

ADA Quick Reference Guide

Resources for Local Agencies

July 2021



[Website](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#)

Contents

- Quick Links to ADA Resources..... 1
- List of Contacts from Quick Links..... 2
- Useful Documents and Training Information..... 3
- Contact Information for Oates Associates..... 4
- Our ADA Experience..... 5

Webpages

Provided below is a list of webpages to visit for more information regarding the ADA.

Federal

[US Access Board](#)

The Access Board provides assistance and training for accessible design. They develop design criteria for the built environment, transit vehicles, telecommunications equipment, medical diagnostic equipment, and information technology.

[US Department of Justice](#)

ADA Specialists are on staff to answer your calls through the ADA Information Line. They are knowledgeable on the requirements of the ADA and will help answer questions specific to you and your community.

[US Department of Housing and Urban Development](#)

Technical assistance, materials and training are available for accessibility design and construction requirements of the Fair Housing Act.

State

[Illinois Attorney General](#)

The Disability Rights Bureau protects equal opportunities for people with disabilities involving access to buildings, housing and services. The Bureau also provides technical assistance for those seeking to comply with disability rights laws and they conduct disability rights training programs.

[Illinois Capital Development Board](#)

For assistance with interpreting the Illinois Accessibility Code.

[Illinois Secretary of State](#)

Persons with Disabilities Services, provided by the Illinois Secretary of State, assist with providing reasonable accommodations and connects citizens with specific services.

[Sign Language Interpreter](#)

A directory of licensed interpreters, which can be searched by region and county.

[Centers for Independent Living](#)

A database of Centers for Independent Living throughout Illinois, which can be searched by county. Centers for Independent Living support individuals with disabilities to help them be as self-sufficient as possible.

Local

[City of Chicago Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities](#)

The City of Chicago provides services and programs in an effort to make Chicago the most accessible city in the nation.

[Great Lakes ADA Center](#)

For training, assistance and resources as it relates to the ADA. The Great Lakes ADA Center assists government agencies and other groups in Illinois and five other states.

How to Connect

For quicker reference, the list below highlights general and key contact information for the aforementioned organizations and agencies.

Federal

US Access Board

Technical assistance is available between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm weekdays.

tel 800-872-2253 (voice) | *tel* 800-993-2522 (TTY)
email info@access-board.gov

US Department of Justice

Technical assistance is available Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm or on Thursday from 11:30 am until 4:30 pm.

tel 800-514-0301 (voice) | 800-514-0383 (TTY)

US Department of Housing and Urban Development

Technical assistance is available from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm.

tel 888-341-7781 (voice/TTY)

State

Illinois Attorney General

Chicago Disability Rights Bureau
tel 312-814-5684 (voice) | 800-964-3013 (TTY)

Springfield Disability Rights Bureau
tel 217-524-2660 | 877-844-5461 (TTY)

Illinois Capital Development Board

Felicia Burton
Accessibility Specialist
tel 217-782-8530 (voice) | 217-524-4449 (TTY)
email Felicia.Burton@illinois.gov

Illinois Secretary of State

For questions about reasonable accommodations or the ADA, please contact the Department of Personnel.

tel 217-782-4783 (voice) | 888-261-5112 (TTY)

Sign Language Interpreter

For general information, you can contact the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm. By following the link on the previous page you can access the interactive map to find contact information for interpreters in your region.

tel 217-557-4495 (voice) | 888-261-2698 (TTY)

Centers for Independent Living

The Centers for Independent Living in Illinois is a statewide association that supports the local centers. For general information, you can reach them at the number below. By following the link on the previous page you can access the interactive map to find contact information for your region's Center for Independent Living.

tel 217-525-1308

Local

City of Chicago Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities

tel 312-744-7050 (voice) | 312-744-4964 (TTY)

Great Lakes ADA Center

Assistance is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm.

tel 800-949-4232 (voice/TTY)

Become Informed

The US Department of Justice has prepared documents to assist in understanding the ADA. Training opportunities are offered by organizations focused on raising awareness and increasing knowledge of the ADA.

Documents

[Notice and Grievance Procedure](#)

Standard documents offered by the US Department of Justice, including a Notice of the ADA and a Grievance Procedure, which are available to copy and paste.

[ADA Checklist for Existing Facilities](#)

A checklist to help determine accessibility of facilities used for services, programs and activities. Refer to "Priority 2: Access to Goods & Services" for information on public meetings.

[ADA Checklist for Polling Places](#)

An outline of requirements for polling place accessibility with possible problems and solutions identified with a checklist for guidance with the facilities you will be using.

Training

[Great Lakes ADA Center](#)

For training, assistance and resources as it relates to the ADA. Training programs can be found by following the link above. Publications, legal briefs and additional information can be found on the left-hand menu of the Center's website.

[ADA Coordinator](#)

Conferences and online training can be found here, along with details on how to earn the ADA Coordinator Training Certification.

[Oates Associates](#)

Oates Associates is available to address municipal staff members regarding internal processes and design and construction challenges and solutions as is relates to ADA.



Credentials

Professional Engineer: IL, MO

ADA Coordinator Certification

Travis Helmkamp, PE, ADAC

Project Manager

CONTACT

tel 618-345-2200

email travis.helmkamp@oatesassociates.com

EXPERIENCE

Travis specializes in the development of long-term ADA solutions for municipalities. He has a strong belief that the spirit of an ADA Transition Plan goes beyond simple assessments and extends to the desire for all citizens to have access to all aspects of daily life. He believes that accessibility starts with positive human interactions and an openness to provide a high level of service to all citizens.

Travis has completed numerous transition plans throughout the Midwest including the Sidewalk Inventory and ADA Transition Plan for the City of St. Charles, Missouri which won the ACEC Grand Award. He has an in-depth knowledge of ADA regulations and guidelines and regularly assists clients with all aspects of Title II compliance and implements accessibility design standards.



Credentials

Professional Engineer: IL, MO, IN

Structural Engineer: IL

Jeff Rensing, PE, SE

Project Manager

CONTACT

tel 618-345-2200

email jeff.rensing@oatesassociates.com

EXPERIENCE

Jeff assists municipalities in budgeting and long-range planning as they strive to achieve full ADA compliance. His approach is to collaborate with leaders to deliver adaptable solutions to City staff.

As a senior project manager at Oates Associates with 22 years of planning and engineering experience, Jeff provides guidance and insight for ADA and engineering issues. He has firsthand experience with ADA Transition Plan requirements and creates customized Plans for communities. His knowledge extends beyond traditional engineering for accessibility and into inclusiveness for citizens.

ADA Transition Planning

Many of our clients have used Oates Associates to help them comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by performing a self-evaluation and developing an ADA Transition Plan. They are motivated not only by an obligation to comply with the law, but also a desire to increase accessibility for their community. Through self-evaluation and the creation of an ADA Transition Plan, Oates Associates assists clients by developing usable tools that help communities and institutions increase accessibility and welcome people of all abilities to their programs and services. Our goal is to help clients go beyond compliance to create a better, safer, more accessible community.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), enacted on July 26, 1990, prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability and requires municipalities to conduct self-evaluations to identify barriers to the disabled.



How We Can Help

Oates Associates is committed to empowering and supporting communities in their efforts to increase accessibility. This extends beyond the assessment of facilities. We offer a truly integrated ADA approach - from educating staff to establishing policies and procedures to the design of improvements. For more information on the steps to take to make your community ADA compliant, contact Oates Associates.

