

COUNTY OF WALLA WALLA

STATE OF WASHINGTON

May 17, 2021

NEWS RELEASE

Walla Walla County Board of Commissioners
County Public Health and Legislative Building
314 West Main/P. O. Box 1506
Walla Walla, WA 99362
509/524-2505

OPENINGS ON COUNTY ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ACAC)

Walla Walla County is accepting applications for Accessible Communities Advisory Committee (ACAC). Walla Walla and Columbia County have formed a dual-County Accessible Communities Advisory Committee.

The Accessible Community Advisory Committees (ACAC) Act was promoted by the Legislature to help communities be more welcoming and inclusive for persons with disabilities and to promote and provide equal access to the opportunities available to others. Their participation enriches communities, enhances the strength of the diversity of a community and contributes toward the economic vitality of a community.

Walla Walla County envisions the Accessible Communities Advisory Committee be actively involved in:

- Advising policy makers on the needs of persons with disabilities in emergency plans.
- Advising the county and other local governments within the county on access to programs, services, and activities, new construction or renovation projects, sidewalks and other pedestrian routes of travel, and disability parking enforcement.
- Developing local initiatives and activities to promote greater awareness of disability issues, and acceptance, involvement and access for persons with disabilities within the community.

ACAC is looking for broad representation of all disabilities. Interested applicants should: Identify as people with disabilities; have a user's perspective; have personal experience with disability and disability advocacy; can speak broadly on disability issues as opposed to only addressing their own needs; and are knowledgeable about a variety of physical, communication, and program access issues (hearing, vision, mobility, speech, and cognitive limitations, etc.). Other qualified (non-disabled) applicants should: Be connected to and involved in the disability community on a state, local or national level; with active involvement in broad-based disability organizations (for blind, deaf, hard of hearing, learning disability, developmental disability, independent living, etc.); and have in place and use two-way communication methods to facilitate communication with the disability community they are representing.

Time commitments to this board include monthly and/or quarterly board meeting; more often if called upon for input on accessibility issues. Committee members must be residents of Walla Walla County, be willing to attend committee meetings. Travel assistance and interpreters are available for ACAC meetings as approved by State guidelines with member coordinating their own service.

Application forms may be obtained from the County website (www.co.walla-walla.wa.us), or the Walla Walla County Commissioners' Office, County Public Health and Legislative Building, 314 W. Main/P.O. Box 1506, Walla Walla, or by calling the Commissioners' Office at (509) 524-2505. Application may also be obtained from the Department of Community Health (DCH), 314 W. Main, Rose Street Entrance/P.O. Box 1753, Walla Walla, or by calling the DCH office at (509) 524-2650. Interested persons are encouraged to call or email (wwcocommissioners@co.walla-walla.wa.us) questions regarding these openings. If you need assistance with application, an interpreter, or material in an alternative format, please contact Cindy Wolski at cwolski@co.walla-walla.wa.us or (509) 524-2939.

Completed applications must be returned to the county commissioners' office by Friday, June 11, 2021 to be considered for the first round of applicant selection. There will be a rolling application period until all positions are filled. Applications may be dropped off, mailed, or emailed. As a part of the selection process, applicants may expect to be interviewed. The Board of County Commissioners will make final decisions regarding appointments to the Accessible Communities Advisory Committee on Monday, June 21, 2021.

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