



DEPARTMENT OF  
NEIGHBORHOODS

Office for People  
with Disabilities

# Programs and Services

## Communications

**Communications** establishes OPD's identity within the Houston community. Services include ASL interpretation, inclusive social media and marketing consultations, and distribution of braille materials.

## Emergency Preparedness

OPD is the liaison to the **Emergency Preparedness Manager for Vulnerable Communities** for the City of Houston Office of Emergency Management. OPD also hosts a semi-annual Getting It Right workshop series, in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Public Safety & Homeland Security which educates the public on equitable risk mitigation and disaster preparedness.

## Houston Commission on Disabilities

**Houston Commission on Disabilities** (HCOD) was created in 1993. It is comprised of 14 Commissioners who are appointed by the Mayor and subject to City Council confirmation. HCOD is responsible for advising and making recommendations to the Mayor, City Council, department directors, and the OPD Director.

## OPD BY THE NUMBERS

**14** *HCOD Commissioners*

**20<sup>+</sup>** *Expert Trainings facilitated per year*

**100<sup>+</sup>** *PAR applications received per year*

**650<sup>+</sup>** *Constituent cases per year*



901 Bagby Street, First Floor  
Houston, TX 77002



832-394-0814



[houstontx.gov/disabilities](http://houstontx.gov/disabilities)



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## Information and Referral Services

The **Information and Referral Services** Team provides resources for employment, housing, utility assistance, food insecurity, and more. OPD aims to support Houstonians with disabilities in accessing the resources, tools, and supports needed to experience full inclusion within the city.

## Accessible Infrastructure

**Accessible Infrastructure** leads Pedestrian Accessibility Review (PAR) in partnership with Houston Public Works, to repair and replace inaccessible sidewalks. OPD is a member of the Vision Zero Houston Implementation Group, and provides ADA compliance feedback to Planning & Development, as well as the Office of the City Engineer.

## Education

OPD facilitates expert trainings such as Disability Etiquette to **educate** local businesses and organizations on best practices for equity and inclusion.

## MISSION

*OPD's mission is to serve as a central resource and referral hub for the rights and needs of Houston residents with disabilities.*

## VISION

*OPD's vision is a city where everyone understands the importance of equal participation and full inclusion of all residents.*

## OPD STAFF

**Angel Ponce**

Sr. Division Manager

**Norma Medrano**

Sr. Community Outreach  
Coordinator

**Kimberly Blanchard**

Sr. Staff Analyst

**William McQueen**

Sr. Communications Specialist

**Amanda Boyd**

Community Liaison



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