

TITLE: Improving Access to Healthcare for Oregon Adults with Disability: The Healthcare Accessibility Ambassador Program

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: No

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Topic: Access to health care and health resources for adults with disabilities; Target audiences: public health professionals and health care professionals

ABSTRACT: Approximately 26.7% of Oregon adults have a disability. People with disabilities experience a number of disparities related to health resource access, including decreased access to dental care, mental health counseling, Pap testing, colorectal cancer screening, health promotion programs, spaces for physical activity, and social services. The Oregon Office on Disability and Health (OODH) promotes health equity and well-being of people with disabilities by collaborating with disability communities, public health and healthcare systems, and community-based organizations to prioritize access statewide. To address disparities and access issues, OODH is implementing a Healthcare Accessibility Ambassador Program. Clinics, providers, and community-based organizations become healthcare accessibility champions by participating in various activities at no cost: - Receiving an assessment of practice accessibility features, to share with people with disabilities seeking accessible care - Becoming trained in disability awareness, communication, and other accessible practices - Providing accessibility information of a clinic or service site for inclusion in 211info and accessible community resource directories - Receiving direct referrals to provide accessible care or health promotion programming for people with disabilities in the community Successes and challenges of this effort will be presented. Collaborations across systems and stakeholders, and opportunities for participation will be described.

OBJECTIVE(S): List two health care access disparities experienced by adults with disabilities. Describe the activities included in the Healthcare Accessibility Ambassador Program of the Oregon Office on Disability and Health.
