**NEVADA GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

**Position on Accessibility**

Accessibility involves much more than providing ramps, it is the key element of inclusion and the baseline of equal service. Accessibility refers to the design of environments, products, and services that facilitate access for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) to the same level of independence and privacy as anyone else. Ensuring effective access to information and services isn’t only about meeting legal requirements or satisfying a policy checklist - it is about constantly striving to expand meaningful participation for all.

Providing equal access to all individuals with disabilities is the key element of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992 (ADA). The ADA provides a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities, requiring State and local governments communicate as effectively with people who have I/DD as someone without.

**The Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD)** **supports and promotes the right of individuals with I/DD to meaningful participation and equal access to information, products, and services through universal, accessible design.**

**Policy Recommendations:**

1. Promote the inclusion of accessible technologies, and the need for universal, accessible design through education and practices that dispel the myths and misguided understanding of what accessibility is and is not.
2. Promote equal access to services and environments by encouraging the adoption of universal design principles and implementing accessible, inclusive practices into all aspects of public engagement.
3. Work with the Nevada Legislature and the State of Nevada to mandate training for all State of Nevada employees on the need for accessibility as well as how to create and maintain accessible content.
4. Work with the Nevada Legislature and the State of Nevada to mandate the development of inclusive public meeting protocols across all state entities and require training for state employees on approaches.
5. Work with the Nevada Legislature and the State of Nevada to mandate a review of procedures and policies to ensure they are consistent with inclusive and accessible goals.

Last Review Date: