

CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ACCESS WINTER SCOOP NEWSLETTER 2025

CCDA'S SOCIAL MEDIA PILOT SUCCESS

CCDA is now on Facebook and YouTube! We successfully completed the Department of General Services (DGS) Social Media Pilot and were granted approval to maintain our official Facebook and YouTube channel. Through our platforms, we actively engage with the business community, the disability community, and all levels of government to help raise awareness about disability access compliance for California businesses. On our Facebook page, we share important updates, event highlights, interactive posts, and useful links to our educational toolkits, checklists, guides and other resources for disability access compliance. Our YouTube Channel includes prior commission meetings, listening forums, webinars, and other CCDA events. The videos provide helpful information about accessibility compliance, educational resources, and an overview of our public commission meetings. We are excited to keep building connections and promoting disability access compliance throughout California.

Please subscribe to our YouTube channel and like our Facebook page to stay updated!

UPCOMING COMMISSION EVENTS

Executive Committee | March 5, 2025 | 1:30 – 3 p.m.

Full Commission | March 26, 2025 | 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Education & Outreach Committee | April 9, 2025 | 1:30 – 3 p.m.

Legislative Committee | April 30, 2024 | 1:30 - 3 p.m.

RARE DISEASE DAY | FEBRUARY 28, 2025

Rare Disease Day is celebrated every February 28, or February 29 during a leap year because it is the rarest day of the year. Rare Disease Day is an annual global event that raises awareness of the challenges faced by individuals living with rare diseases. In California, there are over 3 million people affected by a rare disease. This large population has unique challenges that can make everyday activities more difficult. To address this, California has started to create a Rare Disease Advisory Council (RDAC) to help policymakers understand the needs of individuals with rare diseases. Living with a rare disease can impact the experience of visiting businesses. Business owners and operators can play a key role in improving these experiences by creating an accessible environment to better accommodate customers with disabilities. This can include physical

accommodations as well as training staff to better understand the needs of customers with disabilities. Raising awareness of Rare Disease Day can help create a more inclusive community for all.

CALIFORNIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The California Chamber of Commerce (CalChamber) is an advocate for small businesses across the state that provides essential resources, tools, and support to help them succeed in California. CalChamber works to improve the business climate and create opportunities for growth by connecting businesses, policymakers, and local communities. They represent small businesses in legislative matters to help ensure that laws and regulations support businesses growth in the state. CalChamber offers educational resources for small businesses that include compliance tools for navigating regulations, updates on employment laws, workplace safety requirements, and accessibility compliance guidelines. CalChamber provides resources to help ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and California's accessibility compliance laws. Small business owners can access training programs, legal guides, and online resources to stay informed and compliant. By linking small businesses with local and regional chambers, CalChamber helps to create better partnerships and collaboration in their local business communities.

CUTTING EDGE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY – TANVAS

Tanvas is a company in California that makes technology to help people feel textures on touchscreens. Haptic technology refers to systems that create tactile sensations, such as vibrations or textures that can allow users to "feel" digital content. Tanvas adds a new way for people to use digital screens by creating tactile sensations on smooth touchscreens. A traditional touchscreen can mainly provide visual or sound feedback, but TanvasTouch creates a way for users to feel textures and responses with their fingers. This cutting-edge assistive technology tool can help simplify navigation for individuals with disabilities. Businesses can benefit from using haptic technology to help enhance customers with disabilities experience while in their store. For example, restaurants can use haptic feedback in their digital menus to assist customers with disabilities in identifying menu items, special offers, or even allergy information through touch. Tanvas is developing haptic technology that can help enhance how individuals with disabilities interact with digital devices. By incorporating tactile feedback into touchscreens, businesses can help support customers with disabilities. This technology allows easier navigation and access to information that can help to create a more inclusive environment for everyone.

COMMISSIONERS IN THE COMMUNITY – DR. LUCIANA PROFACA

Commissioner Dr. Luciana Profaca has spent over five decades helping to advance equality, independence, and inclusion for people with disabilities. During her nearly 40 years with the California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR), Dr. Profaca accomplished significant milestones. One of her proudest achievements during her work at the DOR is a Leadership Team that focused on empowering people with disabilities. Her team was successful in streamlining complex government processes to make it easier for individuals with disabilities to access vocational rehabilitation services and live independently. Dr. Profaca finds her role with CCDA deeply rewarding because it allows her to support businesses while advancing our mission.

Dr. Profaca serves on CCDA's Education and Outreach Committee and highlights her experience for outreach opportunities, stating, "It is greatly rewarding to advise and potentially impact the opportunities for greater access to all goods and services for all Californians with disabilities while providing businesses with the vast educational resources to bring people with great buying power into their establishments." She believes that direct engagement with both consumers and business owners is important to understanding the challenges of accessibility and finding solutions. She shared about CCDA's outreach efforts to businesses, adding that, "This outreach is a continual and consistent spark moving us forward towards full access." Her extensive career reflects her commitment to promoting accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities. Dr. Profaca is helping to create a more inclusive environment by empowering individuals with disabilities and helping to reach businesses with the resources they need.

CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE – DISASTER RESOURCES

The recent wildfires in California have created challenges for residents and local small businesses. The California Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA) provides vital resources to aid recovery efforts. They provide important resources and information to business owners to help them navigate the recovery process. This office is part of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz). If your business has suffered structural damage, lost inventory, or is facing disruptions in operations, CalOSBA may have resources for you. Their programs and services are tailored to meet the unique needs of small businesses impacted by disasters. CalOSBA is dedicated to helping small businesses rebuild by helping provide resources that enable them to take the necessary steps towards recovery and getting their business back to serving their local community.

If your local community has been affected by the recent California fires, our hearts go out to your communities during this difficult time.

CCDA SCOOP RESOURCES

- [Rare Disease Day | February 28, 2025](#)
- [California Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Cutting-Edge Assistive Tech | TanvasTouch](#)
- [California Office of the Small Business Advocate \(Cal OBAS\) | Resources for Business Recovery](#)

CCDA CONTACT INFORMATION

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