

Public Service

2019

Missouri State Employee Award of Distinction

David Nykodym

GIS Analyst

Office of Administration

David Nykodym has a child with a rare genetic condition that keeps her in diapers. David's family had difficulty traveling due to the lack of information regarding restrooms that met their child's changing needs. David realized families like his needed a website they could turn to for information in Missouri.

Missouri Disability Empowerment (MoDE), a non-profit disability advocacy group David helped start embraced his idea of developing an online map to crowdsource and display accessible restrooms. Using his skills working with geospatial technology, David created an online map, where individuals could submit locations of accessible restrooms and view them in a web browser. The website was launched on August 6, 2018, within four weeks, the map had over 200,000 views and 64 restroom locations across Missouri that had been verified and pinned on it.

This map quickly captured national attention, the Associated Press ran a story about MoDE's restroom reporter map. Families from across the country contacted MoDE and requested the map be expanded. David modified the application, and on September 4, 2018, MoDE launched RestroomMap.com to serve all 50 states. The site now hosts over 400 accessible restroom locations across the United States.