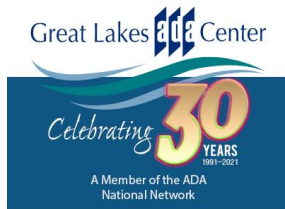


ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL DESIGN – THE ADA

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Age-friendly Communities Collaborative
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Older Adults and Disability

Whether older adults have disabilities or not, they benefit from accessible features and customer service practices. Whether that be in City Hall, Parks and Recreation Facilities, Libraries, Schools or other Places of Public Gathering, Medical Facilities, Social Service Agencies, Transportation Facilities or City Streets and Sidewalks.



Language Matters

- Older population does not necessarily identify as having a “disability” due to stigma, cultural bias, etc.
 - Focus on “staying young” and “remaining active” even if the parameters are redefined in terms of what someone can currently do compared to what they “used” to do.
- Aging population tends to shun programs and services that are labeled “disability” or “special” due to stigma, cultural bias, etc.
- Term “Older adult” more acceptable than “aging” “seniors” “elderly” “geriatric” which are often perceived to have negative connotations. “Elderly” can be a sign of respect in some cultures but negative in others. Know your audience.
- Discourage use of descriptors such as “impaired”, “limited”, “frail”.

Consider the Numbers

Mayors Caucus Counties:

- Cook County:
 - Disability: 10.2% (all ages)
 - 65 + years: 14.6% of population
- Will County:
 - Disability: 8.9% (all ages)
 - 65 + years: 13.1% population
- DuPage County:
 - Disability: 8.2% (all ages)
 - 65 + years: 15.5% of population
- Lake County:
 - Disability: 9.1% (all ages)
 - 65 + years: 14.2% of population
- McHenry County
 - Disability: 9.6% (all ages)
 - 65 + years: 14.6% of population

Mayors Caucus Counties:

- Kane County:
 - Disability: 8.6% (all ages)
 - 65 + years: 13.7% of population
- DeKalb County:
 - Disability: 10.5% (all ages)
 - 65 + years: 12.6% of population
- Kendall County:
 - Disability: 7.6% (all ages)
 - 65 + years: 10.3% of population

Illinois

Disability: 11% (all ages)

Disability: 65-74 yrs 23% ; 74 and older 43.5%

Universal Design vs Accessible Design

- **Accessible Design** aims at minimum requirements to achieve usability.
 - Accessible Design is focused on the specific needs of people with disabilities.
 - Accessible Design is required by federal and local/state law.
- **Universal Design** is inclusive of Accessibility, and not solely focused on Accessibility but rather universal useability.
 - Universal Design expands Accessibility's definition by striving to improve the use by everyone, children, people with disabilities, the aging population, and everyone in between.
 - Universal Design is a concept that is not constrained by legal requirements.
- **Inclusive Design** is an emerging method or philosophy of designing that means welcoming diverse people to engage authentically with an organization's products and services.
 - It considers cultural, social, and other needs, which extend past those of the perceived 'average' or 'typical' user and focuses on a more holistic group of solutions and processes, taking into account identities, culture, and diverse perspectives.

What's the difference?

- Accessible Design –Universal Design
 - Minimums and maximums required by regulations
 - Most architects and designers design to the minimum
 - Example: An ADA ramp must be minimum 1:12 (12 inches of length for each 1 inch of rise) and is useable by some.
 - It is very difficult for someone with balance, lower extremity weakness and/or in a manual wheelchair to push up a 1:12 ramp.
 - A 1:15 (15 inches of length for each 1 inch of rise) is useable by most.
 - 1:20 (20 inches of length for each 1 inch of rise) is a minimal rise and would meet the definition of universal design in terms of usability.
 - Automatic/Power Assist Doors are not required by regulations
 - Most architects and designers do not include them as standard features due to cost, “aesthetics”, etc.
 - Automatic/Power Assist Doors can be an answer to “Program Access” for Title II entities which is a higher standards than “Accessibility”.
 - Automatic/Power Assist Doors can be used by everyone and benefit a wide variety of users beyond just people with physical disabilities thus applying Universal Design.

Accessibility versus Accessible

- Accessibility refers to the design of products, devices, services, or environments to meet the standards for usability by people with disabilities.
 - Example: The building was designed in accordance with the 2010 ADA Accessibility Standards
- Accessible means that the element or feature is available, open, convenient, easy, utilizable, approachable, attainable, friendly, public, handy and nearby. It is not necessarily specific to disability.
 - Example: The location of the COVID-19 Vaccine Site was selected to ensure that it was accessible to individuals living within a 10-mile radius of the downtown center.

Planning for ADA Compliance

- ADA Self-Evaluation Plan –
 - An assessment of everything, including programs, services, and activities; facilities; and current policies, practice and procedures to ensure that they are consistent with the Title II requirements under the ADA.
 - Required to be completed by January 26, 1993.
 - A Self-Evaluation Plan is a good “tool” for assessing/gauging a community's compliance with the ADA and identifying where changes may be needed to ensure ADA compliance.
- ADA Transition Plan –
 - A detailed assessment of physical barriers that may require structural changes to achieve program access in existing facilities. The plan must identify the barrier, contain a plan for removing the barrier, a time frame for completion and responsible persons/departments. Transition plans should be kept updated.
 - Plan required to be completed by July 26, 1992 and barrier removal was to be completed by July 26, 1995.
 - A Transition Plan demonstrates a “good faith effort” and remains relevant as long as barriers still exist, regardless of timelines past.

Building Partnerships

- Seeking support and collaboration with a variety of stakeholders who will be beneficiaries of the “Universal” design beyond a “protected class”
 - Parents with young children in strollers or with toddlers
 - Runners, bikers, walkers (shared path users)
 - People with physical, cognitive, psychological and sensory disabilities and their family members/caregivers
 - Older persons
 - Delivery persons who use dollies and other wheeled equipment
- Universal Design benefits everyone even if they don’t see it or think about it as an “accessibility” issue.

Community Participation and Best Practices Resources

- ADA Participatory Action Research Consortium (ADA PARC)
 - To look at participation disparities experienced by people with disabilities post ADA & Olmstead
 - To identify & examine key environmental factors contributing to these disparities
 - To benchmark participation disparities and highlight promising practices at state & city levels
 - To action-plan strategies for dissemination and utilization of findings to be used by ADA Centers and others in community capacity building & systems change initiatives

Website: http://centerondisability.org/ada_parc/index.php

- Great Lakes ADA Center Research Project - ADA transition plans and their role in the development of accessible cities
 - Best practices in the development and implementation of ADA transition plans as they relate to the public right of way (PROW)

Website: <http://adagreatlakes.com/Research/transitionPlan.asp>

Accessibility Resources

- Great Lakes ADA Center
 - www.adagreatlakes.org or 800-949-4232 (V/TTY)
 - Technical Assistance, Consultation and Training on all Titles of the ADA
- U.S. Access Board
 - www.access-board.gov or 800-872-2253
 - Technical Assistance on the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessibility
- U.S. Department of Justice, Disability Rights Section
 - www.ada.gov or 800-514-0301
 - Technical Assistance on Title II of the ADA
- Institute for Human Centered Design
 - www.humancentereddesign.org or 617-695-1225

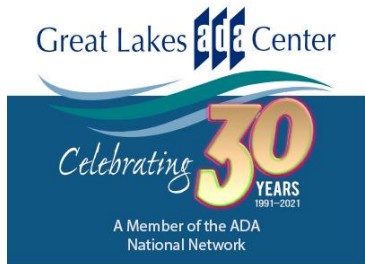
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