



AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) PROGRAM STATEMENT

Awareness of disability-related issues is increasing. Many people now understand to what extent site and building features can either impede or promote access. With the passage of the ADA, new emphasis has been placed on removing barriers to people with disabilities.

People with disabilities must be able to obtain or enjoy “the same goods, services, and benefits” that are provided to other members of the public. The following overview is a list of activities and services that, if offered to the public, must also be available to participants with disabilities:

- access via private automobile, taxi, or public transportation
- access to parking and entry into the market
- maneuverability around the site as needed to attend all activities and functions offered
- ability to attend performances, participate in activities, and enter exhibits
- ability to experience and enjoy activities of the event
- ability to select and purchase items at concessions and vendor stalls
- access to and use of public toilet rooms, telephones, water fountains, and other typical common public amenities, such as shelter from sun and rain
- access to first aid

The Importance of an Accessible Route

Critical to the successful use of a site is the presence of an accessible route. It is the central component of accessibility that unites separate spaces, elements, and features into a usable whole. This single, continuous, accessible pedestrian path should be wide, smooth, as level as possible, without low or overhanging hazards or obstructions, and should not require the use of stairs.

Modifying Policies and Procedures

Service animals should be allowed to accompany a person with a disability as needed. Service animals are not pets, but act as a guide for people with disabilities. They must be allowed to accompany the individual into the event unless it would constitute a fundamental alteration of a program. A service animal is any animal individually trained to work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability.