ACCESSIBILITY PREPARATION

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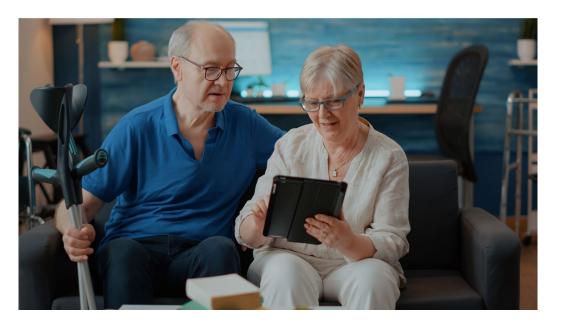
What is web accessibility?

Web accessibility fulfills the basic promise of the web - making information and communication readily available to all people regardless of barriers in geography, language, or disability.

Integrating accessibility into websites brings broader benefits to organizations and other website visitors.

Why does accessibility matter?

❑ Nearly 1 in 4 Americans have a disability.

❑ Enhanced accessibility features can improve site experience for all users.

❑ Section 508 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act mandates that federal agencies ensure their technology products and services, like software, websites, intranet sites, and mobile applications, are accessible to people with disabilities.

❑ All US local and state governments must comply with WCAG 2.1 AA by April 2026 if the population is larger than 50,000 and 2027 if the population is less than 50,000 according to the Americans with Disabilities Act.
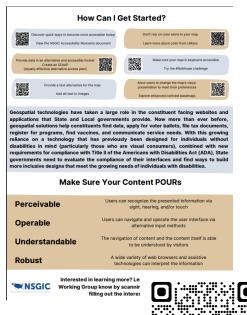
Common Tools for Accessibility

Some common approaches for interacting with the Web include:

☐ Assistive Technologies – software and hardware that people with disabilities use to improve interaction with the web. These include screen readers that read aloud web pages for people who cannot read the text, screen magnifiers for people with some types of low vision, and speech recognition software and selection switches for people who cannot use a keyboard or mouse.

☐ Adaptive Strategies – techniques that people with disabilities use to improve interaction with the Web, such as increasing text size, reducing mouse speed, and turning on captions.
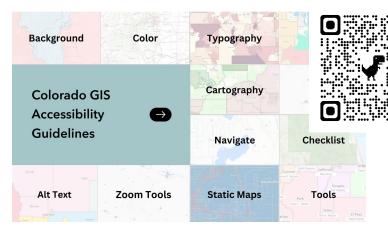

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Existing Resources

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Where do you go from here?

1. Learn the basics from the many existing resources

2. Raise awareness in your organization

3. Create a plan, checklists, or policy

4. Review your websites and assess

5. Prioritize updates

6. Track and communicate progress

7. Stay updated on changes

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