



The Ability Center

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The Ability Center Praises New DOJ Standards Strengthening Web and Mobile App Access for People with Disabilities

WASHINGTON, DC – On April 8, 2024, Attorney General Merrick Garland signed a final rule under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to ensure web content and mobile apps are accessible for people with disabilities. Named "[Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability: Accessibility of Web Information and Services of State and Local Government Entities](#)," this rule creates new accessibility requirements for state and local government websites and apps.

“Without appropriate web access, many people who are blind or have low vision are unable to access needed government services that, more and more, are only available online. Inaccessible websites could make it impossible for individuals with disabilities to pay taxes or utilities, access needed information about their councilperson, or even get information about events happening in their communities,” **said Katherine Hunt Thomas, Disability Rights Attorney and Director of Advocacy at The Ability Center.** “The release of new standards governing what makes a website accessible will help further the goals of the drafters of the Americans with Disabilities Act – full participation and community integration for citizens with disabilities.”

The rule mandates state and local government websites and apps comply with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 guidelines, encompassing video and image accessibility. Compliance deadlines range from two to three years depending on population size. Third-party web and mobile app content for these entities must also comply with these guidelines.

“Merrick Garland has reaffirmed the foundational principle that accessibility is not a privilege but a right. This move is not just an advancement in policy; it’s a statement that inclusivity and equal opportunities for people with disabilities are integral to the fabric of our society. It ensures that the rights of individuals with disabilities are not only recognized but actively protected, paving the way for a more inclusive future where everyone has the chance to participate fully in all aspects of life,” **said Stuart James, Executive Director of The Ability Center.**

The Ability Center is pleased with the implementation of these new standards that will increase website and app accessibility for individuals with disabilities, and appreciates the hard work and advocacy of the disability community and allied organizations.

About The Ability Center

Founded in 1920, The Ability Center of Greater Toledo is a non-profit agency working to make our community the most disability-friendly in the country. Currently serving a 13-county area in Northwest Ohio, The Ability Center challenges people to think differently about disability, advocating, educating, partnering, and providing services.

For more information about The Ability Center, please visit abilitycenter.org.