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Here is your February 27, 2015 update on the Americans with Disabilities Act 25th Anniversary Celebration.

SAVE THE DATE: 25TH ADA ANNIVERSARY FAMILY DAY

Join us on July 26 for the premiere ADA Celebration in Minnesota!

MSCOD has exciting plans for July 26th, with our yearlong festivities culminating in a 25th ADA Anniversary Celebration and Family Day at the Minnesota History Center. Everyone is invited to the party, which will run from noon until 4:00pm. Admission is FREE!

The Family Day will include live entertainment, an open mic, arts activities, and much more. A portion of tpt's upcoming documentary about the ADA will also be aired at the event as well. This celebration will be fun for the whole family, and we hope you join us! Stay tuned for more information.

STILL TIME TO TAKE THE ADA EMPLOYMENT SURVEY!

MSCOD contracted with the Improve Group, an external research group from Saint Paul, to study what the employment landscape in Minnesota looks like now that ADA has been law for 25 years. We are examining how employment—both for the employer, and the disabled individual who may currently be employed, or is seeking employment—has been impacted by the ADA.

The survey can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/ADA25employmentMN>

Please share it with everyone!

These survey results will provide valuable data that will allow us to develop employee training programs.

We will gladly share the survey results. You will be prompted at the end of the survey if you would like to receive the report. We are excited to learn about your experience with the ADA! Please contact Andrew Mosca at Andrew.Mosca@state.mn.us or 651-361-7803 with any questions.

REEL ABILITIES FILM FESTIVAL

The Reel Abilities Film Festival, hosted locally by Partnership Resources Inc, will take place from June 11–14, 2015 at multiple venues.

For 2015, Independent Filmmaker Project Minnesota (www.ifpmn.org), Partnership Resources, Inc. (www.partnershipresources.org), and Twin Cities Public Television (www.tpt.org) are partnering to create a shorts program for this year's Minneapolis-St. Paul RFF, a Salute to Minnesota Filmmakers of All Abilities. The festival is looking for films by and/or about people with disabilities that creatively and compellingly explore, discuss, and celebrate the diversity of our shared human experience.

The deadline for submissions is May 15, 2015. For more information, please visit the [Reel Abilities website](#).

THE ADA LEGACY PROJECT: MOMENTS IN DISABILITY HISTORY 24

Task Force on the Rights and Empowerment of Americans with Disabilities

“When the original version of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was introduced on April 29, 1988, most Americans were not fully aware of the need for comprehensive civil rights for people with disabilities. To gather and present

on the extent and nature of such discrimination, in May 1988 United States Congressman Major Owens (NY) established a Task Force on the Rights and Empowerment of Americans with Disabilities. The Task Force was operated by 38 citizen volunteers with no public funding.”

Those included in this story are: Justin Dart, Jr., Jeff Moyer, Elizabeth M. Boggs, Lex Frieden, and many more. To read more about these influential people, please visit the [Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities website](#). The Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities ADA Legacy Project “celebrates the impact of the Americans with Disabilities Act on disability rights, and honors the contributions of individuals with disabilities and their allies who persevered in securing the passage of this landmark civil rights legislation.”

ADA NEWS

- The [2015 Minnesota Self-Advocacy Conference](#) will be at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in St. Paul on March 27-28, 2015.
- [In Fight Over Service Dog, School Board Is Brought To Heel](#)
- [Advancing Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities](#)
- The [ADA Legacy Tour](#) stopped in Orlando, FL from January 28-31, and will be in Austin, TX on March 1.

About the ADA 25th Anniversary Legacy Project

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) turns 25 years old on July 26, 2015. The Minnesota State Council on Disability (MSCOD) is planning a number of activities leading up to and marking this historic day.

The MSCOD ADA 25 year Anniversary Legacy Project seeks to preserve and raise awareness of Minnesota’s role in the development of the ADA as well as celebrate Minnesota’s disability cultures in tandem with the 25 year anniversary of the passage of the ADA.

For more information about the Legacy Fund visit <http://www.legacy.leg.mn/>.

MSCOD's Legacy Funds are administered by the Minnesota Humanities Center. Learn more about the Minnesota Humanities Center at <http://www.minnesotahumanities.org/>.

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The Minnesota Historical and Cultural Grants Program has been made possible by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on November 4, 2008. Administered by the Minnesota Historical Society.