

The ADA and Public Safety

**Where We've Been, Where We Are,
and How to Keep Our Voices Heard.**

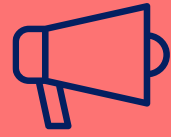


Facilitated by:

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Purpose of this Presentation



Share Disability History in Oregon

It has been 35 years since the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act.



Highlight the need to organize and self-advocate

Many people are unaware of movements that built accessibility like the Capitol Crawl and the Independent Living Movement



Empower your voices

Public Safety can get better from hearing about your needs, fears, and lived experiences



Have Dialogue

Have a group dialogue about your lived experiences, barriers, and success with Public Safety



Share Resources

Share feedback or seek ongoing support

Public Safety Service Area

Portland, Oregon

Portland Police	Portland & Multnomah County 9-1-1	Portland Fire & Rescue	Emergency Management	Community Safety Division
Police Officers Public Safety Support Specialists	Emergency 9-1-1 and Non-Emergency Calls for Service	Fire Fighters Community Health Responders	Neighborhood Emergency Teams (NETs) Emergency Preparedness	Portland Street Response Office of Violence Prevention Safe Blocks Rose City Self-Defense

Emergency Concerns

Police Emergencies



- Abuse
- People Crimes
- Property Crimes
- Public Disruptions
- Traffic Accidents

Fire Emergencies



- Building Fires
- Wild Fires
- Brush Fires
- Downed Power Lines
- Enclosed/High Level Rescues
- Traffic Accidents

Health Emergencies



- Medical Emergencies
- Fire Injuries
- Mental Health
- Emergency Medical Transportation
- Traffic Accidents

Natural Disasters



- Wildfires
- Extreme Heat
- Extreme Cold
- Earthquakes
- Severe Storms
- Tsunamis
- Tornadoes
- Hurricanes

Disability History in Oregon

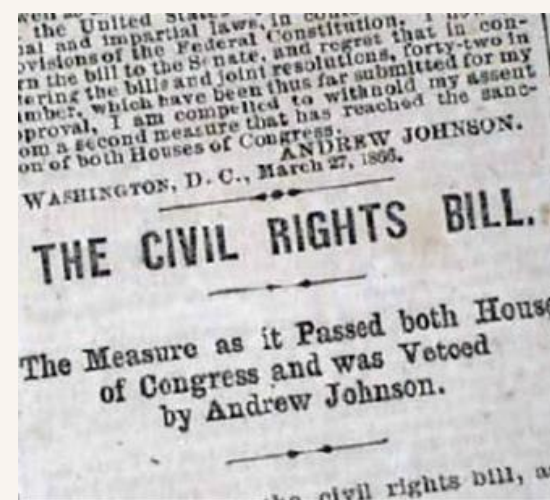
1862 Civil Commitment

Any Oregon Justice of the Peace can declare a person a “lunatic” and commit them to care. There are no due process protections—no right to a lawyer, hearing, or appeal. Many people are committed indefinitely and often stay in state hospitals for life.



1866 Civil Rights Act 1866

The US Congress passes the first civil rights act guaranteeing equal protection under the law. It does not protect the rights of people with disabilities.



1881 Ugly Laws

Portland, Oregon adopts an "Ugly Law," which bans begging in public spaces by anyone “crippled, maimed, or deformed.” These laws criminalize physical difference and disability. They are part of a national trend, beginning in places like San Francisco and Chicago, and are deeply rooted in ableism and a desire to maintain a sanitized urban image.



Disability History in Oregon: 1908–1964

1908 Institutionalization

The Fairview Training Center in Salem, Ore. becomes the state's largest institution for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Residents face systemic abuse, including forced sterilizations, physical punishment, and inadequate care.



1917 Eugenics

The Oregon State Legislature passes a bill titled "To Prevent Procreation of Certain Classes in Oregon," creating the Oregon State Board of Eugenics. This board orders sterilizations of individuals deemed "feebleminded," "insane," "epileptic," "habitual criminals," "moral degenerates," and "sexual perverts." From 1917 to 1981, over 2,600 Oregonians are sterilized.



1964 Civil Rights Act of 1964

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 is passed. It does not protect the rights of people with disabilities.



Disability History in Oregon: 1973–1990

1973 The Rehabilitation Act

The Rehabilitation Act is passed. Section 504 prohibits discrimination based on disability in programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance, including public education, health care, and transportation.



1974 Art Honeyman Arrested for Violating "Ugly Law"

Art Honeyman is denied service at a pancake house in Portland, Oregon, and then arrested by police. This [video clip](#) from the film "Music Within" reenacts the event.



1990 Americans with Disabilities Act

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is passed, finally recognizing the civil rights of people with disabilities.



Community Outreach & Engagement

Working with Community to Improve Outcomes

Outreach

Educate Community Members on the services provided by Public Safety and how to access those services.

Normalize the Process

We want Community Members to be able to trust Public Safety. We are here to serve them.



Engagement

Listen to Community Members about their experiences, the choices they make around using services, and known barriers.

Make Changes

Make adjustments and changes as we are able based on what Community Members have told us.

Group Discussion

Your Experiences

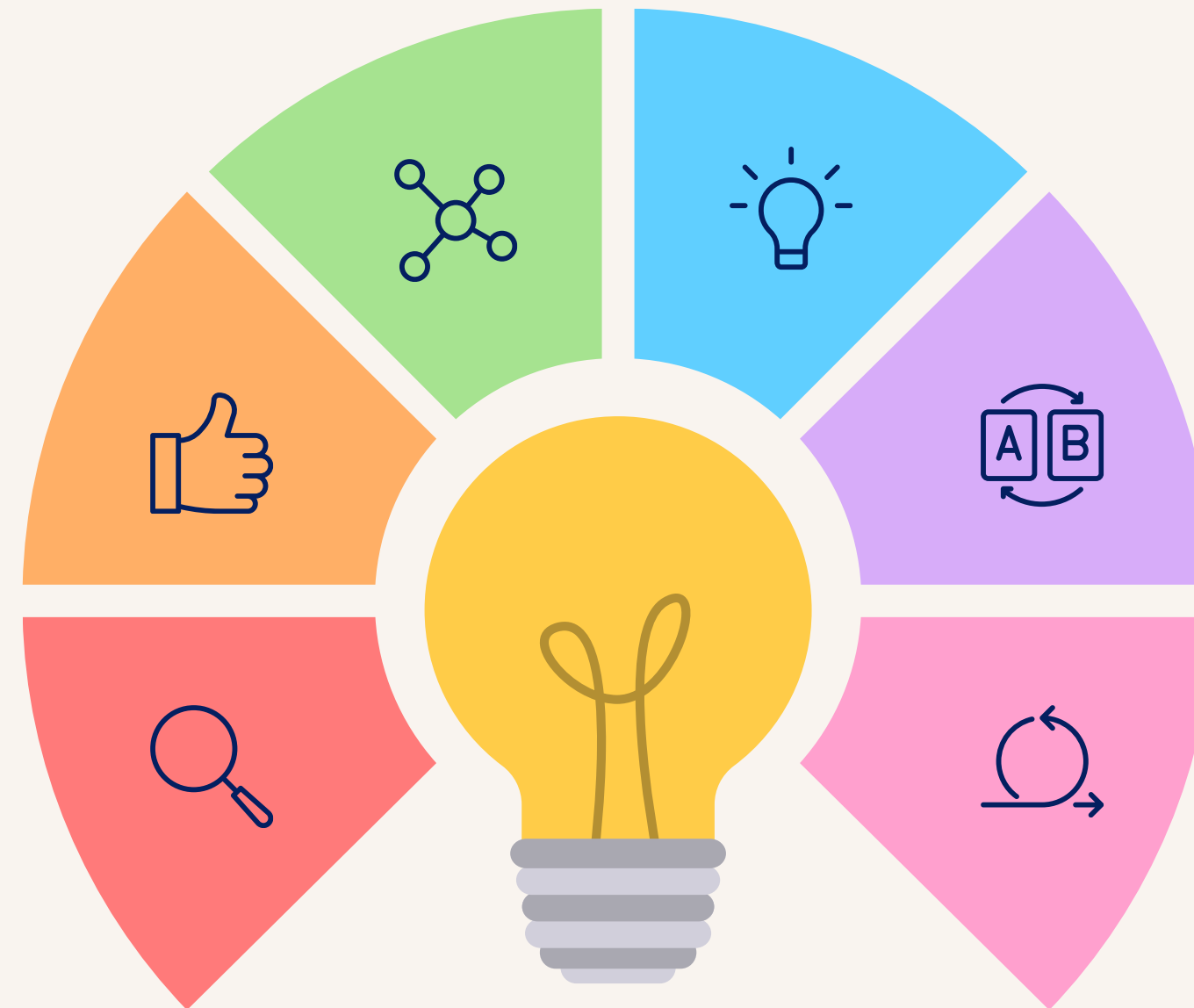
What have been your experiences with Public Safety?

Experiences from Others

What have others shared with you about their experiences with Public Safety?

Barriers

Are there barriers to you accessing Public Safety?



Your Thoughts & Opinions

What are your thoughts on Public Safety?

Changes

What changes do you want to see in Public Safety for Accessibility?

Feedback

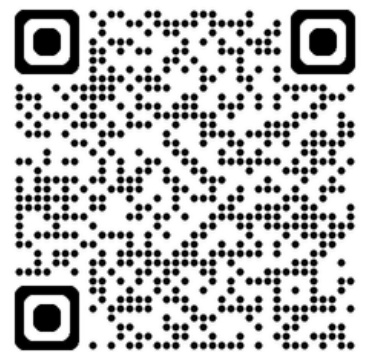
What other feedback do you want to share?

City of Portland 311:

- Request ADA Accommodation for City of Portland programs and services

- Report ADA violations for programs serviced by the City of Portland
 - Includes rideshare

Request an ADA Accommodation | [Portland.gov](https://portland.gov)



Use 911 to Request:

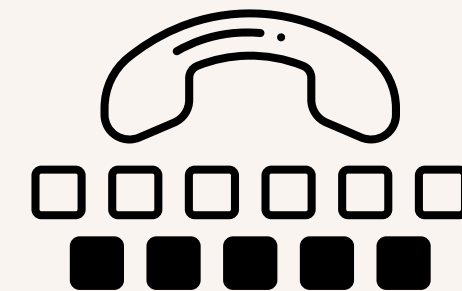
- Police
- Fire
- Medical
- Alternative Responders (PS3s, PSR, CHAT)



Call



Text



RTT/TTY



The Hidden Disability Sunflower



It's a voluntary program for people with non-visible disabilities to signal their need for support.

The sunflower symbol is a recognized cue that someone may require assistance, patience, or more time.

It allows individuals to receive support in various settings, including public transit, shops, and other public spaces.



Resources:

- [Emergency preparedness for people with disabilities CDC](#)
- [OHSU Emergency Preparedness for people with disabilities](#)
- [Disability and disaster hotline](#)
- [Hero kids OHSU](#)
- [Burn out and belonging impacts on youth advocates](#)
- [The Future of Disability Advocacy](#)
- [Cities Embrace New & Improved 311 Services | Data-Smart City Solutions](#)
- [How to contact 9-1-1 and Non-Emergency](#)
- [Where to go to make a police report](#)



Not From Around Here?



- [The National 9-1-1 Program](#)
- [State 9-1-1 Programs Administrator Directory](#)
- [List of State Emergency Management Office Contacts](#)
- Contact your local County or City Offices to find out the Police and Law Enforcement Responders for your address



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