



## Department of Civil Rights

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**Affirmative Action Division  
Disability Rights and Services Program  
Equal Opportunities Division  
Racial Equity and Social Justice**

February 21, 2023

City of Madison Disability Summit:  
A Community-Led Movement for Disability Justice  
July 27 – 29, 2023

The City of Madison Disability Summit: A Community-Led Movement for Disability Justice is a platform for visioning and developing a city-wide agenda that will direct the work of the Department of Civil Rights – Division of Equity and Social Justice, Disability Rights and Services Program and ensure all City programs include the voices and needs of the disability community. In the spirit of the Independent Living Center Movement slogan, Nothing about Us without Us, our objective is to:

- 1) Identify the priorities of our community,
- 2) Develop decision-making principles for the City that ensure people with disabilities have a seat at the table, and
- 3) Explore ways to better connect diverse Disabled residents with City staff, policy makers, and each other,

This information will help us to develop an agenda and access plan for the City of Madison. The plan will guide City processes and inform our work in the immediate future and in the coming years.

This event is committed to embodying the 10 principals of Disability Justice, developed by Sins Invalid, by breaking down silos and centering the voices of Disabled Queer, Black, Indigenous, People of Color, and people whose primary language is other than English. We hope to build community amongst local grassroots and non-profit organizations with common goals for our City.

This virtual event will be held on July 27th and 28th and include in-person programming at the annual Disability Pride Madison Festival on July 29th.

The City is thrilled to partner with Disability Pride Madison, a disability-led local non-profit organization with a mission to help people with disabilities take pride in themselves and to show the able-bodied community what the disability community has to offer. The Disability Pride Madison Festival is hosted annually in celebration of the anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

### Background:

The City of Madison's mission is Inclusive, Innovative, & Thriving. We value equity, civic engagement, well-being, shared prosperity, and stewardship.

In 1990, Madison's City Council adopted Madison General Ordinance 39.05 which prohibits discrimination based on disability by City programs and City-funded agencies. The Disability Rights and Services Program is part of the Department of Civil Rights, Equity and Social Justice Division. We work alongside the Disability Rights Commission (DRC):

- To provide community-member input on issues including transportation, recreation, accessibility, and housing, and
- To work cooperatively with advocacy- and community-based organizations serving people with disabilities.

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To live our mission we recognize that we must continue to grow along with the needs and desires of our community. This means ensuring that we embrace inclusion and belonging in all City planning, programs, services, and facilities while celebrating the diversity of our Disabled residents.

Overview:

The Disability Summit will include learning opportunities, panel discussions, community-led break-out rooms, and keynote speakers who are leaders in the disability community, policy, and civil rights. A full agenda of the event will be available in the coming months.

We chose a virtual platform, hoping to include policy leaders and disability advocates and activists from across the country to guide us in visioning a more equitable, more just, and more inclusive city.

We are also seeking local grassroots and non-profit organizations interested in participating in the Summit.

The event will be open to the public and attended by City staff ready to engage with the community. Access, inclusion, and social justice is a shared responsibility. Therefore, we hope all members of the Madison community will participate in this event. We additionally encourage other municipalities and people who live outside of the Madison area to attend and observe in the breakout rooms. While we hope to lead in events like this, we also hope other Cities will replicate this community-driven process of shaping the communities in which they live, work, learn, travel, play, and thrive.

Thank you for your commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, access, and social justice. If you have any questions or would like to partner with us, please feel free to contact me at [RHoyt@cityofmadison.com](mailto:RHoyt@cityofmadison.com) or (608) 266-6511.

In solidarity,

Rebecca Hoyt  
Disability Rights and Service Specialist  
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City of Madison