

DATA:

- **US Census: American Community Living Survey (2019) Data**
 - 1,012,352 non-institutionalized
 - Persons in Virginia in 2019 living with a disability
 - 945,943 noninstitutionalized persons w/disabilities live in Va.; (over the age of 16)
 - 27.4% are employed; (70.3% are not in labor force);
 - 21.5% w/a disability have a bachelor's degree or higher.
- **American Community Living Survey Data 2019:**
 - 12.1% male & 12.3% females with disabilities
- **Virginia 2019 Disability status (source: Centers for Disease Control (CDC): Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS):**
- 24.5 % of non-Veterans have a disability – compared to 20.9% of Veterans with a disability. As of Jan. 1, 2021, DMAS website DATA lists only 1.8% of Virginians on Medicaid are persons with Disability or Blindness
- **BRFSS Race/Ethnicity = % with disability:**
 - American Indian or Alaska Native = 45.5%
 - Other/Multirace/non-Hispanic = 28.5%
 - Hispanic = 27.4%
 - Black/non-Hispanic = 27.1%
 - White/non-Hispanic = 23.4%
 - Asian/non-Hispanic = 11.3%

DISABILITIES:

Persons of all ages, race, color, creed, nationality, political affiliation are affected by disabilities.

COVID in and of itself has added another disability category of LONG COVID to the ADA definition, and therefore will need resources and contacts.

Persons/Families of persons with disabilities, who are not on public assistance (i.e., SNAP, Medicaid) do not have any resource(s) to help them navigate the fragmented health care system, or services and supports, both private and public.

Particularly persons who have an onset after age 21, need advocacy in state government, as there are few services for this group, particularly when medical insurance runs out or does not cover.

Persons who are disabled later in life have a different perspective than those who are born with a disability or who have onset before age 21 and get public supports (i.e., Medicaid Waiver) to help with housing, personal support aides, transportation, etc.).

Questions Contact

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HB 595: Disability Rights Advocacy, Special Assistant to the Governor

1:4 persons have a disability, or stated another way:

25% of your constituents have a disability, or stated another way:

25% of residents of Virginia have a disability

Persons with disabilities and their family members VOTE, have opinions and are valued part of society.

Disabilities = persons with physical disabilities, mental disabilities, persons who are blind or have limited vision; persons who are deaf, deaf who use assistive technology to hear; etc.

Persons who have an onset after age 21, lack public resources for employment, housing, advocacy, networking across all state agencies, and advocacy to assist with both public services and ADA requirements.



“TOGETHER
WE CAN
DO MORE!”

If you or your family had a disability, what would you want your state to offer to help you navigate the world of living with a disability or multiple debilitating conditions?

***ALL PERSONS ARE
CREATED EQUAL,
NOW WE NEED TO
TREAT EVERYONE
AS EQUAL. JOBS,
HOUSING, MEDICAL
CARE,
TRANSPORTATION,
& QUALITY OF LIFE***



PRODUCTS/SERVICES FOR POSITION:

- To represent persons with disabilities in meetings, with agencies or private sector organizations for persons with ALL Disabilities.
- Contact all state agencies: for training on persons with disabilities.
- Be a resource to state agencies on the ADA, the Virginians with Disabilities and to ensure visibility, advocacy, and assistance for state employees with disabilities or residents of Virginia with disabilities.
- Be a lens for the Governor on appropriate language, set up for meetings, and effects of actions on/for people with disabilities.
- Be a conduit with ALL agencies to network on disability issues.
- This is a global Advocacy position and would enhance other state agency or board(s).
- Diverse knowledge of the complexities of multiple disabilities and effects on “lived experiences” is needed to ensure, inclusion for ALL residents of Virginia.
- Be a person you/your office can reach out to for any issues affecting a person with disabilities.
- Be the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Coordinator for Virginia, as required by the federal law.