Disabilities at the Public Health Institute

People with disabilities have the right to full participation in society

PHI’s Center on Disability and Pacific ADA Center work to achieve full implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and advance other efforts to improve the lives of those with disabilities. PHI is helping to create a society where persons with disabilities who were previously underserved or disenfranchised can become active participants in their communities by obtaining and maintaining jobs, accessing transportation and private businesses, participating in their local government, and more.

Since 1964, the Public Health Institute’s partners, programs and researchers have focused on what they do best: their work. They rely on PHI’s comprehensive operational infrastructure to quickly move their public health programs from concept to implementation to impact.

PHI’s approach includes:

**Disseminating information** and the latest updates related to the ADA, accessible technologies, and other news and legislation affecting the disability community.

**Consultation and technical assistance** to businesses, state and local officials, employers, health care institutions and others so they understand their rights and responsibilities under the ADA.

**Training** to build the capacity of institutions to comply with the ADA and provide for full and unrestricted participation for those with disabilities.

The Public Health Institute (PHI) is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting health, well-being and quality of life throughout California, across the nation and around the world.
The impact of PHI’s work in disabilities

**Ensuring ADA Compliance** The Pacific ADA Center provides over 37,000 technical assistance consultations annually to public and private stakeholders in the western U.S. on ADA compliance. After consulting with the Pacific ADA Center, a corporation that operates tens of thousands of chain restaurants changed its national policy so that customers with disabilities no longer encountered accessibility barriers such as narrow doorways and restricted space in dining areas.

**Providing employment opportunities** The Pacific ADA Center has trained thousands of public and private sector hiring managers and supervisors on disability awareness and reasonable accommodation options for disabled employees, which has increased hiring and retention of individuals with disabilities.

**Including persons with disabilities in health promotion campaigns** Based on recommendations by PHI’s Center on Disability, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is updating its Community Guide to Preventive Services — a premier national resource for evidence-based findings about what works to improve public health — to include considerations for people with disabilities. Considerations include physical accessibility of facilities and equipment used for health promotion and alternative formats for health communication for people who are blind.

**Protecting those with disabilities in an emergency** The Pacific ADA Center trains emergency management officials on how to incorporate the needs of those with disabilities into disaster and emergency preparedness planning. The center also works with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to ensure that personal assistance services to the disabled are available in shelters during presidentially declared disasters.

**Promoting accessible technology** The Pacific ADA Center runs www.AccessibleTech.org, which provides businesses and employers with the information they need to adopt technologies that are accessible and useable by people with disabilities.

For more information about PHI’s work in disabilities, visit www.phi.org or www.adapacific.org. Call 1-800-949-4232 to reach the Pacific ADA Center.