



MEDIA KIT



WORKING TOGETHER. IMPROVING LIVES.

PRESS CONTACT



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BOILER PLATE

The Tennessee Disability Coalition is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, nonpartisan alliance of 40+ member organizations joined to promote the full and equal participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of life. With programs, public policy, and purpose we collectively advocate for self-determination, independence, empowerment, and inclusion for people with disabilities in areas of accessibility, education, employment, healthcare, housing, voting rights, and much more. For more information about the Tennessee Disability Coalition, please visit <http://www.tndisability.org>, email coalition@tndisability.org, call (615) 383-9442, or Text TEAMWORK to 72690 for disability policy updates and alerts. Message & Data rates may apply. Avg. 1-4 messages per week.

AS FEATURED IN



THE TENNESSEAN



TENNESSEE LOOKOUT

The Tennessee Journal



NewsChannel 5



NASHVILLE BANNER

TEXT TEAMWORK TO 72690

TO GET TENNESSEE DISABILITY POLICY UPDATES AND ALERTS SENT STRAIGHT TO YOUR PHONE.

Avg. 1-4/msg per week. Msg & Data rates may apply. Reply HELP for help or STOP to cancel.

DISABILITY POLICY EXPERTS

Our diverse staff of experts are ready to speak to the intersection of disability and:

- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Education (Including Individualized Education Plans, 504, behavior supports, and more.)
- Employment (Including workplace accommodations, inclusive employers, and more.)
- Civil Rights
- Discrimination
- Housing
- Healthcare
- Media
- Public Policy (both state and federal)
- Social Security Disability
- Voting
- Web & Social Media Accessibility
- & Much, Much More.

Please reach out with specific issues, and we'll connect you with **one of our experts**, or connect you with one of our **[40+ member organizations](#)** to support your story.



OUR MEMBERS



For a full and current list of TDC members, or to learn more about membership, please visit www.tndisability.org/members.

WHAT WE DO: **POLICY**

We work with Tennessee lawmakers, policymakers, and community members to understand, protect, and improve public policies that impact the lives of people with disabilities. **Public Policy** is how the government addresses the needs of its citizens.

Recent Policy Wins:



THE TENNCARE FOR WORKING ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES ACT ALLOWS PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES TO PAY A PREMIUM TO ACCESS TENNCARE MEDICAID SERVICES



KATIE BECKETT PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN WITH CHRONIC ILLNESS, SPECIAL HEALTHCARE NEEDS, AND DISABILITY TO ACCESS MEDICAID REGARDLESS OF THEIR PARENTS INCOME

WHAT WE DO: **PROGRAMS**



Our highly-trained [WorkAbleTN](#) team shows Tennesseans with disabilities how they can make more money through working, all while taking the fear out of the benefits process.



[Family Voices of Tennessee](#) provides emotional and educational support to families of children across the state with special healthcare needs, chronic illnesses, and disabilities.



[Brain Links](#) is a statewide team bringing together professionals to recognize the far-reaching and unique nature of brain injury and to improve services for survivors.



We are part of the [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\) Network](#). The Southeast ADA Center has designated us as the organization in Tennessee to contact for questions and assistance with ADA compliance.

BY THE NUMBERS

1.7 MILLION

Disability in Tennessee

Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, **1.7 million** Tennesseans experience some form of disability.

ZERO

Housing

Zero counties in Tennessee are affordable for a household with a disability to purchase a home.

8TH LOWEST

Employment

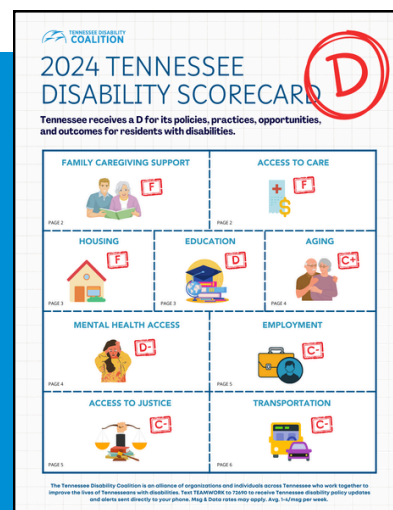
Tennessee ranks **8th lowest** in employment rate and 12th lowest in average wage for people with disabilities.

13TH

Education

Tennessee students with disabilities graduate at a rate **13.7% lower** than their non-disabled peers,

Over the past three years of the Tennessee Disability Scorecard, Tennessee has seen its grade drop from a D+ in 2022 to a D in 2023 and 2024. This reflects not only the everyday experiences of Tennesseans with disabilities, but also the lack of urgency and progress made by our state's lawmakers and state agencies in improving our lives.



COVERING DISABILITY

QUANTIFY

1 in 3 Tennesseans

From diabetes, to Down Syndrome, to depression, approximately 1 in 3 Tennesseans experience some form of disability.

QUALIFY

Who has a disability

A person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity.

QUERY

How do you identify

Ask how a source self identifies, i.e. “Autistic” vs “Person with Autism” and use that descriptor. If unknown, use interchangeably.

NOT SPECIAL

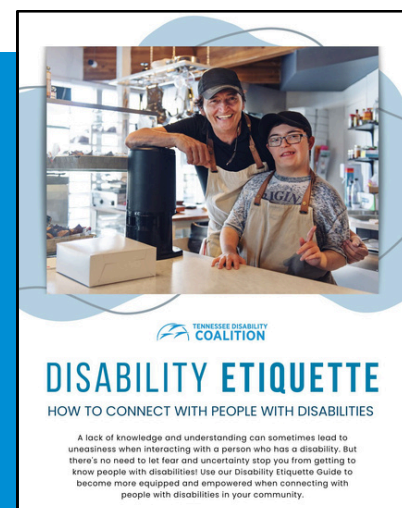
Our needs are not special

Basic services such as healthcare, housing, and education are not special. Euphemisms imply there is something wrong. Disability is a fact of life.

From education, to transportation, to healthcare and housing; all issues impact the disability community, often disparately.

See AP Stylebook for best practice in covering disability.

Our [Disability Etiquette guide](#) may be helpful when interviewing community members with disabilities, and telling our stories.





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