

## THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) AN OVERVIEW

Since 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)—one of America’s most comprehensive pieces of civil rights legislation—has been a tool used to protect the promise of equal opportunity by prohibiting discrimination against individuals with disabilities. We have made enormous strides in the breaking down of barriers for people with disabilities in communication, physical access to programs, and services in our communities.

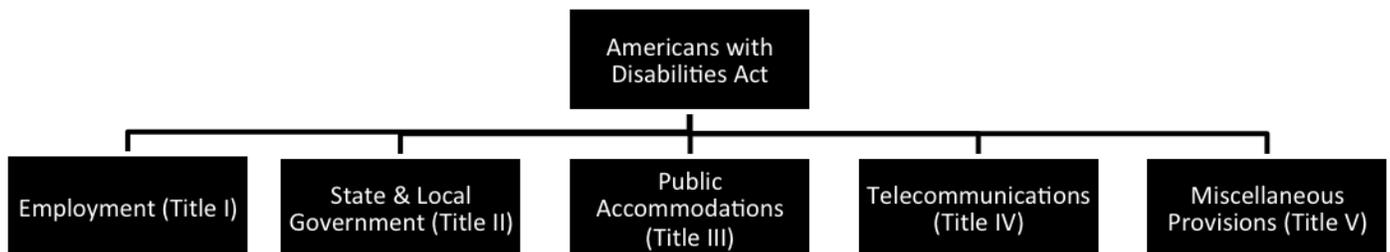
But, as we celebrate over 25 years of the ADA, we continue to work with and rely upon our legislators to recognize the importance of the ADA for all Americans. Those who benefit from the ADA include students who are deaf and need accommodations for equal access to education, people who have multiple sclerosis who want equal opportunity to gainful and meaningful employment, and grandparents with age-related disabilities who need equal access to healthcare, along with those who love these individuals.

### Why is the ADA important?

The 2010 US Census’ Americans with Disabilities report estimated that about 56.7 million Americans (19% of the population) have a disability. In addition, today, Americans face the growing challenge of a rapidly aging Baby Boomer population. This includes 76 million people over the age of 65, many of whom will acquire age-related disabilities.

### How has the ADA improved the lives of people with disabilities?

The ADA works to make sure that each and every one of the millions of American with disabilities has equal opportunities in all aspects of life—employment, public accommodations, state and local government, transportation, and telecommunications.



- Accessible Voting
- Department of Justice’s Project Civic Access
- Increased Employment for People with Disabilities
- Accessible Public Transportation
- Access to Healthcare
- Inclusive Public Accommodations

**For more information about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):**

**Northwest ADA Center**  
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**ADA National Network**  
www.adata.org  
Toll-Free: 800-949-4232

**US Department of Justice  
ADA Information Line**  
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Voice: 800-514-0301  
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**About Our Organization**

Northwest ADA Center provides technical assistance, information, and training regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Information is provided from the regional office in Washington State and affiliates in Alaska, Idaho, and Oregon. Specialists are available to answer specific questions pertaining to all titles of the ADA and accessibility of the built environment. The training staff offers presentations to businesses, organizations, schools, people with disabilities, and the general public.

**Northwest ADA Center**  
**800-949-4232** ♦ [www.nwadacenter.org](http://www.nwadacenter.org)



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*Alternate formats available upon request.*

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