ANNUAL WORK PLAN

RALEIGH COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

FY 2027

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Raleigh Commission for Persons with Disabilities advises the City Council on matters of concern to people with disabilities. It addresses barriers preventing equal access in employment, health and wellness, housing, education, public access information, recreation, and transportation. RCPD informs people with disabilities of programs, services, and opportunities available to them within public and private sectors; it advocates and seeks resolution of concerns; interacts with other like-groups seeking furtherance of the Commission goals and functions; and recognizes efforts on the part of individuals, organizations, and businesses for activities in the promotion of goals of the commission.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The City of Raleigh's Strategic Plan outlines the City's key priorities and sets a clear path for future goals and actions. The Raleigh Commission for Persons with Disabilities and its initiatives are aligned with the following strategic objectives:

√ Community Safety

√ Economic Development & Innovation

√ Housing

√ Organizational Excellence

√ Quality of Life

√ Transportation

FY 26 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- In Fiscal Year 2026, the Commission changed its name from the Raleigh Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities to the Raleigh Commission for Persons with Disabilities (August 2025).
- The Commission hosted two major events, which included an Awards Banquet (October 20th, 2025) and an Employer Resource Day event titled "Employment Access for All" (May 18th, 2026).
- At its monthly meetings, by the Transportation Department request, the Commission members provided feedback to improve the City of Raleigh's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) paratransit system and received

presentations or invitations to present information to the Commission from the Small Business Development Division within the Department of Economic and Social Advancement, the Human Resources Department, and the "Raleigh Innovates" Team.

- The Commission held a retreat on March 14th, 2026, to discuss its vision, its FY 2027 Work Plan, its bylaws, and the scholarship application.

FY27 FOCUS AREAS

List or describe upcoming or planned projects for the board or commission

Focus Areas:

1. Community and Transportation Access
2. Education and Employment
3. Health, Wellness, and Recreation
4. Housing
5. Public Awareness

Project	Description	Strategic Plan Alignment	Target Date
Education and Employment Host an Employer Resource Day event	Educate employers, City of Raleigh staff, people with disabilities, and other stakeholders on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and strategies to hire and retain employers with disabilities. Celebrate the ADA's anniversary, which is July 26th.	Economic Development & Innovation, Organizational Excellence	Spring 2027
Public Awareness Host an Awards Banquet	Host an Awards Banquet to celebrate the individuals, employers, businesses, and organizations doing good things to make Raleigh a more accessible and inclusive city for people with disabilities while celebrating October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM).	Economic Development & Innovation, Housing, Transportation	Fall 2026
Health, Wellness, and Recreation	Provide funds to support programming at Camp Friendly with the goal to increase access and opportunity for children with disabilities.	Quality of Life	Summer 2026

Support Accessible Recreation			
Community and Transportation Access Promote accessible transportation	People with disabilities need affordable, safe, reliable access to transportation to participate fully in the economic, cultural, and civic life of Raleigh. Participate in GoRaleigh Access meetings and host a forum on accessible transportation.	Economic Development & Innovation, Quality of Life, Transportation	Year-round
Housing	Partner with City of Raleigh advisory bodies on an event to discuss and advocate for more affordable, accessible housing opportunities for people with disabilities in Raleigh. Consider offering ADA and disability awareness training for apartment managers and landlords.	Housing, Community Safety, Quality of Life	Fall 2026 or Winter 2027?
Public Awareness Disability Awareness programming	Host an event to raise awareness of the needs and talents of people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD) to celebrate March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month or a similar relevant observation. Host a general listening session to help the City of Raleigh better understand the needs of residents and visitors with disabilities.	Economic Development & Innovation, Quality of Life	Spring 2027

Events

List or describe events that will be hosted by the board or commission

- Event 1: Employer Resource Day event to educate employers, City of Raleigh staff, people with disabilities, and other stakeholders on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and strategies to hire and retain employers with disabilities; aligns with Economic Development & Innovation and Organizational Excellence; $4,500 proposed budget
- Event 2: Awards Banquet to celebrate the individuals, employers, businesses, and organizations doing good things to make Raleigh a more accessible and inclusive

city for people with disabilities while celebrating October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM); aligns with Economic Development & Innovation, Housing, Transportation; $8,000 proposed budget
- Event 3: Housing event to discuss the importance of making affordable, accessible housing available in Raleigh; aligns with Housing: $1,000 budget
- Event 4: Host a general listening session to help the City of Raleigh better understand the needs of residents and visitors with disabilities; Quality of Life; $1,500 budget

Education and Outreach

List or describe education or outreach initiatives the board or commission plans

Education programs: Provide feedback to departments about how to make city facilities, programs, and services accessible to people with disabilities who live in, work in, and visit Raleigh.

Community Outreach: Host events and participate in other events as the opportunity in the Raleigh community presents itself to educate people, including City of Raleigh staff, employers, and business owners, on the needs and talents of people with disabilities.

BOARD OR COMMISSION MEMBERS

List your board members, and liaison. Feel free to use a group picture, or individual images.

Dr. Ricky Scott, Chair

Robert Parrish, Vice Chair, Housing Focus Area Chair

Philip Woodward, Secretary, Public Awareness Focus Area Chair

Sharon Benton, Treasurer

Donnie Best, Community and Transportation Access Focus Area Co-Chair

Shakema McClean, Community and Transportation Access Focus Area Co-Chair

Alice Kelly, Health, Wellness, and Recreation Focus Area Chair

Lawrence Carter

Paula Coppola

Christina Bauman, Staff Liaison