



Disability Awareness March 2026

Systems of Care in Community
Emergency Events and Disasters
(SOC)



Emily Hartley, Executive Director

MODDC Mission:

To assist individuals, families, and the community to include all people with developmental disabilities in every aspect of life.

Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council | MODDCouncil.org



What is inclusion?

Everyone feels welcome and part of the group. Everyone has the chance to participate and learn.

People with disabilities and their families should have the same opportunities to learn, grow and succeed without being left out.

- Friendships and relationships
- Homes in the community
- Access to activities and employment
- Full access to community resources

What is integration?

People with disabilities having the same rights and access to community resources as anyone else.

- neighborhood
- school
- work
- transportation
- recreation

Main laws that support integration

- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Rehab Act) 1973
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 1973
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 1990
- Olmstead Decision 1999
- Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) 2014

What are disability rights?

- ✓ Equal Access
- ✓ Anti-Discrimination
- ✓ Independent Living
- ✓ Employment Protection

March 12, 1990

Disability rights activists abandoned wheelchairs and mobility aids to crawl up the U.S. Capitol steps.



Judy Heumann (1947–2023)

- Mother of disability rights movement
- Key to passing Rehab Act
- Founding member of Berkeley Center of Independent Living
- Served on both Clinton and Obama administrations



Alice Wong (1974–2025)

- Founded Disability Visibility Project
- Co-founder Crip The Vote
- Author
- Forbes 2025 Women of the Year



Lois Curtis (1967-2022)

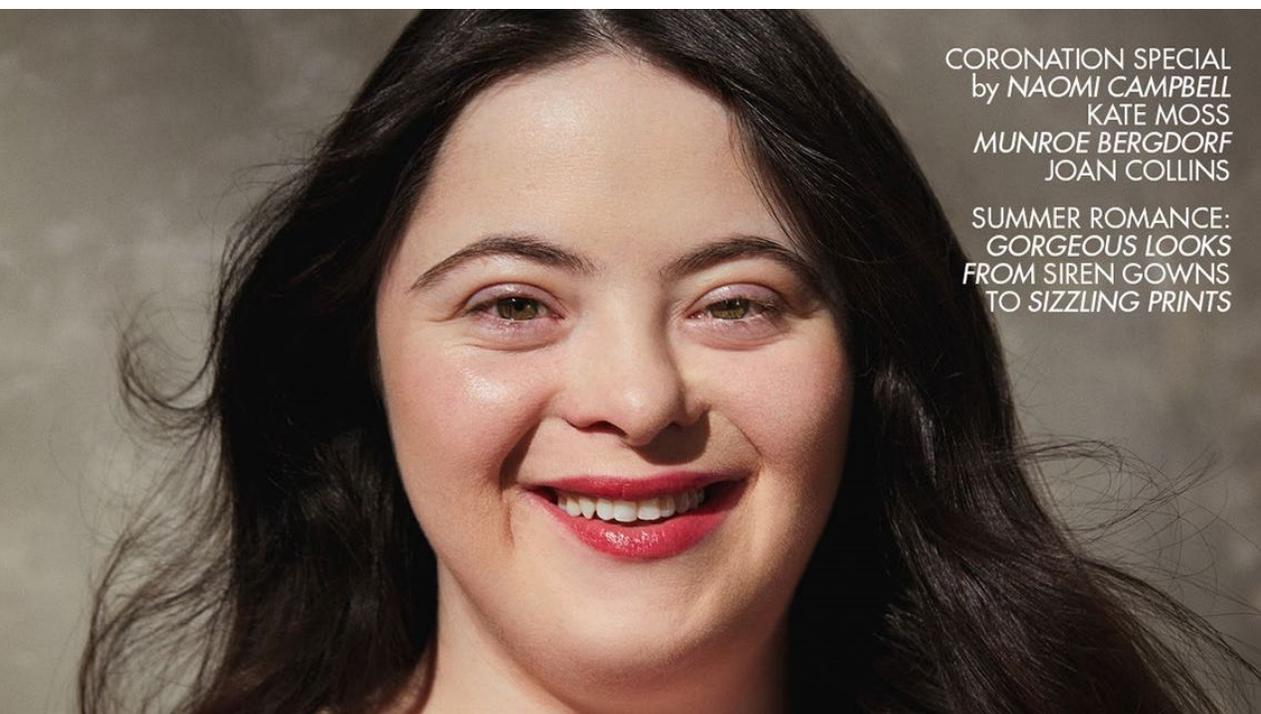
- Artists
- Advocate
- Leading plaintiff Olmstead v. L.C. Supreme Court



Ed Roberts (1939–1995)

- Father of the Independent Living movement
- First student with an iron lunch and a wheelchair
- Director of CA Vocational Rehabilitation





CORONATION SPECIAL
by NAOMI CAMPBELL
KATE MOSS
MUNROE BERGDORF
JOAN COLLINS

SUMMER ROMANCE:
GORGEOUS LOOKS
FROM SIREN GOWNS
TO SIZZLING PRINTS

Present Day Influencers

- Tal Anderson – actor on The Pitt
- Dom Kelly – Founder New Disabled South
- Rebecca Cokley – advocate
- Russell Lehman – poet & advocate
- Ellie Goldstein - model

Accessibility Inventions We All Use

- **Texting (TTY):** Developed to allow deaf and hard-of-hearing people to communicate via telephone. Leading to modern SMS texting.
- **Email:** Invented for someone who was hard of hearing to communicate with his wife.
- **Speech-to-Text:** Siri was designated to assist users with visual or motor impairments.
- **Touch Screen Interface:** Originally marketed to those with dexterity issues and repetitive-strain injuries.

Accessibility Inventions Cont.

- **Velcro:** Used in adaptive clothing before widespread adoption.
- **Cruise Control:** Invented by Ralph Teetor, who was blind.
- **Audiobooks:** The American Federation for the Blind created audiobooks on vinyl for the blind.
- **OXO kitchen brand:** Founder and husband designed OXO Good Grips line for wife with arthritis.

March Awareness Month

- March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (DDAM)
- Governor's Proclamation
- MODDC policy advocacy priorities: Medicaid and HCBS

**We're Here
*Then, Now, Always.***





Where You Live

Statewide Survey

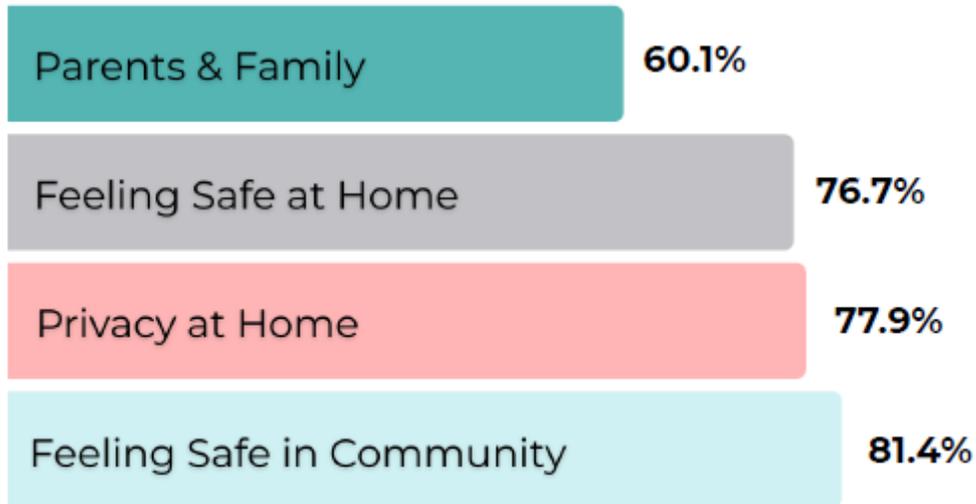
"Are these issues important to you in your life right now?"

Important & Needs are Met

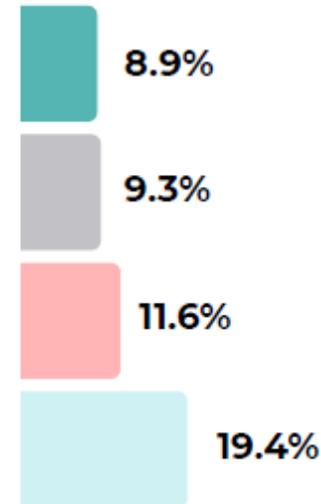
Important & Needs are Not Met

Not Important

Overall Most Important



Needs Not Met



Individuals with disabilities reported more often than family members that they **need more information on feeling safe in their community.**



Let's Connect!



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See [MODDCouncil.org](https://moddcouncil.org) for funding information.