



## Mobile Changing Unit 2025 Impact Report

The Mobile Changing Unit (MCU) served as the cornerstone of disABILITYsa’s Disability Inclusion Resource Center efforts in 2025, transforming how families and adults with higher support needs participated in large community events. The 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 so that individuals who cannot use standard restrooms—or who require full-support transfers or diapering into adulthood—can attend full-day events without being changed on restroom floors, inside vehicles, or having to leave early. This infrastructure positioned universal changing not as a special accommodation, but as an expected amenity at some of the region’s highest-profile community gatherings.

Over the course of 2025, the MCU was deployed on 32 event days across 11 distinct events, anchoring several multi-day engagements that would otherwise have been inaccessible to many families. The largest single deployment was the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo, where the MCU operated for 23 consecutive days with staffed shifts providing universal changing and accessible restrooming for families and adults with disabilities. Additional deployments included the Harlandale ISD “What’s Next” Symposium, McNay Art Museum inclusion programming, Fiesta Fiesta, the three-day Texas Parasport Games, Fiesta Especial Celebration Day, the Battle of Flowers Parade, AccessAbility Fest at Travis Park, and McNay Family Day, ensuring that an appropriate changing and restrooming space was available at parades, festivals, school-focused programs, and arts and culture events.

Survey data and qualitative feedback collected during 2025 provide strong evidence that the MCU met and exceeded its inclusion goals. At the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo and Harlandale ISD “What’s Next” Symposium, surveys 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 respondents indicated that knowing a universal changing space like the MCU was available would make them, or someone they know, more likely to attend similar events in the future, and many reported that they learned about universal changing spaces for the first time at these deployments.

Narrative feedback from users underscores the lived impact of the unit. Caregivers shared that the MCU made it possible for their entire family to enjoy the Rodeo together, rather than sending one parent home early or skipping the event entirely because there was nowhere appropriate to change an older child or adult. Others expressed pride that their local events “prioritize taking care of people,” noting that the presence of the MCU signaled a community that values inclusion. At Fiesta Fiesta and the Texas Parasport Games, attendees described the MCU as “much, much better than a porta-potty” and “the most accessible bathroom she’s ever seen,” specifically citing the space, air conditioning, cleanliness, and adaptive equipment as features that dramatically improved comfort and safety. Outreach notes from events such as the Texas Parasport Games and McNay Family Day also captured requests to bring the MCU model to additional venues—especially veteran-focused gatherings at military medical centers—highlighting a growing recognition that universal changing is a critical infrastructure gap well beyond festival settings.

From a systems perspective, the 2025 deployment year shows that the MCU has begun to shift the baseline for what is considered acceptable restroom and changing access at major public events. Prior to the MCU, families of adults and older youth who use diapers or need full-support transfers often had to choose between unsafe, undignified options and not attending events at all. With the MCU on site, those same families can plan for full-day participation, knowing there is a private, fully equipped space that meets their needs, and event partners now routinely incorporate the MCU into their operational planning, including placement, signage, and staff communication. In summary, the 2025 Mobile Changing Unit deployments directly reduced a longstanding barrier—lack of dignified toileting and changing—for people with higher support needs and enabled more equitable access to the cultural institutions, parades, festivals, and public celebrations that define community life in San Antonio.