

## **II. Disability Clinical Competency Training for Healthcare Provider**

### **Training Programs**

This project will offer a framework to clinical preparedness for health care providers in the medical treatment of people with disabilities. The following are areas comment:

1. What is the current state of healthcare provider education in medical schools, Nurse Practitioner schools and Physician Assistant programs? How many provide clinical training, patient exposure, and patient feedback? What is the response of the students? How many of these training programs require "clinical disability competency" training? How many are simply short, inadequate "watch a video" vignettes?

2. What are the challenges and obstacles for these schools to adopt curriculum over the course of their training?

3. Do the current graduates of these training programs feel they have the confidence, skills, experience and training to effectively provide optimal care?

4. What is the connection between clinical confidence and changes in behavior and attitudes among healthcare providers?

5. What are the estimated overall cost savings for providing optimal healthcare to people with disabilities?

6. What are the transferable skills that clinicians can learn from “disability competency training” to apply to all other patient populations (especially the elderly, complex and chronic co-existing conditions, which is a growing patient population)?
7. What are the existing curriculum resources that can be adopted and incorporated into current provider training?

### **III. ADA Accommodations during Court Proceedings**

This project will explore the lack of available training for judges and ADA coordinators that results in people with disabilities being denied reasonable accommodations in court proceedings, which often directly impacts the outcome of the litigation; and offer recommendations to address this unequal access to the courts. The following are areas comment:

1. How many states have court ADA coordinators?
2. With states that have ADA coordinators, is there an ADA grievance procedure? Is the decision to provide reasonable accommodation decided by the coordinator or the judge?
3. What are the training requirements for judges? Is training available that discusses reasonable accommodations?
4. Why does there seem to be a lack of understanding of reasonable accommodations and family courts?
5. What procedure is required to amend the Administrative Offices of the Courts Regulations?
6. What is the current procedure in federal courts to assess reasonable accommodation requests?

### **IV. Youth and Younger Adults with Disabilities in Nursing Homes**

This project seeks to uncover the drivers of the growing population of youth and younger adults with disabilities living in nursing homes and explore policy solutions that

seek to keep youth and younger adults with disabilities in their communities where they can live, learn, and seek employment. The following are areas comment:

1. What number of people with disabilities ages 21-40 are receiving LTSS in nursing homes? How large is the subset of those under age 21? What are the numbers by state? What are the demographics? What is the average length of stay? What placements were made out of state?
2. What data gaps exist on these questions and how could the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) improve them? What reporting could HHS or HUD require of federal fund recipients to obtain data on people with disabilities age 40 and under in nursing homes?
3. How many people are estimated to be on waiting lists to transfer out of nursing facilities are ages 21-40 and under 21? What federal and state policies assist in gathering this information and what are the federal and state barriers?
4. Are there existing federal and state policies that have the effect of routing younger people with disabilities into nursing homes? (Please note that NCD is not seeking information on what keeps people with disabilities from leaving nursing facilities as we have well-established research on that topic).
5. What impact has Money Follows the Person had on nursing home diversion for younger people with disabilities? Please provide specific examples to the degree possible. What other programs are successful at diversion of younger people with disabilities from nursing homes?
6. What opportunities are available to younger people with disabilities who reside in nursing homes, for free appropriate public education (FAPE), recreation, community participation? What are the results of unavailability/restricted availability of the activities?
7. How could policymakers specifically address the needs of younger people with

disabilities in LTSS and housing policy?

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Nicholas Sabula, Public Affairs Specialist, NCD, 1331 F Street NW, Suite 850, Washington, DC 20004; 202-272-2004 (V), or nsabula@ncd.gov.

**Accommodations:** ASL Interpreters will be provided in-room and included during the live streamed meeting, and CART has been arranged for this meeting and will be embedded into the Zoom platform as well as available via streamtext link. The web link to access CART Streamtext: <https://www.streamtext.net/player?event=NCD>

If you require additional accommodations, please notify Stacey Brown by sending an email to sbrown@ncd.gov as soon as possible and no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Due to last-minute confirmations or cancellations, NCD may substitute items without advance public notice.

Dated: August 12, 2025.

**Anne C. Sommers McIntosh,**

*Director of Legislative Affairs and Outreach.*

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