

**VOLUME II: HEALTH AND HUMAN  
SERVICES**

**GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON  
DISABILITIES**

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## Agency Summary

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### Governor's Commission on Disabilities

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#### 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". {RIGL 42-51-6(1)} 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 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; 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; 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 General Assembly and the Governor; the Public Awareness Committee developing and implementing a broad public awareness campaign. The Commission's five (5) staff are responsible for (1) Promoting on behalf of the people with disabilities and assuring, on behalf of the state, that people with disabilities are afforded the opportunities to exercise all of the rights and responsibilities accorded to citizens of this state; (2) Arousing community interest in the concerns of people with disabilities through the utilization of whatever community and state resources the commission may deem necessary to accomplish the maximum in independent living and human development; (3) Coordinating compliance with federal and state laws protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities by state agencies; (4) Providing technical assistance to public and private agencies, businesses, and citizens in complying with federal and state laws protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities; (5) Survey all polling places prior to and on every election day; (6) Administering the Mary Brennan fellowship program for students and young adults with disabilities; (7) Managing the Livable Home Modification grant program for home modification and accessibility enhancements to construct, retrofit, and/or renovate residences to allow individuals with significant disabilities to remain in community settings; and (8) Administer the federal Independent Living Services State Grant.

#### Statutory History

The Commission's responsibilities are defined in RI 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

# Budget

## Governor's Commission on Disabilities

	2021 Actuals	2022 Actuals	2023 Enacted Budget	2023 Revised Budget	2024 Recommended
<b>Expenditures by Program</b>					
Central Management	1,266,564	1,358,383	2,215,494	2,269,843	1,733,720
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>1,266,564</b>	<b>1,358,383</b>	<b>2,215,494</b>	<b>2,269,843</b>	<b>1,733,720</b>
<b>Expenditures by Object</b>					
Salary and Benefits	408,035	410,303	566,950	481,839	564,470
Contract Professional Services	49,947	113,395	230,757	126,826	129,792
Operating Supplies and Expenses	60,450	45,773	83,793	100,114	116,543
Assistance and Grants	748,133	787,107	1,333,994	1,542,502	922,915
<b>Subtotal: Operating</b>	<b>1,266,564</b>	<b>1,356,579</b>	<b>2,215,494</b>	<b>2,251,281</b>	<b>1,733,720</b>
Capital Purchases and Equipment	0	1,805	0	18,562	0
<b>Subtotal: Other</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,805</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18,562</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>1,266,564</b>	<b>1,358,383</b>	<b>2,215,494</b>	<b>2,269,843</b>	<b>1,733,720</b>
<b>Expenditures by Source of Funds</b>					
General Revenue	834,299	1,014,840	1,752,601	1,835,632	1,292,951
Federal Funds	429,040	305,139	378,658	378,638	378,638
Restricted Receipts	3,225	38,404	84,235	55,573	62,131
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>1,266,564</b>	<b>1,358,383</b>	<b>2,215,494</b>	<b>2,269,843</b>	<b>1,733,720</b>
<b>FTE Authorization</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>

# Personnel Agency Summary

## Governor's Commission on Disabilities

	FY 2023		FY 2024	
	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Classified	1.0	100,871	1.0	103,392
Unclassified	4.0	238,982	4.0	250,832
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>339,853</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>354,224</b>
Turnover		(35,790)		0
<b>Total Salaries</b>		<b>304,063</b>		<b>354,224</b>
<b>Benefits</b>				
FICA		23,264		27,097
Health Benefits		38,775		45,963
Holiday		2,905		0
Payroll Accrual		0		2,055
Retiree Health		13,621		16,010
Retirement		87,201		105,129
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>165,766</b>		<b>196,254</b>
<b>Total Salaries and Benefits</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>469,829</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>550,478</b>
<b>Cost Per FTE Position</b>		<b>93,966</b>		<b>110,096</b>
Statewide Benefit Assessment		12,010		13,992
<b>Payroll Costs</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>481,839</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>564,470</b>
<b>Purchased Services</b>				
Clerical and Temporary Services		42,915		43,165
Design and Engineering Services		48,381		50,978
Information Technology		2,500		2,500
Management & Consultant Services		19,501		19,501
Other Contracts		13,529		13,648
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>126,826</b>		<b>129,792</b>
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>608,665</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>694,262</b>
<b>Distribution by Source of Funds</b>				
General Revenue	5.0	579,834	5.0	659,512
Restricted Receipts	0.0	28,831	0.0	34,750
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>608,665</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>694,262</b>

# Personnel

## Governor's Commission on Disabilities

### Central Management

		FY 2023		FY 2024	
		FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
<b>Classified</b>					
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY GOVERNOR'S COMM ON THE HANDICAPPED	0132 A	1.0	100,871	1.0	103,392
<b>Subtotal Classified</b>		<b>1.0</b>	<b>100,871</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>103,392</b>
<b>Unclassified</b>					
ASSISTANT ADA COORDINATOR	0824 A	3.0	182,759	3.0	191,544
SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE	0821 A	1.0	56,223	1.0	59,288
<b>Subtotal Unclassified</b>		<b>4.0</b>	<b>238,982</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>250,832</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>5.0</b>	<b>339,853</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>354,224</b>
Turnover			(35,790)		0
<b>Total Salaries</b>			<b>304,063</b>		<b>354,224</b>
<b>Benefits</b>					
FICA			23,264		27,097
Health Benefits			38,775		45,963
Holiday			2,905		0
Payroll Accrual			0		2,055
Retiree Health			13,621		16,010
Retirement			87,201		105,129
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>165,766</b>		<b>196,254</b>
<b>Total Salaries and Benefits</b>		<b>5.0</b>	<b>469,829</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>550,478</b>
<b>Cost Per FTE Position</b>			<b>93,966</b>		<b>110,096</b>
Statewide Benefit Assessment			12,010		13,992
<b>Payroll Costs</b>		<b>5.0</b>	<b>481,839</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>564,470</b>
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<b>Distribution by Source of Funds</b>					
General Revenue		5.0	579,834	5.0	659,512
Restricted Receipts		0.0	28,831	0.0	34,750
<b>Total All Funds</b>		<b>5.0</b>	<b>608,665</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>694,262</b>

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## Performance Measures

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### Governor's Commission on Disabilities

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#### Central Management

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##### Advocating on behalf of People with Disabilities

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The Commission's goal is to ensure that people with disabilities have the opportunity to exercise all rights and responsibilities accorded to Rhode Island 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). [Note: Legislation that was recommended as beneficial if amended, that were neither amended nor enacted, has been re-categorized as not a successful outcome.]

	<i>Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year</i>				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Frequency:</b> Annual					
<b>Target</b>	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%
<b>Actual</b>	38%	52%	43%	--	--

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##### Promoting Safe and Livable Homes

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The Commission seeks to divert people with significant disabilities from nursing homes, by modifying their homes and apartments. The figures below represent the number of beneficiaries whose healthcare provider determined would have moved to long term residential care, but for their home modifications. [Note: This is a new performance measure and historical targets are not available.]

	<i>Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year</i>				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Frequency:</b> Annual					
<b>Target</b>	--	--	--	100%	100%
<b>Actual</b>	99%	55%	76%	--	--

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##### Promoting Barrier Free Elections

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The Commission seeks to ensure voters with disabilities are able to cast votes independently, by secret ballot, 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 Rhode Island.

	<i>Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year</i>				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Frequency:</b> Annual					
<b>Target</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Actual</b>	100%	21%	100%	--	--

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