



ADA35
Americans with Disabilities Act
1990-2025



The Americans with Disabilities Act: A Landmark Law with Lasting Impact

2025 marks the 35th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)—one of the most transformative civil rights laws in American history. Enacted on July 26, 1990, the ADA prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in nearly all areas of public life, including employment, education, transportation, and access to public and private spaces open to the general public. The law has helped remove physical and societal barriers, making the world more inclusive for over 61 million Americans living with disabilities. Its passage was the result of decades of tireless advocacy, grassroots organizing, and a growing awareness that disability rights are human rights.

Early Struggles and Civil Rights Roots

To understand the significance of the ADA, it is important to recognize the conditions that existed before it. For much of U.S. history, people with disabilities were often marginalized, institutionalized, and excluded from public life. Public buildings had no wheelchair access, public schools often refused to admit children with disabilities, and employers could legally discriminate in hiring or firing based on a person's physical or mental condition.

The disability rights movement gained momentum in the 1960s and 1970s, inspired in part by the broader civil rights movements of the time. Activists began challenging exclusion and discrimination by drawing attention to the

systemic barriers that limited the participation of disabled individuals in society. One major breakthrough came in 1973 with the Rehabilitation Act, particularly Section 504, which stated that no person with a disability could be excluded from or denied benefits from any program receiving federal funding.

Though Section 504 laid the foundation, it was limited in scope and lacked enforcement. Real, wide-reaching change would take years of further advocacy. Organizations like ADAPT and the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities organized protests, sit-ins, and public awareness campaigns to demand equal rights and inclusion. One particularly powerful moment occurred in 1990 when dozens of people with disabilities famously participated in the "Capitol Crawl,"

(continued on page 2)

The Americans with Disabilities Act is more than just a law—it is a civil rights milestone, a social movement, and a promise. For 35 years, it has helped tear down barriers and build a more accessible and compassionate nation. As we commemorate this anniversary in 2025, we honor the courage of the advocates who made the ADA possible, and we recommit to its vision: a future where all people, regardless of ability, are included, respected, and empowered.

In This Issue...

- Out to Lunch..... 3
- New Staff..... 4
- County Updates..... 5
- Smart 911..... 6
- BASE Activities..... 7
- Summit Thanks..... 8
- Disability Pride Month..... 8

abandoning their wheelchairs and crawling up the steps of the U.S. Capitol to draw attention to the inaccessibility of public spaces. This event, among others, pressured lawmakers to act.

The Passage of the ADA

On July 26, 1990, President George H. W. Bush signed the ADA into law in a powerful ceremony on the White House lawn. His words that day captured the significance of the moment: "Let the shameful wall of exclusion finally come tumbling down."

The ADA is divided into five key titles:

- **Title I:** Prohibits employment discrimination and requires reasonable accommodations in the workplace.
- **Title II:** Ensures equal access to public services, including transportation and government programs.
- **Title III:** Mandates accessibility in public accommodations such as restaurants, hotels, theaters, and stores.
- **Title IV:** Requires telephone and communication companies to provide services for individuals with hearing and speech disabilities.
- **Title V:** Contains various provisions, including protections against retaliation for asserting ADA rights.

For the first time in history, people with disabilities had clear legal backing to challenge exclusion and discrimination in virtually all areas of life.

Real-Life Impact and Societal Shifts

The ADA has had a profound and wide-ranging effect on American society. Since its passage, wheelchair ramps, elevators, curb cuts, accessible restrooms, and braille signage have become common features in public spaces. These improvements not only benefit people with disabilities but also assist the elderly, parents with strollers, and others navigating the built environment.

In the workplace, the ADA has made it illegal for employers to refuse to hire someone solely based on their disability. It requires companies to make "reasonable accommodations," such as adjusting work schedules, modifying equipment, or providing assistive technologies. As a result, more individuals with disabilities have joined the workforce, contributing their talents to industries across the nation.

Education has also been transformed by the ADA. K–12 schools and higher education institutions must ensure that students with disabilities receive the accommodations and support they need to access the same opportunities as their peers. This has opened doors for generations of students who were once excluded or underserved.

Beyond the tangible changes, the ADA has shifted public perception. It has reframed disability as a natural part of human diversity, rather than something to be hidden or pitied. While challenges and stigma still exist, there is greater recognition today of the importance of accessibility, inclusion, and equity.

Challenges and the Road Ahead

Despite its many successes, the ADA's work is far from finished. Many individuals with disabilities still face barriers in employment, housing, transportation, and healthcare. Accessibility in the digital world—websites, apps, and online learning platforms—is an ongoing concern. As society becomes more reliant on technology, ensuring digital access for all is critical.

The ADA is a living document—one that must continue to evolve alongside society's needs. The full promise of the ADA will only be reached if we remain committed in our efforts to fully implement the ADA and reduce attitudinal barriers, labels, and stigmas towards people with disabilities that still exist today.



JOIN THE SUMMIT CREW!

OUT TO



LUNCH

CARAS PARK
DOWNTOWN MISSOULA

July 16

11am - 2pm

Celebrate 35 years of
the Americans With
Disabilities Act!

ADA DAY AT OUT TO LUNCH

Keep your eye out for Summit's tent at Missoula's Out to Lunch event, where we'll be celebrating the Americans with Disabilities Act.

There will be live music, food trucks, and an official proclamation from the City of Missoula commemorating the 35th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Free and open to all at Missoula's Caras Park,
Wednesday, July 16 at 11 AM until 2 PM.

SUMMIT BOARD



Molly Blair
Sherene Ricci
Gabrielle Broere
Kelly Sellars

Tom Seekins
Randy Blevins
Jodine Tarbert
Lori Abramson

SUMMIT STAFF

Missoula County

Executive Director
Tami Hoar

Policy Director
Travis Hoffman

SD-CFC/PAS Program Manager
Carrie Dyrud

SD-CFC/PAS Coordinator
Patti Montgomery-Stewart

SD-CFC/PAS Coordinator
Devon Harris

SD-CFC/PAS Administrative Assistant
Jessica Workman

IL Specialist & Peer Coordinator
Tyler Stosich

Program Support Specialist
Theresa Martinosky

IL & Recreation Specialist
Brenden Dalin

Executive Office Manager
Solveig Gasner

Independent Living Specialist
Sabrina Quimby

Communications Director
Blake de Pastino

BASE Coordinator
John Howard

Youth Transitions Coordinator
Gavin Workman

BASE Advisor
Michael Beers

Financial Officer
Scott Fels

Accounting Assistant
Kellie Morrison

Flathead County

County Coordinator
Dianna Kintzler

Program Support Specialist
Katie Newman

SD-CFC/PAS Specialist
Aleyna Raymond

Ravalli County

Deputy Director
Alan Fugleberg

Independent Living Specialist
Jenny Monson

Independent Living Specialist
Darcy Curry

Lake & Sanders County

Deputy Director
Alan Fugleberg

Independent Living Specialist
Susan Morris

Independent Living Specialist
Teresa Nightingale

New Summit Staff

Darcy Curry Independent Living Specialist- Hamilton



Darcy was originally born in Billings Montana and moved to Missoula in 2006. She graduated from the University of Montana in 2018 with a BSW (Bachelor of Social Work). Darcy recently relocated back to Western Montana from Hawaii and is enjoying the beautiful Montana mountains once again.

Darcy is looking forward to working with Summit Independent Living. She has always had a passion for social work and connecting individuals with community

resources.

Darcy hopes her lived experiences, education, and passion for social work will lend itself well to Summit's "Independent Living" philosophy.

Jenny Monson Independent Living Specialist- Hamilton



Jenny has been a peer Advocate with Summit since 2014. We are now happy to announce that she has moved up to an independent living specialist in Hamilton.

Roughly 7 years ago Jenny was hired as a Licensed Peer Support Specialist and worked on an ACT Team at WMMHC so she has extensive experience in collaborating with clinicians, therapists, and consumers. She has extensive training in community mental health and working with individuals who have recently acquired some form of disability. She takes a lot of pride in helping individuals with disabilities find new freedoms and capabilities.

She is happy to be part of the team in Hamilton.

Summit Office Updates

Polson Office

The Polson office just completed a Living Well in the Community Workshop. There were up to 11 people attending the workshop over the course of 10 weeks. There were many lively discussions, community building, and everyone ended with tools to help them live healthier, more fulfilling lives in their communities. The next opportunity to attend and participate in a living well workshop will be late September. For registration, see contact information for Theresa below.

On July 2, a CHEW (Cost-effective Healthy Eating Workshop) workshop will be starting at the Polson office. It will run for 6 weeks from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. every Wednesday.

Contact Theresa Martinosky to register for a workshop:

tmartinosky@summitilc.org or 406-728-1630 ext: 111

Class sizes are limited so reach out as soon as possible.

Kalispell Office

Summer has kicked off here in Kalispell! Currently there are several community activities/workshops actively going. Including, YODA and Third Thursday Crafternoon.

YODA (Youth Opening Doors Through Advocacy) participants learn about community, daily living, local laws, independent living, and most importantly, self-advocacy.

Third Thursday Crafternoon is a project based arts and crafts get-together. You can follow along with an assigned project or bring something to work on your own. This get-together is for individuals of all abilities.

Kalispell Summit is also taking applications for an Independent Living Specialist. This is a full-time, career opportunity for someone with a background in social work, human services, and working with individuals with disabilities.

For more information about workshops, peer group, or employment please contact Dianna at 406-257-0048 ext. 3 or go to www.summitilc.org/about/employment.

Hamilton Office

The Ravalli County office in Hamilton continues to be busy assisting consumers with disability applications, appeals, overpayments, and continuing disability reviews.

Darcy Curry is our new full-time Independent Living Specialist who joined our part-time IL Specialist, Jenny Monson, in May.

We are continuing to invite increased participation in activities at the Hamilton office that include the Art Expressions class each Tuesday afternoon; Aktion Club (People First) on Wednesday afternoons, Thank Goodness It's Activity Friday afternoons; The Bookworm Group on Friday mornings, and the Aktion Club (People First).

If you have any questions about our classes and workshops, please call Jenny Monson at 406-363-5242.



Smart911[®]

Missoula County Urges Residents to Sign Up for Emergency Alerts Ahead of Active Wildfire Season

With the possibility of an intense wildfire season looming this summer, the Missoula County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) reminds residents to sign up for emergency notifications to ensure they receive timely information about potential evacuation warnings and orders.

OEM encourages all residents to sign up for Smart911 at smart911.com or by downloading the smartphone app. Smart911 is a free, secure service that delivers timely, location-specific alerts to help keep residents safe during emergencies and disasters. Residents must opt in to receive alerts on their cellphones. While Smart911 emergency alerts are automatically delivered to landlines, local emergency services cannot send these alerts to mobile devices without permission.

Emergency officials use many methods to share information during an emergency, including traditional and social media, but emergency alerts are the quickest, most efficient way they can deliver information about possible evacuations directly to those impacted.

Signing up for Smart911 alerts is the best way you can be prepared to evacuate and stay updated during quickly evolving situations.

Missoula County uses a two-stage evacuation process:

1. Evacuation WARNING: This means current or projected hazards may require immediate evacuation. This is a good time for residents to make final preparations, like checking their “go bag,” moving people who need extra help, and checking on their neighbors who may need assistance.

2. Evacuation ORDER: This means current conditions present an imminent threat, danger or loss of life to people in the affected area, and residents should evacuate immediately.

While emergency officials will make every effort to first issue an evacuation warning, an evacuation order may be issued during a rapidly unfolding event with no prior notice or warning. Residents do not have to wait for an order to evacuate. Evacuating early gives more time for disaster response.

In addition to issuing evacuation information, OEM uses Smart911 alerts to notify residents of immediate safety concerns specific to their neighborhood. These alerts are highly targeted, and residents will only receive them if they apply to the address registered to their account. This helps reduce alert fatigue and keeps messages relevant and actionable.

To ensure they receive any location-specific alerts, residents should verify their phone number within the app or website. Once a device is registered and location information is provided, alerts can be sent based on that location. Users should also log into their account every six months to keep their profile active.

In addition to enabling emergency alerts, Smart911 also allows residents to create a safety profile with important information about their household. This profile can include details such as medical conditions, family members and pets, which can help first responders during emergencies.

More information, visit <https://www.missoulacounty.us/government/public-safety/office-of-emergency-management/smart911>

BASE SCHEDULE

725 West Alder, #4 Missoula, MT

For the following activities,
please call BASE for details:

- All Abilities Yoga
- Game Night
- Art Group
- Filmmaking
- Improv Workshop

Check out BASE films on the BASE YouTube channel BASE Film Extravaganza.
(see QR code below)



For BASE Schedule Updates and
Additional Events go to:

www.summitilc.org/calendar

or check the BASE Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/base725>

To get involved or to share ideas of new BASE programs, contact BASE jhoward@summitilc.org.

Contact BASE:

www.basemissoula.org

Phone: 406-215-1080

CLASSIFIED ADS

Adult Symmetry Stander

\$300 obo, in good condition
call: Nancy 406-273-9012

Jazzy Pride Wheelchair

Make offer, only 2yrs old
call: Linda 406-531-4938

Shoprider power chair

300lb capacity. Needs battery & charger.
Free (406) 728-1630

Symmetry Stander, Quickie Powerchair, Invacare Powerbed, Hoyer lift

Comfortable, easy-to-use seat stander Call/
leave message: Tejeanne (406) 865-0221

Power Scooter

\$500 obo. Please contact Adrian:
(406) 263-8650

Adult Tricycle

Schwinn 26" tricycle, bike pump included.
\$500obo (406) 721-1698

Wheelchair Lift

Ricon wheelchair lift model #S1231
G00100100. \$400obo.
Contact: Cory (406) 471-3314

Silver Spring wheelchair ramp 10' L x 36" W

Made of high-strength light weight
aluminum. \$297obo. Contact:
tamera144@gmail.com or 406-363-4898

Smart Talker text scanner

Slightly used, \$700. Contact Larry at 406-
633-4036 or ketch1969@gmail.com

Nova Walker, Quontum 600 power wheelchair, Commode, 2 Transfer Benches, Beezy Manual Wheelchair.

Call Gary (406) 224-5527 or
garylee032051@gmail.com

To get listed contact Tyler Stosich at (406)
728-1630 or email tstosich@summitilc.org.

Or, list and find items on the MonTECH exchange: <http://montech.ruralinstitute.umd.edu/mtdb/>

Summit is funded in part under an agreement with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. Any statements herein do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Department.

ANNUAL ADA PICNIC CELEBRATION



Thank You!

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO JOINED US AT THE ANNUAL ADA PICNIC CELEBRATION IN JUNE.

NEARLY 200 FOLKS JOINED US AT FORT MISSOULA TO SAVOR THE TASTY FOOD OF SERVIN' THYME; ENJOY THE BEATS FROM ASPEN, OUR FAVORITE DJ FROM KBGA; REFRESHING BEVERAGES FROM PARK SIDE CREDIT UNION; AND THE THOUGHTFUL WORDS OF CITY COUNCILOR AMBER SHERRILL, WHO COMMEMORATED THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF MISSOULA.



JULY IS DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH!



Disability pride is "accepting and honoring each person's uniqueness and seeing it as a natural and beautiful part of human diversity"

There is a disability pride flag, it has a black background and diagonally across the flag are five zigzag lines colored blue, yellow, white, red, and green. The diagonal lines are to represent lightning bolts and each color represents something unique about the disability community.

- The Black Field:** this field is to represent the disabled people who have lost their lives due to not only their illness, but also negligence, suicide, and eugenics.
- The Lightning Bolt:** the shape of the lightning bolt represents the non-lateral lives that many disabled people live, often having to adapt themselves or their physical routes to get around an inaccessible society.
- The Colors:** each color on this flag represents a different aspect of disability or impairment,
 - Blue:** mental illness.
 - Yellow:** cognitive and intellectual disabilities.
 - Green:** sensory perception disabilities.
 - White:** invisible and undiagnosed disabilities
 - Red:** physical disabilities.

This publication is available in alternative format on request. Please call 1 (800) 398-9002.

Sign up to receive our newsletter in your email inbox at www.summitilc.org