

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

PROCLAMATION NO. _____

Proclaiming July 2024 as Disability Pride Month in Multnomah County, Oregon.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- A. Approximately [61 million](#) people in the United States have a disability. Almost [15%](#) of Multnomah County residents live with some form of disability. Disabilities are ordinary and familiar parts of who people are, and we honor the diverse experiences of disability and perspectives within our community.
- B. The [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) was passed on July 26, 1990 to ensure the civil rights of members of the disability community. “The ADA guarantees that people with disabilities have the same opportunities as everyone else to enjoy employment opportunities, purchase goods and services, and participate in state and local government programs”.
- C. July is [Disability Pride Month](#), founded to celebrate the anniversary of the signing of the ADA. This historic legislation reflects our nation’s commitment to securing equal rights and defending the intrinsic dignity of all people. We renew our commitment to empower Multnomah County residents and employees with disabilities through equal access.
- D. Disability Pride Month provides an opportunity to recognize and honor the accomplishments of disabled individuals in various fields, including education, employment, arts, sports, science, government, and advocacy.
- E. Multnomah County acknowledges the barriers and challenges faced by individuals with disabilities, including societal attitudes, lack of accessibility, discrimination, and unequal opportunities. This is especially prevalent for individuals with certain intersecting identities, such as [LGBTQIA2S+](#) and [BIPOC](#) folks.
- F. Multnomah County acknowledges the long history of oppression and violence against disabled people, including [forced sterilization of institutionalized patients](#) at places like the [Fairview Training Center](#), a [lack of support](#) for Oregonians with developmental disabilities, and discriminatory “[ugly laws](#)” enacted in Portland in 1881.
- G. This history of violence against persons with disabilities is both part of our history, as well as a present reality for people in our community and [around the world](#). This can be seen in [housing laws](#) that force a conflict between the needs of disabled people in our community, in our [criminal legal system](#), and in our [health](#)

[care systems](#). There can even be harm in the systems set up to support people with disabilities in our community due to unnecessary restrictions by rules and laws created without the input of the disability community.

- H. Multnomah County is proud to have a number of departments that directly serve community members with disabilities. We will commit ourselves to disability justice by dismantling ableist practices and prioritizing the voices and needs of disabled people in our community.
- I. The Department of County Human Services (DCHS) is proud to be a home to the Aging, Disability, and Veterans Services Division (ADVSD) as well as Intellectual and Developmental Disability Services (IDD). In fiscal year 2023, ADVSD reported serving 13,258 people with disabilities, and IDD reported serving a total of 7,356 people with disabilities.
- J. The Department of Community Justice (DCJ) uses an equity lens in all programming and policy development, which includes considering the needs of individuals with disabilities. DCJ has focused efforts on improving facilities and accommodations to increase accessibility for employees and clients.
- K. The Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) is committed to providing a wide range of accessible services to the most vulnerable members of our community who may be homeless or housing insecure. Due to the [high number](#) of people with disabilities who are homeless, the majority of JOHS Supportive Housing Services (SHS) funding is intended for people with disabling conditions.
- L. The Health Department offers accessible, inclusive services and programs for all Multnomah County residents with disabilities. We commit ourselves to centering the needs of people with disabilities, including those with chronic illness, and mental and behavioral health conditions. This has been accomplished through the creation of the Behavioral Health Resource Center, our work with our health [advisory councils](#), and with our department's support of the Workforce Equity Strategic Plan (WESP). The Health Department is proud to lead the way with accessibility, both in the services we provide and for our employees in the workplace
- M. Multnomah County honors the advocates of the "people first" movement from the 1970s, which [began in Salem, Oregon](#) on January 8th, 1974. We also honor the advocates doing work today to ensure that all persons with disabilities feel [empowerment within their identity](#). This includes a [long history](#) of advocacy and disability policy changes that involved members of Multnomah County's community.
- N. As we commemorate the anniversary of the ADA and celebrate our disabled community members, we recommit to working together to ensure people with disabilities have equal opportunity through equity and accessibility.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

July 2024 is Disability Pride Month in Multnomah County and encourages all residents to observe this month.

ADOPTED this __ day of _____, 20__.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair

REVIEWED:
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By:

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SUBMITTED BY:

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