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**Minnesota Council on Disability**

*Agency Profile* ..... 1

<https://www.disability.state.mn.us/>

**AT A GLANCE**

- The Minnesota Council on Disability (MCD) represents and advocates for over one million people or 20% of Minnesota’s population who have a disability - 51% of people over the age of 65 have a disability
- In its 49 years, MCD has responded to nearly one million requests for technical assistance from businesses, employers, state agencies, elected officials, legislators, people with disabilities, and the public
- From 2015-present, MCD engaged in over 380,000 technical and policy-related inquiries
- MCD operates with a staffing compliment of 7.45 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions
- The agency is advised by a geographically diverse, statewide council made up of 17 Governor appointed Minnesotans who are people with disabilities, or their family members, and disability professionals.

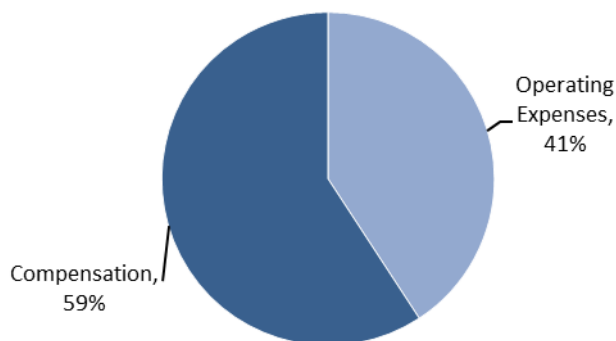
**PURPOSE**

The Minnesota Council on Disability (MCD) exists to ensure programmatic, physical, and digital access to government for all Minnesota taxpayers and to promote Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility in the private sector to fuel a stronger Minnesota economy. The agency is a policy, training, and technical resource for people with disabilities and their families, the private sector, and federal, state, and local governments to strengthen communities.

Minnesota recognizes the value of providing all people with the opportunity to engage in an independent, safe, and productive life. Because accessibility is typically not considered in the design of physical and digital spaces, there are many barriers that hinder the full and safe participation of people with disabilities. MCD holds the state government accountable to the ADA, the Supreme Court Olmstead Decision, Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, Fair Housing Act, the Minnesota Human Rights Act, Minnesota Building Code, and other rules and laws to ensure the right of every Minnesotan to live, work, and play in the community of their choice.

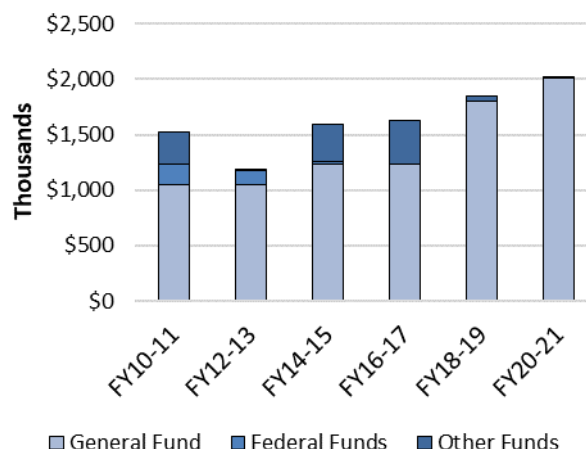
**BUDGET**

**Spending by Category  
FY 2021 Actual**



Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)

**Historical Spending**



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

Note: Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Pathways to Employment infrastructure building grant. Federal funds have been categorized differently due to accounting requirements. ***Pathways to Employment funds received are represented in the graph as 'other' funds from SFY2008-2010.*** In SFY2011-2013 those funds were reclassified as "federal funds". Since SFY2012 and on-going, MCD partnered with MN Dept. of Public Safety/Homeland Security and Emergency Management to include people with disabilities in statewide emergency preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery plans.\* (\*see below)

## STRATEGIES

MCD is statutorily obligated to advise the Minnesota Legislature, the Governor's Office, and every state agency on how to improve the accessibility, efficiency, and transparency of government services and to ensure accountability in compliance with civil rights laws. At the highest level of influence and leadership, MCD shapes policy by being the voice of the disability community. MCD utilizes a comprehensive communications strategy which includes providing training and technical resources in a wide variety of mediums to legislators, policymakers, agencies, and organizations to guide informed decisions. MCD provides professional assistance and training modules in digital access for employees and employers within the government. The Council also represents the disability community on various public advisory boards and commissions that serve both urban and rural Minnesota.

MCD is the epicenter of information flow: communicating the civil liberties of people with disabilities to policymakers, communicating information about rights and responsibilities to people with disabilities, and communicating rules from government to businesses. This communication is vital to protect the civil rights of people with disabilities and to prevent compliance-related lawsuits against businesses. MCD strengthens the Minnesota economy by working with businesses to find a financially feasible path to ADA compliance, increasing access to services for customers with disabilities and employment opportunities for all Minnesotans.

The Council on Disability provides practical assistance, education and outreach to experts designing and building physical spaces and communication professionals in digital, audio and video environments. The Council on Disability leads public-private partnerships; providing access consultation on everything from government agencies to major sports facilities and transportation. MCD has a broad statutory scope; and the agency must apply expertise to matters where the balance of inequality is lacking.

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the disability community with disproportional loss of life, employment, housing, education, and loss of independent living. The crisis highlighted and stressed the long known and continued health care disparities for Minnesotans with disabilities.

MCD supported the statewide emergency response by providing a full-time Disability Advisor to the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) to voice and advocate for the rights and needs of the disability community in the planning and response of the crisis. Early on, MCD supported and highlighted to the SEOC the need for critical PPE supplies for personal care assistance service providers and disability community organizations. MCD provided consultation and technical assistance on nine Peacetime Emergency Executive Orders and provided 103 situation report updates to SEOC leadership.

MCD's partnership and collaboration with the State Emergency Operations Center was recognized as a best practice model by the National Governor's Association. MCD presented on a national COVID-19 response call with Governors of other states on lessons learned.

MCD continues to expand service offerings and answer the increased demand from state agencies for disability consultation services, despite having reduced staffing capacity and positions that cannot be filled due to budget constraints. MCD also develops and maintains deep relationships with legislators who rely on MCD to ensure policies and legislation serve the disability community. As the state's only independent state agency that represents all disabilities, we serve as a critical lifeline and advocate for rights of Minnesotans with disabilities.

## RESULTS

FY20 & FY21 results impacted by COVID-19, redeployment of staff, budget constraints, and hiring freeze

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous FY19/20:</i>	<i>Current: FY21/22</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Quantity	ADA compliance training: “ADA Litigation Prevention” for small businesses delivered throughout MN (in response to ADA lawsuits brought against small businesses) (training impacted by COVID crisis and federal judges stopped hearing causes deemed “serial litigants”)	25 trainings  1213 business reached	5 trainings  35 business reached	FY19/20 FY21/22
Quality	Satisfaction of ADA Litigation Prevention training	5 of 5	5 of 5	FY19/20 FY 21/22
Quantity	Digital/electronic accessibility communication technical assistance provided to 1. State Agencies (SA); and 2. Non-state agency (NSA)  <b>The state enterprise, in part due to MCD providing internal digital accessibility technical assistance, has made gains in its ability to be digitally accessible to ALL Minnesotans.</b>	SA: 56 NSA: 21	SA: 41 NSA: 29	FY19/20 FY 21/22
Result	Diversity and inclusion cultural competency (self) rating before and after “Integrating the ADA in Employment Practices” for MMB State of MN Supervisors/Managers Core Training	Before training: 3/5  After training: 4.4/5	Before training 2.5/5  After training: 4.2/5	FY19/20 FY21/22
Quantity	Integrating the ADA in Employment Practices” for MMB State of MN Supervisors/Managers Core Training	900 trained	1135 trained	FY19/20 FY22/22
Quantity	Direct contact via phone calls, emails  <b>Data not available/transition needed to a new database compliant with current MNIT enterprise standards.</b>	not available	not available	FY19/20 FY21/22
Quantity	Website Visits	270,739	370,218	FY19/20 FY21/22
Quantity	Social Media Engagements, Twitter/Facebook/YouTube	290,012	1,084,843	FY19/20 FY21/22

The legal authority for the Minnesota Council on Disability (MCD) comes from M.S. 256.482. (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=256.482>)