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Upcoming workshop offers accessibility training and tools for members of disability community

ADA Minnesota, Metropolitan Center for Independent Living, and Minnesota Council on Disability host event to address ADA building compliance concerns

St. Paul, Minn. (Date, 2018): Three of the state's leading disability advocacy organizations are joining forces to conduct a hands-on workshop to equip people with disabilities, advocates, and family members with tools, guidance, and a greater understanding of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The workshop will help participants develop effective ways to address building access and compliance issues.

“Accessing Your Community Businesses: Understanding Your Rights and the ADA,” will be presented by the ADA Minnesota, the Metropolitan Center for Independent Living (MCIL) and the Minnesota Council on Disability (MCD). This free workshop will take place Saturday, April 28 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Eastside Neighborhood Services at 1700 NE 2nd Street in Minneapolis. Lunch will be provided, and registration is required. For more information, registration and accommodation request forms visit mn.gov/mcd/toolbox or call 651-646-8342.

Representatives from ADA Minnesota, MCIL, and MCD have a half-day of training planned. The workshop will include: Civic Engagement, how to get involved in your community and communicate effectively; Understanding Your Rights under the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Title III and barrier removal law; and Understanding Minnesota Building Codes including technical requirements and hands-on training with measuring tools.

“We are deeply committed to ADA as this law assures rights and responsibilities for people with disabilities,” said Jesse Bethke Gomez, Executive Director Metropolitan Center for Independent Living.

“We know some members of the disability community are not fully aware of the rules, regulations, and their rights. Or they find themselves in situations when a building is non-compliant and they are unsure of how to tactfully help the building owner understand their obligations,” said Margot Imdieke Cross, Accessibility Specialist with the Minnesota Council on Disability. “This hands-on workshop offers an exciting opportunity to empower participants with practical tools and tactics so they can address building accessibility issues with confidence.”

Workshop presenters include: Cindy Tarshish, ADAC, ADA Minnesota Program Coordinator; Tiffany Ostrom, Community Engagement Coordinator, Metropolitan Center for Independent Living; Margot Imdieke Cross, Accessibility Specialist, Minnesota Council on Disability; and David Fenley, ADA Director, Minnesota Council on Disability.

ABOUT:

ADA Minnesota: ADA Minnesota is a local resource that provides individuals with disabilities, family members, businesses, communities, governments, universities and colleges, service providers and others support in understanding and implementing all Titles of the Americans with Disabilities Act. More information at www.adaminnesota.org.

Metropolitan Center for Independent Living: The Metropolitan Center for Independent Living assists all people with disabilities by providing a range of support and services. One of 403 Centers for Independent Living nationwide- and one of eight in MN- MCIL primarily serves the Twin Cities' seven county area. MCIL's leadership, staff, and volunteers share a deep commitment to advancing the Independent Living philosophy. MCIL believes in a world of opportunities, choices, and the freedom to live those choices with the mission statement of removing barriers, promoting choices. More information at www.mcil-mn.org.

Minnesota Council on Disability: Established in 1973 by the State Legislature, the Minnesota Council on Disability (MCD) was created to advise the Governor, state agencies, State Legislature, and the public on disability issues. The Council's mission is to advocate for policies and programs in the public and private sectors that advance the rights of Minnesotans with disabilities. To accomplish that mission, the Council concentrates on policy, training, and being the State of Minnesota's premiere disability-related technical resource. More information at www.disability.state.mn.us.

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