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**DOE Office of Indian Energy is hosting a Tribal Leader Forum and interactive tribal energy workshop
Las Vegas' smallest sovereign nation**

Native Americans get shot by cops at an astonishing rate.

Mike Heiser - the other story within National

A fledgling organization aims to manage the Truckee and its environs

At UNLV Special Collections

Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the ADA



Denise Henry's granddaughter Jayde & grandson "Cheeks".



Janice Julianto's photo.

This is my father my hero someone I can always look up to thank you [Derald Julianto](#) for all you do always bringing that good spirit of dance, Ahodahlayyyy

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory and support the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs. The **DOE Office of Indian Energy is hosting a Tribal Leader Forum and interactive tribal energy workshop** in Albuquerque, New Mexico, July 27–29, 2015. Both events are geared toward tribal leaders and staff and will provide information on utility formation and how to develop and finance community-scale renewable energy projects on tribal lands.

When & Where**July 27, 2015**

Pueblo Cultural Center

Tribal Leader Forum

Albuquerque, NM

July 28–29, 2015

Pueblo Cultural Center

Community–Scale Tribal Renewable Energy Workshop

Albuquerque, NM

Who: Both the forum and workshop are designed exclusively for, and limited to, elected tribal leaders, tribal executives, and tribal staff. Guest speakers will include representatives from other Tribes and government agencies. Workshops are presented by technical experts from DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

What Else: The Tribal Leader Forum will focus on the tribal utility as a structure for long-term economic growth and meeting the energy needs of tribal communities. The 11th in a series of DOE Office of Indian Energy-sponsored strategic energy development forums, this event will bring Tribes, federal agencies, and energy industry experts together for a national dialogue focused on fundamentals and best practices for tribal utility formation.

Solar, wind, and biomass renewable energy resources offer many economic and environmental benefits for Tribes. To help Tribes tap into these resources, the DOE Office of Indian Energy has developed an educational training program that provides information on how to navigate the complexities of developing and implementing renewable energy projects on tribal lands.

The workshop will offer attendees a unique opportunity to learn from renewable energy project experts, get hands-on experience using technology resource assessment tools, explore project case studies, and hear about lessons learned from other Tribes.

Costs and Registration

There is no cost to attend the forum or workshop, but registration is required. Additional information can be found on our website at: <http://www.energy.gov/indianenergy/events/new-mexico-tribal-leader-forum-and-community-scale-workshop-tribes>.

To learn more about the workshop and other resources offered by the DOE Office of Indian Energy, please visit our website at www.energy.gov/indianenergy. Please contact me with any questions.

Las Vegas' smallest sovereign nation

<http://lasvegassun.com/news/2015/jul/20/las-vegas-smallest-sovereign-nation/>

Native Americans get shot by cops at an astonishing rate.

So why aren't you hearing about it?

motherjones.com

Michael Heizer

Michael Heizer, "Isolated Mass/Circumflex (#2)", site-specific sculpture, 1968-72, [Menil Collection](#)

Michael Heizer is a contemporary artist specializing in large-scale sculptures and [earth art](#) (or [land art](#)). He currently lives and works in [Hiko, Nevada](#).^[1]

Early life and education

Michael Heizer was born in [Berkeley, California](#), in 1944, the son of the distinguished [University of California, Berkeley archaeologist](#) Dr. [Robert Heizer](#). He spent a year in high school, in France.^[2] He attended the [San Francisco Art Institute](#) (1963–64) and moved to [New York City](#) (1966), where he found a loft on Mercer Street in [SoHo](#) and began producing conventional, small-scale paintings and sculptures.

Work

In the late 1960s, Heizer left New York City for the deserts of California and Nevada, where he began to produce large-scale works that could not fit into a museum setting, except perhaps in photographs. In 1967, he completed *North, East, South, West 1*, which included several holes he dug in the [Sierra Nevada](#), the holes akin to the shapes in his paintings.^[2] In 1969, Heizer made the series *Primitive dye paintings*, in which bright big bags of white [lime](#) powder and concentrated [aniline](#) dyes were spread over the dry desert landscape, covering large areas that, when viewed from the air, formed amorphous, organic shapes.^[2] Later that year, Heizer began to create "negative" sculptures by cutting directly into the earth.^[1] Made in 1968, Heizer's *Nine Nevada Depressions* series of pieces was located primarily on [dry lakes](#) throughout the state, comprising a 520-mile [earthwork](#). [Jean Dry Lake](#), south of [Las Vegas](#), has totally absorbed Heizer's "Rift 1", a zig-zag trench dug into the lake surface in 1968, as the first of the *Nine Nevada Depressions*.^[3] *Dissipate* consisted of five small trenches lined in wood, inserted into the playa at the [Black Rock Desert](#).^[4] *Isolated Mass/Circumflex*, the ninth piece, is a circular loop made in a dry lake bed surface at Massacre Dry Lake, near [Vya, Nevada](#).^[5] Heizer displaced 6 tons of earth, making a one-foot-wide trench, 120 feet long, with the loop being 12 feet in diameter. This culminated in the production of *Double Negative* in 1969 and 1970, a project for which he displaced 240,000 tons of rock in the [Nevada desert](#), cutting two enormous trenches—each one 50-feet-deep and 30-feet-wide and together spanning 1,500 feet—at the eastern edge of Mormon Mesa near [Overton, Nevada](#).^[6]

Since then, Heizer has continued his exploration of earthworks. His *Adjacent, Against, Upon* (1976) juxtaposes three large [granite](#) slabs in different relationships to [cast concrete](#) forms; the 30-50 ton granite slabs were quarried in the [Cascade Mountain Range](#) and transported by barge and train to [Myrtle Edwards Park](#).^[7] For "Displaced/Replaced Mass" (1969/1977), later installed outside the [Marina del Rey, California](#), home of Roy and Carol Doumani, he planted four granite boulders of different sizes from the [High Sierra](#) into lid-less concrete boxes in the earth so that the tops of the rocks are roughly level with the ground.^[8] For a 1982 work at the former [IBM Building](#) in New York, Heizer sheared off the top of a large rock and cut grooves into the surface before setting it on supports hidden within a stainless steel structure. Designed as a fountain, the boulder appears to float over running water. He called it *Levitated Mass*, a title he would use for later works as well.^[8] Commissioned by the president of the [Ottawa Silica Company](#), the *Effigy Tumuli* earthwork in [Illinois](#) is composed of five abstract animal earthworks reclaiming the site of an abandoned [surface coal mine](#) along the [Illinois River](#); the shapes (1983–85)—a frog, a [water strider](#), a catfish, a turtle, and a snake—reflect the environment of the site, which overlooks the river.

Since the late 1990s, Heizer's work has focused primarily on [City](#), an enormous complex in the rural desert of [Lincoln County, Nevada](#). His work on the project continues to this day, supported by the [Dia Art Foundation](#) through a grant from the [Lannan Foundation](#). In 1970, Heizer hired G. Robert Deiro, a pilot from Las Vegas, to help him find the property.^[2] In 1972, he acquired land in Garden Valley, near the border with [Nye County](#), and began work on the first part. He finished Complex One in 1974, working mostly alone, using a paddle-wheel scraper a farmer lent him and following plans drawn up by [seismic engineers](#).^[9] While working on the first parts of the project, he gradually acquired three square miles, at \$30 an acre; the last parcel was paid off in 1997.^[2] *City* is not yet available to the public.

A campaign to have the Basin and Range area around *City* designated as a [national monument](#) to protect it from development took place, and a group of American museums, including the [Los Angeles County Museum of Art](#) (LACMA), the [Museum of Modern Art](#), the [Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston](#) and the [Walker Art Center](#), have joined together to draw public attention to a petition urging preservation of the area.^{[10][11]} In July 2015, President [Barack Obama](#) signed a proclamation (using his authority under the [Antiquities Act of 1906](#)) creating the [Basin and Range National Monument](#) on 704,000 acres in Lincoln and [Nye](#) counties, an area including Heizer's *City*.^[12]

More at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Heizer and

<https://unframed.lacma.org/2015/03/18/protect-michael-heizers-city>

Flow chart: A fledgling organization aims to manage the Truckee and its environs

By [Georgia Fisher](#) [This article was published on 07.16.15.](#)



Lynda Nelson, left, and Christi Cakiroglu hope to unite every nonprofit, department and municipality that has a vested interest in the Truckee River.

For more about One Truckee River, visit onetruckeeriver.org.

In 2013, an anonymous donor approached Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful and asked the nonprofit to clean up the Truckee River.

“We looked at that, and we said, ‘We can use this money to fund more cleanups, but it’s not



going to provide any systemic change,’” recalls KTMB executive director Christi Cakiroglu. “What we need to do is look at what we can do to have a clean river long-term.”

The solution, Cakiroglu believes, is a comprehensive management system—a guiding document, of sorts, that spans every city the Truckee flows through and incorporates the huge swath of departments and agencies working to better the river and its environs. The new organization, One Truckee River, is a plan for a plan at this point, but gathering steam.

The project’s stakeholder team includes the Nature Conservancy, which is in the midst of a \$25 million initiative to restore the river as a sanctuary for birds and wildlife, provide flood protection, and make more green space and water accessible to the public. Colliers International local director Tim Ruffin has agreed to represent business interests. Former state senator and assembly member Sheila Leslie (an RN&R columnist) is also on the roster, as are police officers, other government employees, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony. The team will vote on any decisions the organization makes, said founding member Lynda Nelson.

The three-phase project is currently geared toward the slice of river that cuts through downtown Reno, and could eventually stretch from the state line to Pyramid Lake. Funding is by no means complete—it’s just enough to cover the plan-writing itself—but contributors include the National Park Service, which is offering planning assistance rather than money; the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission and the Truckee River Fund. Though current funding is only slated for use within Nevada, One Truckee River will coordinate “with all the upper-watershed folks,” Nelson said.

The Truckee is “the gem of our community,” said Nelson, a county parks veteran who’s now a natural resources specialist for the Nevada Land Trust, “but there are so many jurisdictions that play a part in it that the idea behind the One Truckee River is to coordinate those jurisdictions, and say, “Who’s on first? Who’s doing what? And who’s not doing what?” ...There are water-

resource people who are monitoring the water quality and the E. coli and the maximum daily sediment load. There are the recreation folks who work on bike trails. There are bits and pieces of everything, but there's not one plan that puts it all together."

The Truckee River Operating Agreement handles water flow and storage, for instance, but doesn't touch issues like tourism or a lack of space at homeless shelters, which Nelson and Cakiroglu say is part of the overall problem. (A contact at Volunteers of America, the group that manages the downtown shelter, didn't answer an email about this story on short notice).

"I hope there will be a good public education component, because there's a lot of interesting history and interesting species living here," said Kelsey McCutcheon Fitzgerald, a team member who runs an online field guide to the Truckee's plants and animals. "It's hard to get people to care if they don't know that."

At UNLV Special Collections:

Katherine Spilde Papers on Tribal Gaming, 1974-2012 (41.1 linear feet)

Background. Dr. Katherine Spilde, a cultural anthropologist specializing in tribal government gaming, worked with over 100 tribal governments in the United States on economic development and gaming issues. After receiving her Ph.D., she became the Director of Research at the National Indian Gaming Association where she developed the National Indian Gaming Library and Resource Center. She served as a policy analyst for President Clinton's National Gambling Impact Study Commission. She later was a Senior Research Associate at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government where she contributed to the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development. In 2003 Spilde became Director for the Center for California Native Nations at the University of California, Riverside where she oversaw the first state-level impact study of Indian gaming in California. Since 2007 Spilde has been Associate Professor and Chair of the Sycuan Institute on Tribal Gaming at San Diego State University.

Scope and Content. The **Katherine Spilde Papers** consist of research files and reference resources she amassed over her career as an analyst of American Indian gaming. The collection can be divided into series corresponding to her professional career. Material collected for her dissertation includes an extensive collection of American Indian gaming contracts. When she worked for the National Indian Gaming Association, she collected court cases, uncommon newspaper and journal articles, government reports, and reports issued by national and state tribal associations. Included are important federal, state and tribal information about tribal sovereignty and the process of federal recognition of tribal sovereignty. Her work on the National Gambling Impact Study commission is documented by records and correspondence of the commission itself, public testimony, research materials, and the drafts and supporting documentation of the final report. While working on the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development, Spilde accumulated a unique collection documenting and analyzing the economic impact of American Indian gaming: financial and market reports, problem gambling materials, and casino advertising legislation, and a unique collection of economic impact studies of gaming. While at the Center for California Native Nations at UC Riverside, she conducted and documented the most in-depth study of tribal gaming in California.

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Historian Laurie Arnold dove into UNLV Libraries documents to learn how Native American leaders collaborated to overcome the obstacles in bringing tribal gaming to their communities. [Campus News](#) | Mar 16, 2015 | By [UNLV News Center](#)

As an Eadington Fellow, Laurie Arnold researched tribal gaming history in the UNLV Libraries Special Collections.

Editor's Note:

Laurie Arnold, director of Native American Studies at Gonzaga University, recently dug through the UNLV Libraries Special Collections during her time as an Eadington Fellow with the UNLV [Center for Gaming Research](#). She will present the lecture "Indian Gaming, American Anxiety" at 3 p.m. March 18 in the Goldfield Room, Lied Library.

"I became interested in Indian gaming after observing how gaming revenues positively impacted tribes and tribal members. Tribal gaming is different from commercial gambling because it is conducted by tribal governments for the primary benefit of its members. One tribal leader observed that essentially there are no gaming profits from their casinos because 100 percent of earnings go toward tribal infrastructure. Tribal sovereignty — the tribes' inherent rights to self-govern — is the foundation upon which Indian gaming is built, and revenues foster both cultural and political sovereignty.

By cultural sovereignty I mean that tribes are investing in programs that reinforce and foster tribal cultures — language restoration, indigenous foods, and land buy-back. Many reservations with gaming enterprises are able to expand economic development beyond gaming, which creates employment for tribal members who want to return home to work and for non-Indian neighbors both on and off reservations. When considering tribal gaming, Native communities contemplate questions related to tribal identity and tribal cultural practices, and weigh potentially negative impacts on identity and culture against the possibility of economic success.

Political scientists, anthropologists, and legal scholars have written extensively about tribal gaming, but historians have not yet deeply explored this topic because it is such a recent development. As a historian, my aim is to analyze Indian gaming in context of tribal sovereignty and federal Indian policy, and also through the lens of community. The National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) is a grassroots organization founded 30 years ago, even before passage of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. Established by leaders in tribal gaming, NIGA has advocated tribal self-determination and sovereignty from its beginning, and it continues to work on tribes' behalf. Today, more than 180 tribes and nations hold NIGA memberships. That sense of community, fostered by leadership coming from within tribes rather than outside, keeps tribes connected to each other and to the national scene.

As tribes worked to develop gaming, they encountered obstacles, and they needed the community that NIGA provided. While using the [Katherine Spilde Papers](#) on tribal gaming in the UNLV Special Collections, I realized that the materials represent a real-time snapshot of the questions that emerged as Indian gaming grew from the early 1990s through the first decade of the 20th century. Spilde held several professional positions during the time she collected these materials, and in each position she researched the politics and economics of tribal gaming.

State and federal officials were caught unprepared for the arrival of tribal gaming, and for its rapid growth. Attempts to limit tribal gaming came from all corners — state, federal, corporate — and tactics ranged from states refusing to negotiate gambling compacts to elected officials trying to influence or change the process for federal recognition of Indian tribes. This resistance illustrated the dichotomy of opinions about tribal gaming; non-Indians opposed it even as they consumed it and helped create the \$29 billion industry it is today.

Native communities have been writing their histories of Indian gaming all along. As a scholar and a community member, I hope that my project can build on their work and tell a story of how tribal leaders across the U.S. collaborated to create something new for Indian Country.”

### **About Laurie Arnold**

Laurie Arnold is an enrolled member of the Sinixt Band of the Colville Confederated Tribes and is director of Native American Studies at Gonzaga University. She previously held positions at the D'Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian and Indigenous Studies at the Newberry Library in Chicago and at the University of Notre Dame. Her first book, [Bartering with the Bones of Their Dead: The Colville Confederated Tribes and Termination](#), was published by the University of Washington Press in 2012. She holds a PhD in history from Arizona State University and a bachelor's degree in history from Oregon State University.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

July 20, 2015

### **FACT SHEET: Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the ADA**

Every day the Obama Administration works to ensure the full implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In celebration of the 25th anniversary of its passage, the Administration is excited to announce a series of new actions aimed at improving the lives of and expanding opportunities for people with disabilities. These announcements include:

#### **Employment Opportunity**

On July 6, the Department of Labor (DOL) released *Promising Practices in Achieving Universal Access and Equal Opportunity: A Section 188 Disability Reference Guide*, which provides new guidance for serving individuals with disabilities at American Job Centers. The new guide describes effective strategies for improving access to programs and services provided under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act for both youth and adults with disabilities.

- On July 23 the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to streamline their coordination of investigations of disability discrimination complaints and to increase their collaboration on guidance, outreach, and training.
- By July 23, the EEOC, in consultation with the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and DOL, will have revised all five [ABC's of Schedule A](#) brochures in order to provide Federal agencies and job applicants with updated information on the use of the Schedule A hiring authority for individuals with disabilities.
- In July 2015, the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#) (CNCS) will release a toolkit to assist AmeriCorps and Peace Corps alumni with disabilities with their transition to employment as part of President Obama's [Employers of National Service](#) initiative. The toolkit provides information on government programs



and services, mentorship, community resources, and know-your-rights information aimed at educating those with disabilities searching for employment.

- In the coming months, the EEOC intends to issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to amend its regulations implementing Section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which requires the Federal government to engage in affirmative action for people with disabilities.
- In August 2015, the Social Security Administration (SSA) will award approximately \$20 million in funding to Work Incentive Planning and Assistance (WIPA) organizations. WIPA organizations help beneficiaries understand the work incentives provided to beneficiaries under the Social Security Act and develop concrete plans to return to work. It also links beneficiaries to Employment Networks and State Vocational Rehabilitation programs for services and job placement. WIPAs will work to ensure high-level service to transition-aged youth with disabilities, military veterans who receive Social Security, and members of underserved groups seeking help in preparing for, obtaining, or maintaining employment.
- In the upcoming fiscal year, SSA will launch the Early Intervention and Return to Work Demonstration. This demonstration—one of several Early Intervention demonstrations called for in the President’s budget—will test whether providing employment supports and wrap-around medical supports prior to receiving disability benefits helps individuals with mental health challenges remain in the workforce and reduces reliance on Federal disability and health care programs.
- This summer, the Department of State plans to open its new Office of Accommodation and Accessibility (HR/OAA) to serve as a focal point for disability customer services, such as reasonable accommodations, hiring of persons with disabilities, Section 508 compliance, and captioning.

**High Quality Education In FY15 (through June 30, 2015), the Department of Education’s [Office for Civil Rights](#) resolved over 500 disability-related complaints, and in FY13-14, OCR resolved over 1,500 disability-related complaints.**

- On July 2, DOJ and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) filed a brief in federal district court in New York, making clear that federally-funded Protection & Advocacy organizations (P&As) have the right to access facilities, records, and individuals in order to investigate a school’s possible abuse and neglect of students with disabilities under the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act (PAIMI Act). The brief in [Disability Rights New York v. North Colonie Board of Education](#) highlights the critical role P&As play in defending the rights of individuals with disabilities, particularly children with mental illness who spend most of their day under the care and supervision of schools.
- On July 15, DOJ released a [letter of findings](#) to the State of Georgia regarding its investigation of the State’s Georgia Network for Education and Therapeutic Support Program of segregated schools for students with behavioral disabilities. The Department found that the GNETS Program violates the integration mandate of Title II of the ADA by unnecessarily segregating students with disabilities who could be served in more integrated settings. The GNETS Program serves approximately 5,000 students with disabilities throughout the State.

### **Civic and Community Participation**

On July 13, DOJ released [Frequently Asked Questions about Service Animals and the ADA](#).

- On July 20, DOJ announced settlements with three jurisdictions (Yakima, Washington, Merced, California, and Champaign, Illinois) under its [Project Civic Access](#) program to increase accessibility of their public facilities, parking, sidewalks, polling places, websites, and emergency services, as well as procedures for effective communication and ADA implementation.
- On July 20, DOJ announced [three new settlements](#) under its Barrier Free Health Care Initiative. The settlements address the failure to needed sign language interpretation by a nursing center in Virginia, and two medical offices in Michigan. In the Michigan cases, the healthcare providers refused sign language interpreters to a deaf patient, while in the Virginia case the healthcare provider refused to provide interpreters to deaf family members of a patient.
- In July, HHS's [Office For Civil Rights](#), in collaboration with the [Administration for Children and Families](#) and The Department of Justice, will release a Dear Colleague letter reminding State and local child welfare agencies and courts of their legal obligation to ensure that individuals with disabilities are afforded equal access and opportunities to benefit from and participate in child welfare programs, services, and activities. This is part of a planned guidance series that will address the applicability of federal civil rights laws to child welfare programs and activities.
- In July, DOJ will release technical assistance to provide guidance on testing accommodations for individuals with disabilities who take standardized exams and other high-stakes tests. The document will describe the responsibilities of testing entities that offer exams or courses related to applications, licensing, certification, or credentialing for secondary, postsecondary, professional, or trade purposes. Reiterating the Department's extensive discussion of this provision in the regulatory guidance published with the 2010 revised regulation, the document will address who is entitled to testing accommodations, what types of testing accommodations are generally provided, and what documentation may be required of the person requesting testing accommodations.
- On July 26, the Federal Emergency Management Agency will release a Public Service Announcement, developed with the Ad Council, on the steps individuals with disabilities and the whole community can take to prepare for emergencies and disasters entitled We Prepare Every Day. We Prepare Every Day focuses on people with disabilities and features individuals with intellectual, mobility and sensory disabilities preparing themselves, their families and their communities.
- On July 26, the National Council on Disability (NCD) will release its Progress Report, which surveys how the ADA and other federal legislation has been put into practice by five state and local agencies to improve outcomes for individuals with disabilities. The Report focuses on five critical policy areas including employment, education, health care, transportation, and housing. The Report also provides NCD's vision for the next 25 years of the ADA.

### **Health Care and Healthy Living**

The [ADA National Network](#) supported by the [National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research \(NIDILRR\)](#) is engaging with local stakeholders across the country to inform the 2016 Funding Priorities for the ADA Centers, through a series of events and activities, including participation in over 80 ADA Legacy Tour events in 2015. Additionally, the ADA Participation Action Research Consortium (ADA PARC) will meet July 20-21 in Washington, DC, to report and discuss research findings with community stakeholders and policy leaders, to identify future topics and funding needs for ADA research, and to help identify collaborative opportunities.

- In July, [the National Quality Forum, under HHS contract, will release a draft report for public comment that defines the term “home and community-based services”](#) as an array of long-term services and supports that promote the independence, well-being, and choices of an individual of any age who has physical, cognitive, and/or behavioral health needs and that are delivered in the home or in an integrated community setting. This is the first time the term has been defined for quality measurement purposes.
- The [Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#) will release the final regulations for the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000. The original authorizing legislation, which predates the ADA, was the first piece of Federal legislation that established civil rights for people with developmental disabilities. The final rule will strengthen the capacity for people with developmental disabilities to live fully integrated lives in the community through the work of the Developmental Disability Network, Projects of National Significance, and other activities.
- In July, the [Administration on Disabilities](#) awarded \$6.59 million to the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation [Paralysis Resource Center](#) to provide comprehensive information, resources and services for people living with paralysis and their families.
- On August 3, the [President’s Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities](#) is scheduled to meet and vote on the approval of its 2015 Report, *Leveling the Playing Field: Improving Technology Access and Design for People with Intellectual Disabilities*.
- The [HHS Office for Civil Rights](#) will issue a proposed regulation to implement the non-discrimination mandates in the Affordable Care Act. The proposed rule will incorporate ADA requirements with the goal of ensuring equal access and treatment, including effective communication and the provision of auxiliary aids, in health programs and activities.
- The [Independent Living Administration](#) will publish a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on independent living programs, implementing a series of legislative changes adopted by Congress to independent living programs. Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) independent living programs will move from the Department of Education to the Department of Health and Human Services, and a fifth core service involving transition to community living will be added.

## **Fair Housing**

On July 8, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released the [Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing \(AFFH\) Final Rule](#). The Rule will equip communities that receive HUD funding with the data and tools they need to meet long-standing fair housing obligations in their use of HUD funds. HUD will provide publicly available data for grantees to assess the state of fair housing within their communities and to set locally-determined priorities and goals. The AFFH Final Rule will operate to expand access to community assets and opportunities to live, work, and receive services in integrated settings for individuals with disabilities.

## **Accessible Transportation**

On July 1, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) issued an educational flyer to its frontline workforce addressing disability etiquette and sensitivity, and it will issue a “[What to Expect](#)” piece to TSA’s Disability and Medical Condition coalition, in order to better inform travelers with disabilities about what they can expect in the security screening process.

- On July 13, the Department of Transportation’s (DOT) [Reasonable Modification Rule](#) became effective. This rule clarifies that public transportation providers are required to make reasonable modifications to policies, practices, and procedures to ensure programs and services are accessible.

- In July 2015, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will announce five planning grants totaling close to \$800,000 for projects that showcase promising technologies and practices that improve travel planning and coordination for people who need specialized transportation. Mobility Services for All Americans Deployment Planning Project grants are awarded to organizations to plan coordinated mobility services. The projects use intelligent transportation systems to coordinate deployment of on-demand public transportation transit systems like paratransit for veterans, seniors, and people with disabilities.
- This summer, the FTA will issue guidance on transit-related ADA requirements in a comprehensive circular. The circular will provide guidance on how to comply with DOT's ADA regulations by covering, for example, transportation facility design requirements, fixed route bus and rail service, and ADA complementary paratransit.
- This summer, the FTA will announce the launch of the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center. The Center will promote the availability and accessibility of transportation options that serve the needs of people with disabilities, seniors, and caregivers.
- This summer, DOJ and the Federal Highway Administration will release a supplement to the 2013 [\*Joint Technical Assistance on the Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act Requirements to Provide Curb Ramps when Streets, Roads, or Highways are Altered through Resurfacing\*](#). The new document responds to frequently asked questions that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has received since the technical assistance document was published, including what types of street projects constitute resurfacing that trigger the obligation to install curb ramps to adjacent sidewalks.

### **Information and Communications Technologies**

On July 1, 2015, by order of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the FCC's funding allocations for the [National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program](#) (NDBEDP or "iCanConnect") was extended through June 2016. On May 21, 2015, the FCC also proposed rules to make this program permanent. The NDBEDP provides \$10 million annually to support the distribution of accessible communications equipment to low-income individuals who are deaf-blind across the country.

- Effective July 1, 2015, under FCC rules, the requirement for affiliates of ABC, CBS, Fox, and NBC to provide 50 hours of video described prime time or children's television programming (per calendar quarter) expanded from the top 25 television markets to the top 60 television markets. Video description, also called audio description, is audio-narrated descriptions of a television program's key visual elements inserted into natural pauses in the program's dialogue that makes television programming more accessible to individuals who are blind or visually impaired.
- In keeping with the ADA's goals of ensuring access to federal agencies for all citizens, the U.S. Census Bureau and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission will soon be launching new direct video communication pilot projects to allow deaf and hard of hearing citizens to contact customer service representatives and answer Federal and non-Federal surveys in their primary language, American Sign Language (ASL), instead of via a third-party interpreter. These efforts respond to the FCC's [new initiative](#) to promote the use of direct video communication service by Federal agencies and private companies. The FCC has offered this direct-video calling for the past year, and the Small Business Administration began offering it in June. The FCC will continue to encourage access for deaf citizens by offering technology demonstrations to all interested agencies, and by May of next year they will deploy a free, open-source Video Access Platform (VAP) application that allows ASL users to make video calls using any computer or smartphone and agencies or companies to easily field such calls.

## **Celebration of the Americans with Disabilities Act**

- From July 24-26, the Smithsonian Museum of American History will host a 25th ADA Anniversary Festival for Federal agencies to offer educational insights about the ADA, employment opportunities for people with disabilities, and the history of the disability rights movement. The festival will also present interactive demonstrations of accessible and inaccessible streetscapes, new way finding technology, assistive technology, accessible vehicles, and more. Participating Federal agencies include the Departments of Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Justice, Labor, State, and Transportation, as well as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the National Park Service, the Social Security Administration, and the U.S. Agency for International Development. The White House will also host a series of events celebrating the ADA and the past, present, and future of the disability rights movement.