

# Americans with Disabilities Act Title II Compliance for Digital Accessibility

If you or your clients are located in the United States you need to be aware of ADA Title II.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II protects people with disabilities in the United States and its territories. It mandates equal access to public entities' programs, services, and activities.

Digital accessibility must be incorporated into the design and implementation of information and communication technologies (ICT) including all state and local government operations, websites, mobile applications, online forms, digital documents, software, telecommunications systems, ATMs, and self-service kiosks.



# **Is Your Industry Affected?**

Compliance falls on all state and local government entities — including all departments, agencies, and programs under their jurisdiction.

Industries affected include:

- · Public transportation systems,
- Libraries.
- Schools,
- · Courts,
- · Healthcare providers receiving government funding, and
- Any other entity providing services to the public on behalf of the government.

Agencies that directly provide digital services and businesses that contract with third-party vendors to develop or maintain their digital assets also are responsible.



# **How Do You Comply with ADA Title II?**

Title II of the ADA specifies Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA as the technical standards for compliance for state and local governments — including their third-party vendors.

WCAG offers clear guidelines for color contrast, video captions, and assistive technologies. Organizations often find WCAG 2.1 AA a good balance between accessibility and affordability.

### Success criteria for web content is based on these principles:

Perceivable - e.g. Creating text alternatives for meaningful images

Operable - e.g. A site is completely navigable with keyboard commands

Understandable - e.g. A web page functions in a way that is predictable and logical

Robust - e.g. A website accepts keyboard commands, regardless of which browser or operating system it is being accessed from

WCAG 2.1 consists of:

50
Success Criteria

~88
Manual Tests

~67
Automated tests



Try Accessible Web RAMP free for 14 days to start testing for WCAG 2.1 AA violations. Explore plans

# **Your Additional Compliance Requirements:**

- Establish Accessibility Policies: Organizations should publish a comprehensive digital accessibility policy in a visible spot on their website.
  This policy should outline a commitment to accessibility, define roles and responsibilities, and provide procedures for addressing issues.
- **Provide Feedback Mechanisms:** Users should be able to report issues or request accommodations by email, online forms, or phone.

Tools like <u>Accessible Web's Compliance Center</u> streamline these processes.



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- Continuously Test: Organizations should conduct regular accessibility testing throughout digital asset creation and development. This includes automated testing, manual testing, and user testing with people with disabilities.
- Maintain Documentation: Keep track of your accessibility efforts, including policies, training records, testing results, and remediation plans.

Tools like <u>Accessible Web RAMP</u> automate testing and documentation for you.

- Provide Accessibility Training: Regular training should be provided to all staff involved in the creation, management, or delivery of digital content and services. Training should cover accessibility principles, WCAG guidelines, assistive technologies, and accessibility testing methods.
   Accessible Web Academy offers training as a supplemental service, or as part of our Pro+ Plan.
- Prepare for Reasonable Modifications: Organizations must be willing to modify some policies, practices, and procedures to ensure that individuals with disabilities have equal access to their goods, services, and facilities. This may include adjusting deadlines, providing alternative formats, or offering personalized assistance.
- Facilitate Effective Communication: Consider the needs and preferences of individuals with disabilities. Are you providing plain language, visual aids, and offering sign language interpreters, or using assistive technologies where needed?

Our certified accessibility specialists can help you identify these.

# What About Old Content and Media?

The Department of Justice <u>ADA factsheet</u> states the following as exceptions:

- · Web content that has been archived
- Preexisting conventional electronic documents if they are no longer in use
- Content posted by a third party who is not contractually obligated or otherwise acting for the public entity
- Previous social media posts
- Password-protected documents





# When Do You Need to Comply?

The compliance deadlines for the updated Title II regulations depend on the size of the population served by the state or local government:

**April 2026** 

**April 2027** 

For large governments (50,000+ people)

For small governments (<50,000 people)



# What to Do if You Can't Achieve Compliance by These Deadlines

In situations where achieving full technical compliance presents undue burdens or is technically infeasible, organizations must still make every reasonable effort to provide comparable access to individuals with disabilities. Here's what you can do when technical compliance isn't achievable:



Alternative Formats: Offer alternatives for inaccessible content (accessible PDFs, transcripts). Get in touch to discuss our multimedia services



**Assistive Technology Compatibility:** Ensure compatibility with commonly used assistive technologies (screen readers, magnifiers, & alternative input devices). Test your website with real assistive technology users



Personalized Assistance: Provide individualized support to users with disabilities (offering phone, email, or in-person assistance)

Failure to comply can leave your business vulnerable to both legal and financial risk. <u>Statistics from 2023:</u>

4,600+

**eCommerce** 

**New York** 

**ADA lawsuits** 

Websites were targeted the most

Targeted the most in federal and state filings\*

\*You are liable as long as you have customers in the state.



# **How Can You Comply?**

Navigating the complexities of ADA compliance can be daunting, but with Accessible Web, you're not alone. <u>Contact us</u> today to explore how our expert services and innovative tools can help your organization achieve and maintain compliance, and prepare for the upcoming deadlines and evolving expectations. Accessible Web offers:

### **Software**

### **Accessible Web RAMP**

Our easy-to-use suite of accessibility testing software helps you automate and facilitate continuous compliance with updated accessibility standards.

Start a free 14 day trial



### **Accessible Web Helper**

Our free Chrome extension contains a page scanner, color contrast checker, and a Guided Manual WCAG Tool. Launch it directly from a violation or task in RAMP to highlight the affected elements directly on your website.

Download for free



## **Guided Manual Audit Tool**

A tool within our extension (included with RAMP subscription) that walks you through a series of tests to comprehensively audit for all WCAG success criteria. Pair it with our audit grid in RAMP to audit your site at your own pace while automatically quantifying your progress.

Start a free 14 day trial





### **Accessible Web Academy**

With topics such as accessible design, code-specific best practices, and assistive technology, you can enable your team to contribute to the ongoing accessibility efforts and ensure that all content produced meets the accessibility standards. Level up your team today!

Browse course catalog



### **Services**

### **WCAG Manual Audits**

Automated scanning can only detect a portion of WCAG violations; manual evaluation is required. Our team of certified specialists will comprehensively evaluate your platform to identify compliance gaps.

Get in touch

# **Assistive Technology Testing**

Testing sessions with our team of real assistive technology users to confirm your digital solutions work seamlessly for all users.

Schedule your first session

### **Voluntary Product Accessibility Templates (VPATs)**

Our certified specialists will document how your platform meets accessibility standards, essential for procurement processes.

**Explore your options** 

### **Expert Consultation**

Remediation support is an ongoing process in which a certified specialist helps you meet your accessibility goals with support, best practices, trainings, and more!

Get in touch



# **Regulations Comparison Table**

Guidelines	ADA Title II *	ADA Title III	Section 508	EAA	ACA	AODA
Deadline	Large Governments: April 2026 Small Governments: April 2027	No specific deadline, ongoing	No specific deadline, ongoing	New content: June 28, 2025 Existing content: June 28, 2030	2040	2025
Affected Industries	Public services, state/local government entities	Private businesses operating a place of public accommodation	All branches of the government and contractors and grantees	Public and private sector bodies	All orgs under federal jurisdiction; including private sector bodies	Public and private sector bodies
Affected Regions	United States	United States	United States	European Union	Canada	Ontario, Canada
Standards for Compliance	WCAG 2.1 AA	WCAG 2.1 AA	WCAG 2.0 AA	WCAG 2.1 AA EN 301 549	WCAG 2.1 AA EN 301 549	WCAG 2.0 AA

# **Additional Info & References**

- <u>ADA.gov</u>: Comprehensive information about the law, regulations, technical assistance resources, and guidance on digital accessibility.
- <u>W3C</u>: Detailed information about WCAG 2.1, including the guidelines, success criteria, techniques, and supporting resources.
- <u>Department of Justice (DOJ)</u>: Guidance documents, technical assistance materials, and legal resources related to the ADA and digital accessibility.

We're here to help you navigate ADA Title II and other laws. Reach out to Accessible Web with your accessibility project.



# **Legal Disclaimer**

The information provided in this document is for informational purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice. While Accessible Web has made every effort to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information contained herein, accessibility laws, regulations, and guidelines vary by jurisdiction and are subject to change.

Accessible Web strongly recommends consulting with qualified legal counsel or compliance professionals to understand the specific requirements applicable to your organization and ensure compliance with accessibility laws, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 508, and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG).

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