

Date: July 22, 2024

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager *T.M.*

From: Teresa Chandler, Deputy City Manager *Teresa Chandler*

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Citizens' Advisory Commission on Disability Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request Letter**

On July 11, 2024, the Citizens' Advisory Commission on Disability (CACoD) authorized the Chair and Vice Chair to compose and submit a memorandum to the City Manager, Mayor, City Council, and Budget Oversight Committee regarding CACoD's budgetary requests and recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY 25) Budget. The attached letter expresses CACoD's budgetary requests and recommendations for consideration in the proposed FY 25 Proposed Budget.

If you have any questions, please contact the Citywide Accessibility Coordinator, Jennifer Kumiyama, at (562) 570-6257.

ATTACHMENT

CC: DAWN MCINTOSH, CITY ATTORNEY
DOUGLAS P. HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR
APRIL WALKER, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
MEREDITH REYNOLDS, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
GRACE YOON, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
TYLER BONANNO-CURLEY, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
KEVIN LEE, CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK
DEPARTMENT HEADS

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMISSION ON DISABILITY**

**Kim Vuong, Chair
Steve Adams, Vice Chair
Chaka Garbutt, Secretary
Julie Dean, Commissioner**



**Nubia Flores, Commissioner
Marissa Gonzalez, Commissioner
Jeremy Hill, Commissioner
Art Romo, Commissioner
Gretchen Swanson, Commissioner**

July 11, 2024

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
Budget Oversight Committee
City Manager Tom Modica
City of Long Beach
411 West Ocean Boulevard
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Citizens' Advisory Commission on Disability FY 25 Budget Letter

Honorable Mayor Richardson, Members of the City Council, and City Manager Tom Modica:

The Citizens' Advisory Commission on Disability (CACoD) is responsible for advising the City Council, City Manager, and other City departments on issues related to disability and accessibility. This includes advocating for the rights and needs of the 13.3% (95,000) of people with one or more disabilities in Long Beach, promoting accessibility in public spaces and services, and providing input on policies and programs that impact the disabled community in Long Beach. The number of people with disabilities continues to grow as people are born, age, or acquire injury/illness. To that end, CACoD works to raise awareness and educate the public on disability issues and promote inclusion and equality for people with disabilities in the City.

After extensive deliberation, CACoD has determined that there is a significant deficiency in disability-related data. This lack of information hinders the development of policies that promote greater equity and inclusion for individuals with disabilities, consistent with the goals and objectives outlined in the City's 2030 Strategic Vision.

Background

As part of the adopted FY 24 Budget, City Council approved an allocation of \$12,500 in one-time funding to support CACoD's capacity-building and community engagement efforts. On February 8, 2024, CACoD voted and unanimously approved spending these funds on the following: Commission Retreat, Research/Community Study, Branding, and Annual Parade

Fees. CACoD's Research and Community Study priority area was established to address the void in local disability-related data. Efforts to date, include:

- Partnership with California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) Professor, Dr. Gary Hytrek, and CSULB incoming master student Wesley Rogers to conduct the study.
- Formation of the Disability Data & Community Survey Ad Hoc Committee to coordinate data collection, outreach, and engagement.

Current available data regarding people with disabilities in our city may not be entirely accurate or representative for several reasons including, but not limited to, the following:

Access and Participation: Individuals with disabilities may face barriers to participating in the Census, such as inaccessible survey formats, lack of accommodations, or difficulties in communication. This could result in underrepresentation of this population in the data.

Underreporting: Many individuals with disabilities may not have been accurately counted in the 2020 Census due to various reasons, such as stigma, lack of awareness about disability definitions, or challenges in self-identifying as having a disability.

Limited Disability Categories: The 2010 Census used broad disability categories that may not have captured the full range of disabilities experienced by participants, which could result in underrepresentation of specific disability types or conditions.

Lack of Detail: The disability questions in the 2020 Census did not provide enough detail or context to accurately capture the diverse needs and experiences of individuals with disabilities. This could lead to incomplete or inaccurate data on disability prevalence.

Request for Funding

CACoD respectfully requests a one-time allocation of \$60,000 to support the Disability Data and Community Survey, as funding will go to our partnership with California State University, Long Beach, to develop a comprehensive dashboard of information about the Long Beach disability community and develop a demographic profile of the Long Beach Disability Community. This one-time allocation will be spent over a two-year period to conduct research, collect data through "listening" sessions, focus groups, draft and circulate a community survey, participant incentives, and community outreach in partnership with community-based organizations actively engaged with the Long Beach disability community.

CSULB Faculty member will coordinate and lead the data collection, analysis and final report. \$25,000 will pay the faculty member for four semesters to release them from one course to

lead this work. \$3,000 will cover the faculty member fees for summer sessions in 2024 and 2025. \$22,000 will cover the MA Student's stipend for this work for four semesters.

Conclusion

This study will bridge the disability data gap in Long Beach, which is critical for better understanding and addressing the existing and emerging needs of our local disability community. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

KIM VUONG
CACoD Chair

STEVE ADAMS
CACoD Vice Chair