

**CITIZENS HELPING CITIZENS:
THE CITY OF PHOENIX DISABILITY RESOURCE POOL**

The Disability Resource Pool is a group of paid individuals who serve as a resource for accessibility reviews of architectural plans, policies, training assistance and other disability-related issues for city programs, services and activities. Their advice is used to ensure that the city does not create barriers in the provision of its services to people with disabilities. It is the city's philosophy that all people have the right to fully participate in city programs, services and activities.

Disability Resource Pool members are professionals with and without disabilities who have knowledge of disability issues, accessibility barriers, and the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA).

The pool:

- ! Provides a disability perspective on city activities such as construction, policies and training in a simple, efficient and inexpensive manner
- ! Ensures that the quality, turnaround time and integrity of ADA Title II review is maintained
- ! Minimizes the risk of barriers being built into new construction and renovation projects
- ! Minimizes having to correct inaccessible new construction at greater cost in the future

The work of the pool supplements the recommendations of the Phoenix Mayor's Commission on Disability Issues (MCDI), a 21-member volunteer board that addresses disability concerns. The MCDI was instrumental in establishing the pool, which provides needed assistance in ADA Title II reviews and alleviates time constraints placed on the commission.

Currently, the Disability Resource Pool has 44 members with expertise in such areas as architectural plan review, Braille reading, barrier identification, and developing and presenting disability awareness training programs. All applicants to the Disability Resource Pool are accepted based on their skills and abilities.

Work completed by the pool in 2001-02 included architectural reviews of Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport Terminal 3 directories, the Rio Salado Environmental Restoration Project and Dodge Theatre access needs. By using the pool, the city saved an estimated \$6,300 in accessibility consultant costs.

Pool members receive \$100 per diem for conducting architectural and policy reviews, and for providing training services. Each member signs a two-year professional services contract and a \$4,000 cap is placed on each contract.

For more information about this valuable program, please call the EOD Compliance and Enforcement Division at 602-262-7486/voice or 602-534-1557/TTY.