



NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

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FCC ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission today announced the planned formation of the Disability Advisory Committee and seeks nominations for membership. The Commission will accept nominations until January 12, 2015.

The Commission expects to hold its first meeting of the new Committee during the first quarter of 2015, coinciding with a year-long celebration of both the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the 5th anniversary of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act (CVAA).

The Committee, to be created under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, will provide a vehicle for consumers and other stakeholders to provide feedback and recommendations to the Commission on a wide array of disability issues within the FCC's jurisdiction. The new body will enable the FCC to keep pace with evolving communications accessibility issues and build on its record of ensuring access to communications and video programming for people with disabilities.

Some of the issues the Committee will address include telecommunications relay services, closed captioning, video description, access to emergency information on television and telephone emergency services, device accessibility, IP and other network transitions, and the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program, as well as new disability and accessibility issues that arise.

Recommendations from the Committee will aid the Commission's effective implementation of disability protections and development of accessibility solutions. It is expected to keep the Commission apprised of current and evolving communications issues for persons with disabilities.

Individuals or organizations interested in serving on the Committee should visit www.fcc.gov/disability-advisory-committee for information on the nominating process. The intended term is two years, with start-up expected during the first quarter of 2015. Organizations are encouraged to nominate CEOs, CTOs and other qualified persons. Submit all nominations by e-mail to DAC@fcc.gov.

For additional information about the Committee, please contact Elaine Gardner, the Designated Federal Officer for the Disability Advisory Committee, at (202) 418-0581 (Elaine.Gardner@fcc.gov), or call ASL Consumer Support Line at 1-844-432-2275 via videophone.

To request materials in accessible formats (braille, large print, electronic files and audio format) for people with disabilities, send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice) or 202-418-0432 (TTY).

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