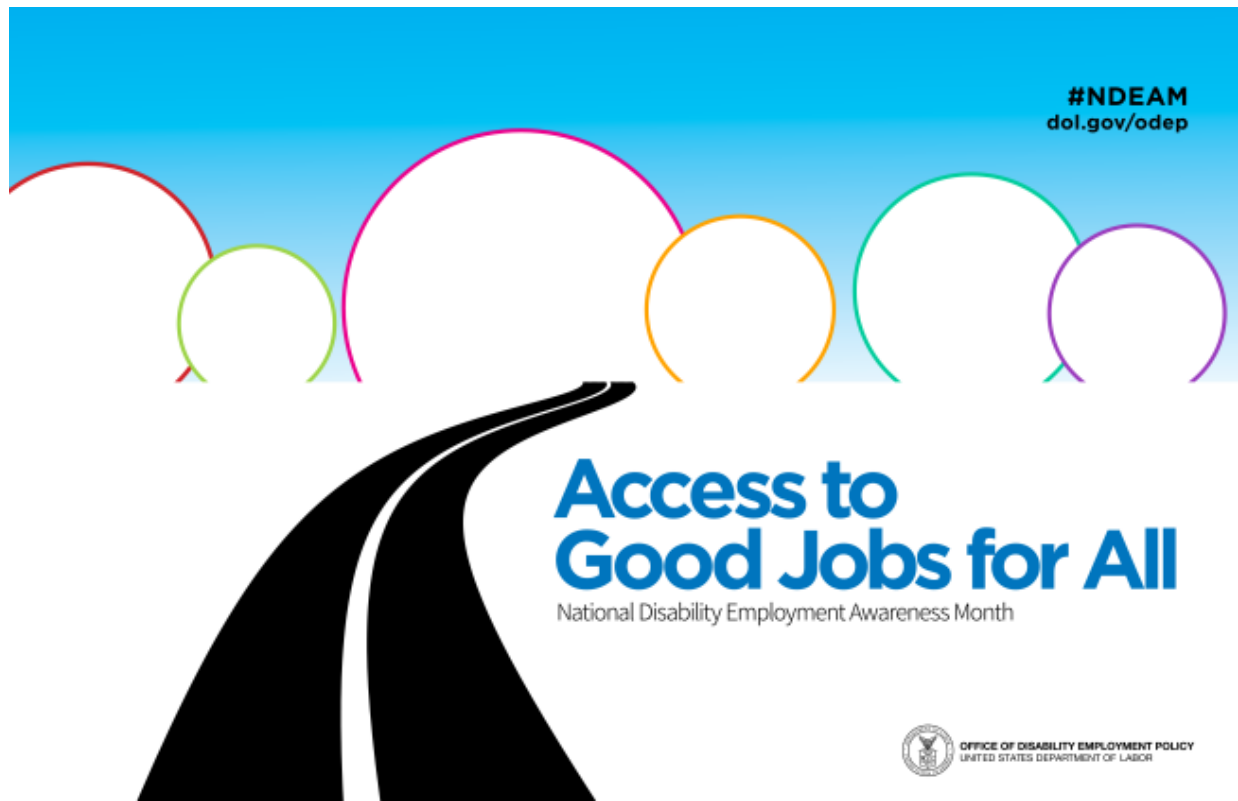




Monthly News & Updates

October 2024
Issue LXXV(75)



Director's Note

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፪፪፪ (Korean) | Español (Spanish) | Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese)

Dear Residents, Neighbors, and Friends:

This October, we are reminded of the power of inclusivity and the collective responsibility we share in building a more just and equitable community. As we observe National Bullying Prevention Month, National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and LGBTQIA+ History Month, we honor three distinct causes united by a common purpose: ensuring that everyone

can thrive, regardless of their backgrounds, and is treated with respect.

National Bullying Prevention Month highlights the urgent need to protect our youth from the lasting harm of bullying, particularly in our schools and communities. At the DC Office of Human Rights, we remain dedicated to our **Youth Bullying Prevention Program** partnering with schools, families, and community groups to create safe, supportive spaces for all students. Through the program, we strive to ensure that every young person feels seen, heard, and protected, fostering an environment where they can thrive without fear of bullying or discrimination.

In the spirit of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, we are reminded that true economic equity is rooted in inclusive employment practices. We proudly advocate for the rights of individuals with disabilities to access workplaces free from discrimination and to contribute their unique talents.

Additionally, as we celebrate LGBTQIA+ History Month, we reflect on the trailblazers who fought for equality and justice, paving the way for broader acceptance of diverse gender identities and sexual orientations. Our work in advancing LGBTQIA+ rights continues, and we are excited to have launched our new **Inclusive Language Guide** Created in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Affairs (MOLGBTQA), the guide aims to cultivate deeper understanding and respect for all forms of gender identity and expression.

As part of our ongoing commitment to fostering a more inclusive community, we also began enforcing the new **Open Movie Captioning Requirement Amendment Act** on October 18. This Act requires theaters in the District to provide a minimum number of open-captioned showings each week. I am proud of this enforcement, as it marks a vital step toward improving accessibility and inclusion. To further strengthen its impact, we are partnering with the Mayor's Office of Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing (MODDHH) to help theaters comply with the Act and ensure our communities can fully enjoy their cinematic experiences without any barriers. To learn more about the Act and OHR's role in enforcing it, visit our [webpage](#).

These observances serve as a call to action. Let's stand as changemakers in our communities, workplaces, and schools—championing inclusivity, standing against injustice, and celebrating the rich diversity that makes Washington, DC, a model of positive change.

Stay connected with us for upcoming training and outreach events by following our social media channels, and be sure to look out for our special Holiday edition newsletter, combining the November and December issues!

In Solidarity,
Kenneth Saunders
Acting Director



Trait of the Month



Under the D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977, **Status as a Victim or Family Member of a Victim of Domestic Violence, a Sexual Offense, or Stalking (DVSOS)** is defined as "when an individual is a victim or family member of a victim of domestic violence, sexual offense, or stalking."

DID YOU KNOW? Just under 15% of women (14.8%) and 4% of men in the US have been injured as a result of intimate partner violence that included sexual assault, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner.

What's New and Upcoming



2024 Diwali Celebration

The Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (MOAPIA) invites you to an evening of cultural performances, delicious food, and a beautiful lamp-lighting ceremony.

- Date: Wednesday, October 30
 - Time: 6:30 PM
 - Location: U.S. Navy Memorial Visitors Center (701 Pennsylvania Ave NW)
 - RSVP required - register **HERE**
-



2024 Disability Career Fair

In recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, Mayor Bowser presents the 2024 Disability Career Fair. Connect with various employers and learn about District Services!

- Date: Wednesday, October 30
- Time: 11 AM - 4 PM
- Location: Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library (901 G Street NW)
- RSVP at tinyurl.com/abilityworks24

OHR Youth Human Rights Ambassador Highlight



"Being President of the 2024 OHR Youth Human Rights Ambassador (YHRA) Program has expanded my understanding of leadership...this program has taught me to be a more empathetic leader, focusing on building strong relationships."

- Verenize, 2024 OHR YHRA Program President



Meet Verenize, President of our 2024 Youth Human Rights Ambassador (YHRA) Program! Through the YHRA, OHR empowers DC high school students with leadership skills and civil rights outreach.

Want to hear more about Verenize's journey as an ambassador? Catch her full interview in our **Linktree!**

OHR In the Community



On October 5, OHR joined the 2024 Open Streets, hosted by the District Department of Transportation, enjoying a vehicle-free day with hundreds of community members!

OHR delivered an in-depth training session for Councilmembers, reinforcing our city's commitment to advancing inclusivity and equal opportunities.



At the two-day World Pride



Workshop from October 21 to 22, hosted by the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs, OHR conducted training sessions and shared resources to gear up for the 2025 World Pride celebration in DC.

On October 25, OHR participated in the 2024 Employment First Summit, hosted by the DC Developmental Disabilities Council, engaging with people of all ages with disabilities, advocates, and community leaders.



OHR in the Media



"New Open Movie Captioning Requirement for DC Movie Theaters Begins"

OHR's role in enforcing the new Open Movie Captioning Requirement Act has been featured in a PoPville article. **Read the full article [HERE!](#)**



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