

ADA Overview - Basic Program Requirements for Public Entities

Obligations of Public Entities

- Programs, services and activities must be readily accessible and usable by people with disabilities.
- Provide notice about the availability of accommodations and how to request them.
- Provide reasonable accommodations/modifications to policies, practices, and procedures where needed to prevent discrimination.
- Ensure that communications with applicants, participants, members of the public, and companions with disabilities are as effective as communications with others.

Program Access

No qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of public entity, or be subject to discrimination

General Prohibitions Against Discrimination

A public entity may NOT directly (or through contracts, licensing, or other arrangements), discriminate on the basis of disability by:

- Denying the opportunity to participate in benefits, aid, and services.
- Providing services that are not equal to, not as effective as, or separate from those provided to others.
- Using eligibility criteria that would screen out or disqualify individuals or groups of people with disabilities.
- Denying the opportunity to participate on planning and advisory boards.
- Otherwise limiting the enjoyment of any right, privilege, advantage, or opportunity available by others receiving the same aid, benefit, or service.

Other Prohibited Activities:

- Imposing surcharges that apply only to individuals or groups of people with disabilities.
- Holding meetings or events in inaccessible locations (specifically for people who use mobility devices and/or service animals).

- Enforcing safety requirements that are not based on actual risk (but instead on speculation, stereotypes, or generalizations about people with disabilities).
- Excluding or denying equal services because a person has a relationship or association with a person with a disability.