



SKAGIT COUNTY ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ACAC)

JUNE 26, 2018

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Purpose of today's meeting
3. What is the Accessible Communities Advisory Committee (ACAC)?
4. Discuss ACAC in Skagit County and Anacortes' Pilot Program
5. Benefits of ACAC
6. What's Next
7. Discussion with attendees, questions, comments, opportunities or concerns
8. Wrap-up

INTRODUCTIONS

We all will benefit from knowing who is here and your interest in the community of people with disabilities.

- Who are you?
- Do you represent an organization?
- Why are you interested in people with disabilities?

We want to hear from all, and still get to the meeting, so please be brief.



PURPOSE OF TODAY'S MEETING

Awareness

- ACAC

Interest

- What is it?

Desire

- How does it benefit me?

Action

- Get involved



ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES ACT PREMISE

“The daily experience of living with a disability is an exercise in problem solving. It requires planning every activity and goal to identify the barriers and come up with solutions. Living with a disability requires constant prioritization in use of energy, time and money. Many areas of public policy disproportionately affect people with disabilities. Policies made without input from people with disabilities can have serious unintended consequences.”

- Governor’s Committee on Disability Issues and Employment

The Accessible Community Advisory Committees (ACAC) Act was promoted by the WA 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.

“Nothing about us, without us”



GOVERNOR'S DIRECTIVE

Governor's Committee on Disability and Employment (GCDE) announced Accessible Communities Act to:

- Support people living with disabilities
- Engage the disability community, local government, businesses and organizations
- Promote greater awareness and accessibility and offer support for effective solutions and partnerships

Great Concept... How does it work?



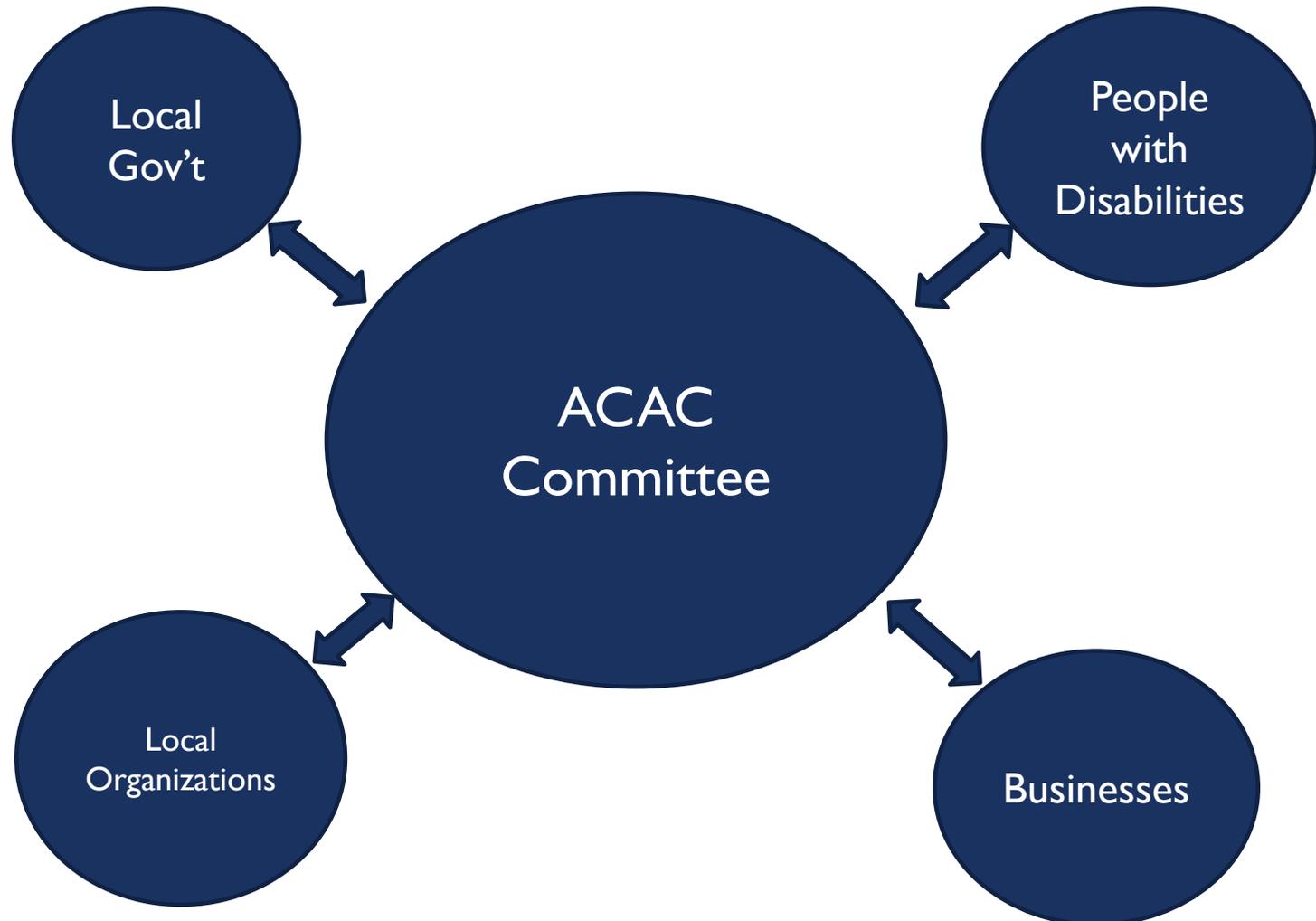
ACAC AVAILABLE RESOURCES

- ACAC -provides resources for counties to promote better disability awareness and access for people who have disabilities
 - Reimbursement for travel, per diem, sign language interpreters and other accommodations during meetings
 - A grant program to fund small, local projects to improve awareness, acceptance, inclusion and access for people with disabilities.
 - A website to share best practices and other information
 - A searchable database of accessible features for local businesses and other public accommodations

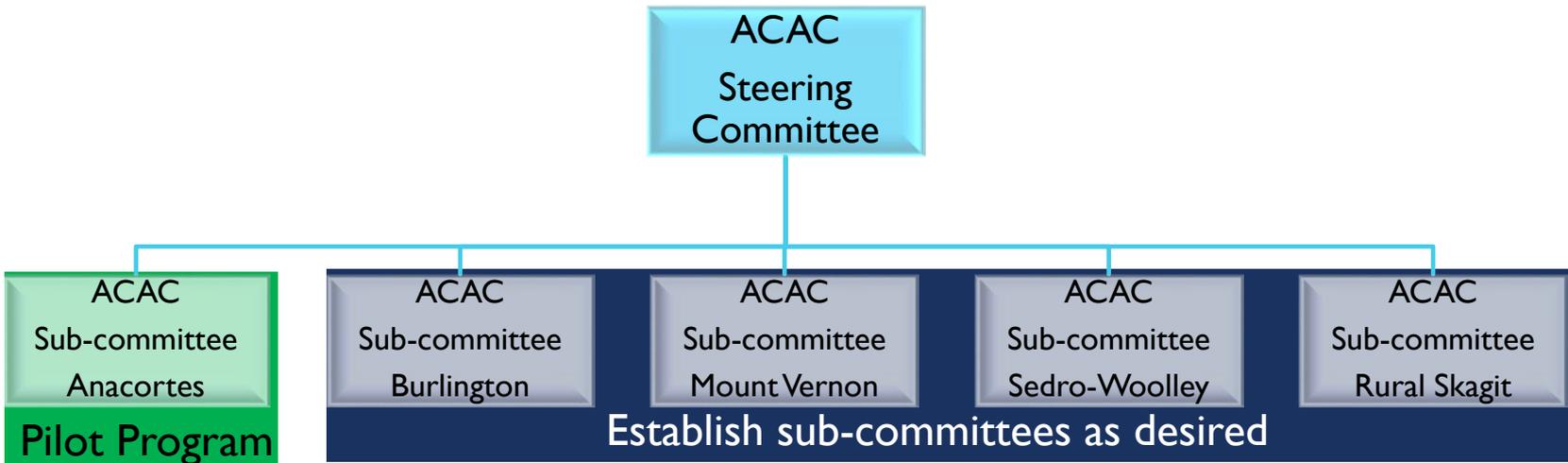
Resources to support initiative



ACAC PROMOTES COLLABORATION



PROPOSED SKAGIT COUNTY ACAC



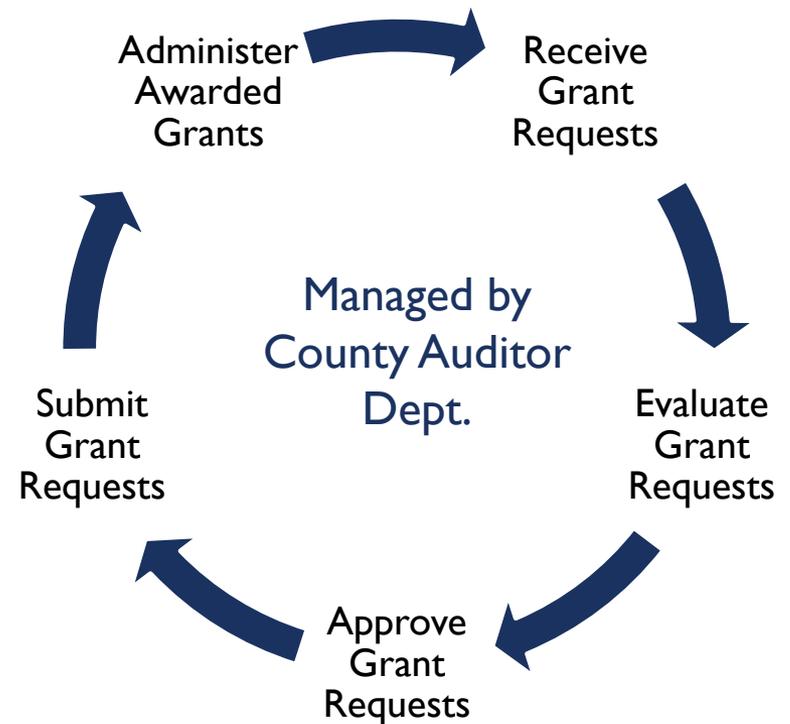
Add sub-committees over time, build on successes

SKAGIT ACAC STEERING COMMITTEE

Membership

- County Audit Dept.
 - Chief Deputy Auditor
- County Public Health Dept.
 - Developmental Disabilities Program Coordinator
- Sub-committee Representation
 - Champion and/or Leader

Grant Request Process



Coordinate Grant Request Process Primary Purpose



SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Champion

- City official

Core

- Dedicated leadership
- Represent diverse range of disabilities
- Responsible for committee operations
- Meet quarterly

Consultants

- Subject matter experts to call on as needed, e.g. city, SKAT, ASD103, Public Health

Stakeholders

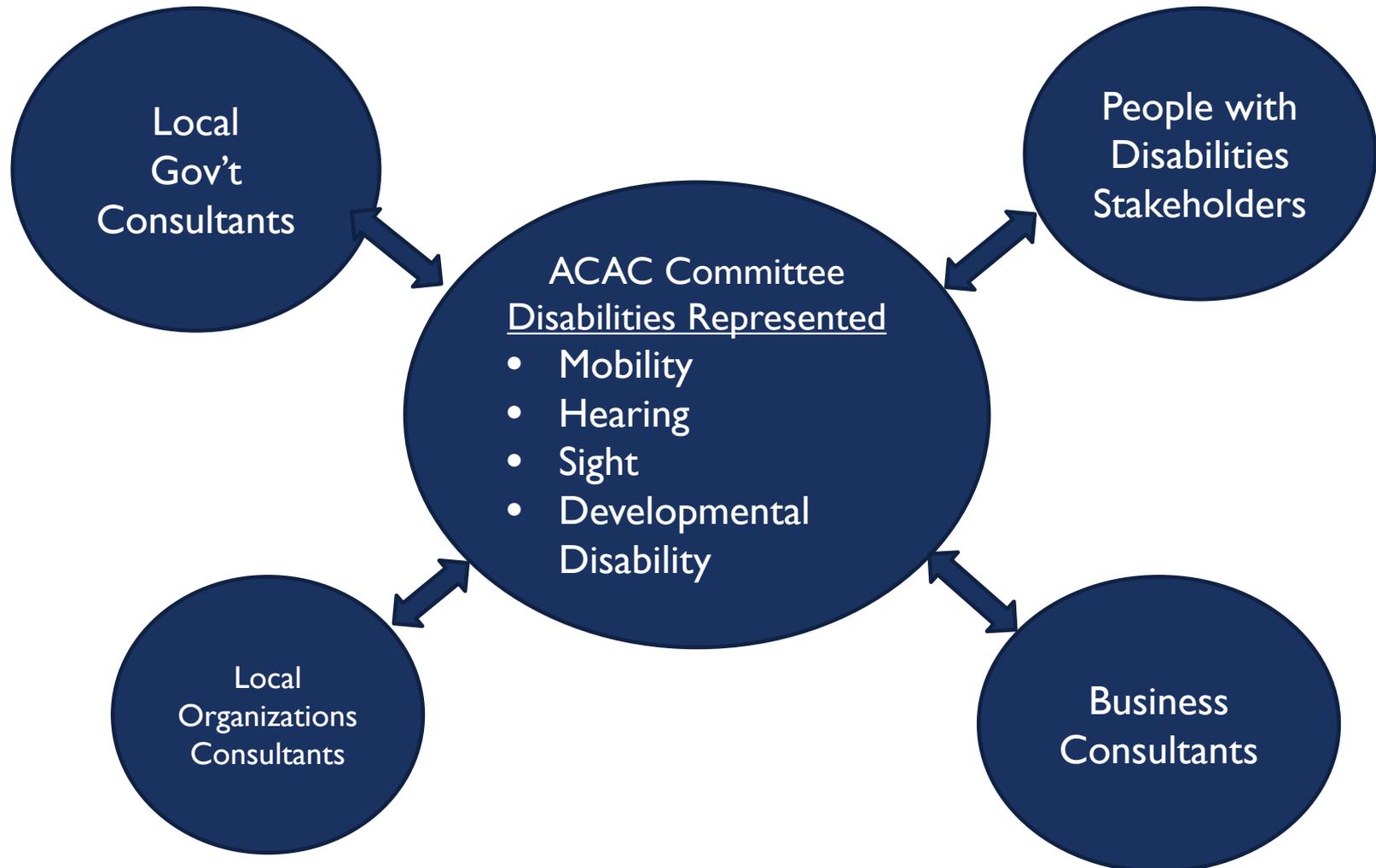
- All interested in PWD issues, receive correspondence & attend meetings as desired

ACAC SUB-COMMITTEE ANACORTES MEMBERSHIP

Core Members (tentative)		
Name:	Role/Represents	Qualifications
Col. Eric Johnson (ret.) Kirk Kennedy Sylvia Cooper Joann Olmstead Jerry Olmstead Paul Dunham Andy Arvidson Colette Arvidson Donna Erlandson	Champion Co-leader Co-leader (COA) Hearing impaired Hearing Impaired Mobility Challenged Visually impaired-blind Advocate/assistance dogs Developmental Disability	Change Agent Disability due to MS, power wheelchair user, non-driver Advocate for PWD, Committee Administrator RN, Skagit Hearing Loss Assoc., Skagit Hearing Loop Advocate Pres. Skagit Hearing Loss Assoc., Skagit Hearing Loop Advocate Wheelchair user, Skagit Transit Assoc. user Pres. Skagit/Island Counsel of the Blind, Guide Dog Users BOD VP Anacortes Lions Club, Dog-on –Call pet therapy Parent of Aktion Club member
Consultants		
Name:	Role:	Qualifications
Gunnar Christiansen Joann Stewart Stephanie Hamilton Keiko McCracken TBD Sally Hill Nancy Novak	COA-Public Works COA-Building & Permit Dept. Anacortes Chamber of Commerce ASD 103 Skagit Transit Auth. Anacortes Senior Activity Ctr. Skagit County Public Health Dept.	Engineering-ADA compliance: streets, sidewalks, curb cuts, etc. Building Dept.-ADA compliance residential & commercial buildings Exec. Director, representing local businesses ASD Community Engagement Coordinator, children advocate Route planning, service for people with disabilities Center Coordinator representing senior population Developmental Disabilities Program Coordinator



ACAC PROMOTES COLLABORATION





ACAC SUB-COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

- As required by the GCDE, the committee will be involved in:
 - “Advising on addressing 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, other pedestrian routes of travel, and disability parking enforcement”;
 - “Developing local initiatives and activities to promote greater awareness of disability issues, and acceptance, involvement, employment and access for persons with disabilities within the community”.

“Nothing about us, without us”



ANACORTES SUB-COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES TO BE CONSIDERED

- Anacortes Community Theater: improve accessibility for people with disabilities to participate in productions, on stage.
- Automatic restroom doors at City Hall
- Hearing Loop in Brodniak Hall Anacortes High School
- Develop website serving disabled community
 - Community resources, accessible businesses,
- Provide input on sidewalk & curb-cut initiative
- Programs for local businesses:
 - Serving residents & visitors with disabilities
 - Discuss employment possibilities for people with disabilities
- Advocate for people with disabilities
 - Accessibility, Employment, Housing, Emergency Planning



ACAC BENEFITS

The ACAC provides a process through which the needs of people with disabilities can be expressed to benefit:

- People with disabilities gaining access to activities they previously were unable to be involved.
 - Friends and family members also benefit from inclusion of people with disabilities in group activities
- Policy makers need the knowledge and expertise of people with disabilities to ensure that their community becomes more accessible and accommodating.
- Businesses benefit by expanding markets which they serve.
 - *At \$175 Billion, discretionary spending of people with disabilities, more than 2X of teenager's
 - *Est. 75% of people with disabilities eat out at least once a week, spending \$35 billion annually
 - People with disabilities spend in excess of \$13.6 billion annually on travel
 - 1 in 5 Americans are potential customers to accessible businesses



City of Anacortes
Approved Resolution NO. 2014

Establishing Anacortes Sub-committee
of the Skagit County Accessible
Communities Advisory Committee

RESOLUTION NO. 2014

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AN ANACORTES SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE SKAGIT COUNTY ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, The Office of the Secretary of State and the Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment (GCDE) announced a new resource to support people living with disabilities through the Accessible Communities Act (Chapter 215, Laws of 2010), and

WHEREAS, The Act encourages counties to establish an Accessible Community Advisory Committee (ACAC) to promote greater awareness and accessibility and offers support for effective solutions and partnerships to engage the disability community, local government, business and organizations; and

WHEREAS, The Accessible Community Advisory Committee (ACAC) Act provides resources for counties to promote better disability awareness and access for people who have disabilities and are eligible for:

- Reimbursement for travel, per diem, sign language interpreters and other accommodations during meetings;
- A grant program to fund small, local projects to improve awareness, acceptance, inclusion and access for people with disabilities (see attached approved programs);
- A website to share best practices and other information;
- A searchable database of accessible features for local businesses and other public accommodations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Anacortes desires to establish a sub-committee of the Skagit County Accessible Community Advisory Committee as a Pilot Program for the County, and

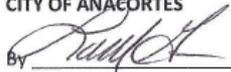
WHEREAS, the City's sub-committee will be one of a number of sub-committees representing each Skagit County Community.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Anacortes, Washington, that:

1. The Charter for the "Accessible Community Advisory Committee Sub-Committee: Anacortes" be signed by the Mayor.
2. This Charter be forwarded to the County Commission of Skagit County that it might be referred to in the County's Letter of Assurance to the Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment (GCDE).

PASSED and APPROVED on this 7th day of May, 2018.

CITY OF ANACORTES

By 

Laurie Gere, Mayor

WHAT'S NEXT

- For us...
 - July 3rd review with Skagit Board of Commissioners
 - Receive approval for ACAC formation
 - Hold first ACAC Committee meeting
 - July 31st @ 2pm Anacortes Senior Center Center
- For you...
 - Please consider joining this effort to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities, their families and friends.
 - Become a Stakeholder to receive communications on ACAC activities.
 - Professionals, serving this community, stay informed of ACAC activities, provide expertise and receive valuable feed back on issues regarding people with disabilities, by becoming a Consultant to the ACAC.
 - If you can represent people with disabilities, desire to lead change and have time to devote to this effort, please apply for a position on the ACAC committee.

DISCUSSION

- Do you have...
 - Questions?
 - Do you know how to get involved with ACAC?
 - Comments?
 - Did we miss anything
 - What
 - Opportunities?
 - Concerns

WRAP-UP

- Sign-in sheet to receive meeting minutes and materials
- First Anacortes ACAC sub-committee meeting Tuesday, July 31 @ 2:00pm



APPENDIX





ACAC GRANT AWARDS (EXAMPLES)

- Improve disabled parking, route of travel and sidewalks at Jefferson County Jefferson County Fairgrounds. Also included in the contract is adding automatic door openers on county buildings, purchasing assistive listening devices for county meetings, -\$47,791
- Add automatic doors to several county offices in Cowlitz County courthouse built in 1923-\$62,903
- Remodel Wahkiakum County's 1938 community center's entry ways & bathrooms-\$115,000 (county contributed \$40,000)

Competitive Grant Process Requires Planning