

“Best Practices in Community Inclusion for Persons With Disabilities”

Preliminary Survey Highlights

ADA 25 Task Force

Metropolitan Mayors Caucus



96 Survey Participants

from 89 Public Agencies/Organizations

- 44 Municipalities
- 14 Park Districts
- 10 Libraries
- 7 Special Recreation Districts
- 7 Schools
- 7 Other

Participant Job Functions

- Elected Officials: Mayors, Trustees
- Administration: Village Managers, Library Directors, Superintendents, CEOs
- Building & Facilities: Operations, Facilities Management, Public Works
- Program Coordinators: Disability Services Coordinators, Youth Directors, Special Recreation Coordinators

Designated Staff Members Working on ADA Inclusion

- Municipalities: 43% have a designated staff person who addresses ADA needs
 - Assistant Village Manager or Program Coordinator
 - Disability Services Coordinators: Evanston, Arlington Heights
(2 out of 44)
- Across all organizational categories: 60% have a designated staff person
 - Park Districts: recreation supervisors
 - Other org: titles vary widely
- 84% of organizations with a designated staff person expressed interest in connecting with each other

Citizen Commissions:

10 Communities work on ADA issues

- ADA-Specific Commissions:
 - Arlington Heights: Commission for Citizens with Disabilities
 - DeKalb: Advisory Commission on Disabilities
 - Evanston: ADA Advisory Committee
 - Naperville: Advisory Commission on Disabilities
- Broader Commissions that overlap:
 - Orland Park: Community Relations Commission
 - Park Forest: Senior Commission
 - Rolling Meadows: Urban Affairs Commission
 - Schaumburg: Committee on Aging
 - Wilmette: Human Relations Commission
 - Woodridge: Senior Task Force

Accessibility:

Local policies, procedures, & programs

Policies and Procedures

- Libraries refer to IL Library Association's ADA Standards
- Municipalities refer to IL ADA Code, IL Building code, zoning requirements
- Some communities have conducted *Accessibility Audits* and created *ADA Transition Plans*
 - Orland Park, Schaumburg, Grayslake Park Dist, Rolling Meadows Park Dist, Evanston, Carol Stream, McHenry County Conservation Dist (7)
- Schools: students w.disabilities receive an Individualized Education Program

Programs

- Provide accommodations and programs geared towards disability topics
- Staff disability awareness training
- American Sign Language Interpreters available for meetings

Housing:

Local policies, procedures, & programs

- Many communities work collaboratively with non-profit groups and private organizations to meet housing needs
 - Northwest Housing Partnership has extended the Handyman program to include person's with disabilities (Indic. by Arlington Heights, Mount Prospect)
- Building Plans
 - Schaumburg: Village's 5-Year Consolidated Plan addresses future supportive housing needs
 - Villa Park: Reviews building plans and inspects new construction for ADA compliance
- Subsidized Housing: 6 communities
 - Mount Prospect: Meyer's Place - subsidized housing unit for p.w.disabilities
 - Wilmette: Housing Assistance Program which provides financial support to persons with disabilities who meet certain income guidelines
 - Lakewood: Partnered with Pioneer Center to create group home for young adults with special needs.
 - Lakewood: TIF District has \$1M set aside for housing for young adults with special needs. Contributes to portfolio of affordable housing stock required by the state.

Employment:

Local policies, procedures, & programs

- Policies

- Equal opportunity employer / employ p.w.disabilities
- Make accommodations – ex. flexible schedules

- Municipal Programs: Arlington Heights Citizen Commission

- 2009: Created Annual Employer Award for a local business recognized has an inclusive employer
- 2014: Released "Business Information Packet" as a resource to hiring and employing persons with disabilities

- Non-Profit Programs

- Center for Independent Futures
- Jjs List (also an ADA25 partner)
- Valley Sheltered Workshop, Batavia

Transportation:

Local policies, procedures, & programs

Programs

- PACE Dial-A-Bus paratransit services (10 surveys)
- Taxi subsidy program (4 municipalities: Arlington Heights, Woodridge, Schaumburg, Villa Park)
- Door-to-door bus service in McHenry Co. and Elk Grove Township
- Van programs for some schools and park districts
- Metra Free Ride application assistance provided by Mount Prospect

Technology:

Local policies, procedures, & programs

Technologies Used

- Internet-related technologies (17 surveys)
 - Online chat, ADA compatible websites, adaptable font sizes, etc.
- Hardware: adapted keyboards, magnifying machines
- TTY/TDD phones, Closed Captioning
- Hearing assistance for public meetings (6 surveys)
- iPads and online chat to facilitate non-verbal communication when needed

Programs

- IL Talking Books Outreach Center
- Foss Park District: working towards portable computer lab to assist p.w.disabilities with computer skills.

Innovative Outreach Initiatives & Collaborative Efforts

- School/Library Collaboration – e.g. Glen Ellyn Library
- Rolling Meadows Park District: Ability Awareness Day at day camps & preschool
- Veterans Park District (Northlake): Free special recreation carnival and encourage participation from both special needs and non-special needs families
- Glen Ellyn Public Library: homebound delivery for library materials
- Carol Stream: Police Department's Social Service Unit
 - Community outreach to underprivileged families
 - Referral service, diagnostic consultation, crisis intervention, counseling

Innovative Outreach Initiatives & Collaborative Efforts

- Evanston Library: Hosted Special Needs Family Resource Fair
- Glen Ellyn Library: Participates in the Targeting Autism Forum, a state program to connects libraries with other community stakeholder organizations; educates about providing inclusive services
- Itasca Library: Participates in Light It Up Blue, worldwide autism awareness event
- Wilmington: School students w.disabilities work shadowing program
- Will-Grundy Center for Independent Living
 - Teach HS students w.disabilities about their rights
 - Work with non-profit organizations to educate on disability-related laws.
- Foss Park District: Hosting a Baseball Clinic for kids with all abilities for all over Lake County on July 25

Innovative Outreach Initiatives & Collaborative Efforts

Townships

- Provide bus transportation, as well as information about transportation services
- Wheeling Township: Advisory council for person's with disabilities.
- Ela Township: Social worker who provides resources

Special Recreation Districts (32 in Illinois)

- Collaborative agreement among park districts, cities and villages to provide recreation and leisure opportunities for p.with disabilities.
- Also provide education opportunities to children and adults on community inclusion
- Staff: Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialists, Program Specialists, Parks and Rec
- Palatine Park Dist: Portion of our annual tax levy goes to be a member and serve the residents of our jurisdiction

Community Needs

Identified in Survey Responses

- Take advantage of new technology, and assistance with implementing current technology
- Better identify what needs exist
- Better access to public transportation
- Affordable wheelchair-accessible taxicab service
- Equipment needs
- Crosswalk technical assistance and visually impaired technology, esp. near senior centers and in downtown areas
- Technical assistance in ADA inclusion urban/park planning (Blue Island, Foss Park District)

Big Picture Trends

- Lots of innovative collaboration
- Identified both success stories and gaps in service
- Desire to do more
- Interested in connecting more with each other
 - Challenge: wide variety of staff titles
- More data to come! (additional responses this week)