



Disability Inclusion Resource Center 2025 Impact Report

Program overview

The Disability Inclusion Resource Center (DIRC) is disABILITYsa's hub for advancing inclusion through on-site accessibility supports, disability education, and lived-experience engagement. DIRC's portfolio includes the Mobile Changing Unit (MCU), Portable Changing Room (PCR), Portable Sensory Room (PSR), Sensory Kit Check-out Station, Adaptive Art Station (AAS), Disability-friendly First Aid Station (DFA), disabilitySTRONG training, the Disability-lived Experience Panel, and Disability Inclusion Programming initiatives that embed inclusive practices and supports into partner events, museums and cultural institutions, entertainment venues, schools, resource fairs, and festivals.

disabilitySTRONG training equips organizations, venues, and event teams with practical tools for disability inclusion, including inclusive communication, basic accessibility practices, and strategies for welcoming participants with disabilities in community settings. The curriculum introduces participants to the broader work of DIRC and raises awareness of how disability confidence, consideration, inclusion units, sensory supports, and program design can work together to reduce barriers.

The Disability-lived Experience Panel is a group of community members with disabilities who share firsthand perspectives on barriers and solutions in public spaces, services, and events. Through speaking engagements and consultative conversations, the panel helps community partners understand real-world disability experiences providing critical feedback to equitable participation.

Disability Inclusion Programming initiatives integrate accessibility and disability-focused content into public programming such as museum family days, botanical garden events, community festivals, and school field-trip experiences. These initiatives often layer inclusive activities, sensory supports, adaptive aids, and information-sharing into existing events so that attendees encounter disability inclusion as a visible, normalized part of community life.

The Mobile Changing Unit (MCU) is a 24-foot accessible restroom trailer equipped with an adult-sized height-adjustable changing table, hoist lift, accessible toilet, sink, and privacy features that allow youth and adults with higher support needs to remain at full-day events without being changed on restroom floors or in vehicles.

The Portable Changing Room (PCR) is a staffed, pop-up enclosure equipped with a stationary changing bench or adjustable height changing table, manual Hoyer lift, and foot pump hand washing station that provides a private, sanitary changing and personal-care space at locations where a full trailer cannot be staged, including conferences, zoos, and destination venues. This unit creates dignified universal changing options for attendees who use incontinence supplies or require lift-assisted transfers, helping prevent early departures from community experiences.

The Portable Sensory Room (PSR) is a staffed, pop-up sensory environment that uses controlled lighting, soft seating, tactile materials, and calming activities to support regulation for people who experience sensory overload in crowded or noisy settings. Throughout 2025, this unit provided intentional quiet spaces where participants could regulate and successfully return to the main program.

The Sensory Kit Check-out Station offers event-ready sensory kits that may include noise-reducing headphones, fidgets, visual supports, and other regulation tools that guests can borrow for the duration of an event. In 2025, this station complemented the PSR at high-traffic cultural programs by extending sensory supports beyond a single room, allowing guests to maintain regulation while staying with their families or school groups across the venue.

The Adaptive Art Station (AAS) is a flexible creative station that brings accessible arts activities—such as adaptive drawing and tactile craft projects—into community programs, with tools and materials designed for a wide range of physical, cognitive, and sensory abilities. Deployments enabled guests with and without disabilities to create side-by-side while staff shared information about disABILITYsa’s broader programs, using art as an accessible entry point to engagement.

The Disability-friendly First Aid Station (DFA) is a dedicated first aid environment designed to be physically and procedurally accessible to people with disabilities, complementing the inclusion units at community events. DFA emphasizes clear communication, adjustable treatment spaces, and attention to sensory and mobility needs so that participants can receive basic medical support without encountering common barriers present in standard first aid setups.

2025 Deployment Timeline

disABILITYsa’s Disability Inclusion Resource Center (DIRC) increased access to dignified restrooming, sensory regulation, and adaptive engagement during the 2025 program year through deployments of the Mobile Changing Unit (MCU), Portable Changing Room (PCR), Portable Sensory Room (PSR), Sensory Kit Check-out Station, and Adaptive Art Station (AAS) at major community events and school-focused programs.

In 2025, disABILITYsa’s inclusion units provided a sustained, year-round presence at key community events, festivals, and programs across the region. Over 18 distinct deployments, the Mobile Changing Unit (MCU) operated on 32 event days, the Portable Changing Room (PCR) on 6 event days, the Portable Sensory Room (PSR) on 14 event days, the Sensory Kit Check-out Station on 2 event days, the Adaptive Art Station (AAS) on 2 event days, and the Disability-friendly First Aid Station (DFA) on 1 event day, illustrating both the depth of support at multi-day anchor events and the strategic use of specialized units to round out universal changing, sensory, creative, and first-aid access at a variety of venues.

1. February 2–24, 2025 – San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo: the MCU operated for 23 consecutive days with staffed shifts providing universal changing and accessible restrooming for families and adults with disabilities.
2. February 28, 2025 – Harlandale ISD “What’s Next” Symposium at Harlandale Memorial Stadium: the MCU + PSR were deployed to support transition-age youth, families, and educators attending a full-day symposium.
3. March 29, 2025 – St. Philip’s College: the PSR was deployed offering a quiet self-regulation space during a campus event.
4. April 6, 2025 – McNay Art Museum: the MCU and PSR were deployed together for McNay inclusion programming, with a dedicated MCU shift on site to support restrooming and sensory needs.

5. April 11, 2025 – Vibrant Works’ Bleeping Egg Hunt: the Portable Changing Room (PCR) was deployed to provide a private, dignified changing space for families participating in the egg hunt, supplementing existing restroom infrastructure.
6. April 12, 2025 – Inclusion Festival at the Tobin Center: the Mobile Changing Unit (MCU), Portable Sensory Room (PSR), and Adaptive Art Station (AAS) were deployed to the Inclusion Festival, where families expressed relief at having both universal changing and sensory supports available alongside standard restrooms and festival activities.
7. April 24, 2025 – Fiesta Fiesta: the MCU was deployed to support Fiesta Fiesta®, where attendees highlighted the value of a spacious, climate-controlled, fully equipped universal changing and restrooming option compared with standard portable toilets.
8. April 25–27, 2025 – Texas Parasport Games: the MCU was deployed for three consecutive days at the Texas Parasport Games, with users describing it as “much, much better than a porta-potty” and “the most accessible bathroom she’s ever seen” because of its space, air conditioning, and adaptive equipment
9. April 29, 2025 – Fiesta Especial Celebration Day: the MCU and universal changing station, along with a Sensory Friendly Escape Room, served school and provider groups at the carnival site; school coordinators rated these amenities positively and emphasized their importance for toileting and sensory regulation.
10. May 2, 2025 – Battle of Flowers Parade: the MCU provided an accessible changing and restrooming option along the parade route, enabling families and adults with disabilities to remain for the duration of the parade.
11. May 10, 2025 – Art for Autism at The Shops at La Cantera: the PSR was deployed all day to offer a staffed, calming space during an autism-focused art event.
12. June 21, 2025 – San Antonio Botanical Garden: a combined deployment of PCR, PSR, and Sensory Kits supported an inclusive, full-day garden experience, adding both universal changing and flexible sensory supports to the site.
13. September 25–26, 2025 – Austin conference: the PCR traveled to Austin for a two-day deployment, extending DIRC’s universal changing model beyond San Antonio.
14. October 4, 2025 – AccessAbility fest at Travis Park: the Mobile Changing Unit (MCU), Portable Sensory Room (PSR), and Disability-friendly First Aid Station (DFA) were deployed on-site to provide universal changing, sensory regulation supports, and accessible first aid services, ensuring that participants with disabilities could comfortably remain at the festival and receive care in an environment designed with their needs in mind.
15. October 25, 2025 - June 21, 2025 – San Antonio Botanical Garden Bootanica: a combined deployment of PCR and PSR supported an inclusive, full-day garden experience, adding both universal changing and flexible sensory supports to the site.
16. November 2, 2025 – McNay Family Day: the MCU, PSR, and AAS were incorporated into a family-oriented museum day, with outreach notes capturing both inclusion units and adaptive art as key engagement points.

17. November 8, 2025 – Dream Night at the San Antonio Zoo: the PCR and PSR were deployed for an after-hours event serving children with disabilities and their families, ensuring both dignified changing and sensory-friendly retreat space.
18. December 3, 2025 – Sensory Friendly Night at Illuminate at the Botanical Garden: the PSR, Sensory Kit Check-out Station, and PCR created a multi-layered sensory-friendly and universal changing environment during the garden’s seasonal light experience.

Utilization and feedback

Surveys collected during the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo and Harlandale ISD deployments documented active use of the MCU’s changing table and toilet by both adults and children with disabilities, including individuals with spinal cord injuries and families who otherwise lacked an appropriate place to change older youth.

A large proportion of MCU survey respondents reported that knowing a universal changing space was available would make them, or someone they know, more likely to attend similar events in the future, and many indicated that they learned about universal changing spaces for the first time at these deployments.

Qualitative comments emphasized increased dignity and extended participation, with caregivers sharing that the MCU made it possible for their entire family to enjoy the Rodeo together, that they were “proud” their local events prioritized such access, and that the alternative would have been leaving early or changing loved ones in cars or on restroom floors.

Outreach data from Texas Parasport Games, Fiesta activations, and McNay events captured strong satisfaction with the MCU’s cleanliness, equipment, and climate control, as well as specific requests to bring the MCU to additional venues such as veteran-focused events at military medical centers.

At Fiesta Especial Celebration Day, school and provider coordinators who used the Sensory Friendly Escape Room and universal changing station rated these components as satisfactory to very satisfactory and highlighted how they reduced barriers for students requiring lifts, adult-sized tables, or structured sensory environments to participate in rides and educational activities.

Impact on inclusion and community access

The Mobile Changing Unit and Portable Changing Room directly addressed the lack of dignified, accessible toileting and changing options that often forces people with higher support needs to leave events early or avoid them altogether, shifting the reality from floor-based changing to private, fully equipped universal spaces.

The Portable Sensory Room and Sensory Kit Check-out Station mitigated sensory barriers at crowded, high-stimulus venues by offering both room-based and mobile supports, allowing participants with sensory processing differences to regulate without missing the core activities or being isolated from their peers.

The Adaptive Art Station created low-barrier entry points to community life by embedding adaptive creative activities directly into festivals and museum days, giving many participants with disabilities an accessible, engaging reason to remain on-site and connect with the Disability Inclusion Resource Center’s broader offerings. Collectively, these 2025 deployments enabled families, students, and adults with disabilities to attend and remain at high-profile events—including the Stock Show & Rodeo, Fiesta parades and celebrations, parasport competitions, botanical garden programs, museum family days, and zoo events—alongside their non-disabled peers, advancing the goal of a more inclusive San Antonio.