

ADA Digital Accessibility

Political Subdivisions

February 2026

Digital Accessibility

Digital accessibility ensures that everyone can perceive, access, and understand online information and complete online tasks - without barriers. This includes people with disabilities who have a civil right to equal access and an equal digital experience. Websites, documents, multimedia, and online systems are not automatically accessible. Accessibility requires planning, intention, and dedication.

The ADA and 2024 DOJ Rule

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law in 1990. Title II of the ADA pertains to state and local governments.

The 2024 U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Digital Accessibility Rule requires that all public-facing digital content and systems provided by Title II entities needs to be accessible for people with disabilities.

To meet this requirement, digital content and systems must comply with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 AA, which is the international standard for digital accessibility.

WCAG provides practical guidelines to help ensure digital content can be seen, understood and used by everyone, regardless of ability. In simple terms, this means content must be usable by people who rely on assistive tools such as screen readers, keyboard navigation, captions, or other accessibility features.

Deadlines

Compliance deadlines are determined by the Title II entity's population

Population less than 50,000
Compliance by: **April 26, 2027**

Population 50,000 or more
Compliance by: **April 24, 2026**

What Needs to Be Accessible

All **new** and **currently used** digital content and online systems available to the public must be accessible.

- Websites
- Videos
- MS Word, PowerPoint, Excel docs
- PDFs
- Audio (podcasts)
- Web and mobile systems/portals
- Forms
- Social media posts

In limited situations, some web content does not have to meet WCAG 2.1 AA. A summary of the exceptions can be found in the DOJ Digital Accessibility Rule fact sheet.

Let's Do This!

- **Understand what compliance means**
Review the DOJ Digital Accessibility Rule fact sheet.
- **Add or update your website accessibility statement**
The [accessibility statement on nd.gov](https://www.nd.gov/accessibility-statement) can be used as a template.
- **Make a list (spreadsheet) of public-facing content**
Pages on websites, documents on website, forms, portals/apps, social media accounts
As you make progress, it is a good idea to make notes in this list to reflect what has been reviewed, what has been fixed, what issues are known but not fixed and reason why, etc.
- **Decide if content meets exceptions or if content is no longer needed and can be removed**
If you are unsure if content is an exception or can be removed, check with legal counsel.
- **Learn how to make content accessible**
First, start with the basic components of accessibility.
Then, learn about how the components apply to your website, MS Word, forms, social media, etc.
- **Create templates**
Create accessible templates that can be used for documents you create moving forward.
- **Start fixing existing content**
Focus first on current content and content the public uses most.
- **Work with IT and vendors to make systems compliant**
Confirm WCAG 2.1 AA compliance or document known issues and when they will be fixed.
- **Develop workflows and processes**
Consider who will have the ability to create content, who will review for accessibility, how will training be part of onboarding new employees, etc.

Find More Info

Luminary Content (<https://luminarycontent.com>)

Provides curated resources to learn digital accessibility, a list of recommended tools, and ways to continue learning about how to make online content more accessible.

Fact Sheet: New Rule on the Accessibility of Web Content and Mobile Apps Provided by State and Local Governments (<https://www.ada.gov/resources/2024-03-08-web-rule/>)

State and Local Governments: First Steps Toward Complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act Title II Web and Mobile Application Accessibility Rule (<https://www.ada.gov/resources/web-rule-first-steps/>)

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines WCAG (<https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/>)



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