

How to Ensure Accessible Events

Kristy Stambaugh, CTRS, MRC, CRC
Director of Aging and Disability Services



LEXINGTON

People with disabilities are the only minority group that you can join ANYTIME, due to an illness, injury or the aging process.





Kentucky Aging and Disability Stats (2021-2023)

- 1,070,678 KY residents 60 years and older
 - 36.1% have a disability

- 1,330,983 adults of all ages living with a disability in KY (2023)
 - 33% or 1 in 3

▪ Sources

CDC Data

Census, ACSST 2021

Disability Compendium.org



Americans with Disability Act & Public Entities

- “no qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any such {public} entity.”
- the ADA requires public entities to provide individuals with disabilities “meaningful access” to their programs and services.” “reasonable accommodations in the public entity’s program or benefit may have to be made.”



Inclusion

- A Process...
 - Of changing attitudes and beliefs
 - Of creating an environment that values & promotes full participation
 - That requires time, commitment and leadership

- Building bridges to other opportunities
 - Adaptations will benefit the greater good not just persons with disabilities

- Sensitivity to needs and limitations
 - Capitalizing on strengths.



Definitions

Disability: a physical or mental condition that limits a person's movements, senses, or activities. a physical, mental, cognitive, or developmental condition that impairs, interferes with, or limits a person's ability to engage in certain tasks or actions or participate in typical daily activities and interactions (Merriam-Webster)

Handicap: something that makes it difficult for you to do something:
(Cambridge Dictionary)





WHO definition of barriers:

“Factors in a person’s environment that, through their absence or presence, limit functioning and create disability. These include aspects such as:

- a physical environment that is not accessible,
- lack of relevant assistive technology (assistive, adaptive, and rehabilitative devices),
- negative attitudes of people towards disability,
- services, systems and policies that are either nonexistent or that hinder the involvement of all people with a health condition in all areas of life.” [1](#)



Facility Considerations

Outdoor Venue

- Level parking surface
- Consider additional temporary Accessible Parking
 - Drop off locations for Public Transit riders
 - Well marked barrier free entrance (paved, hard packed gravel)
 - Proximity to seating or stage
- Level or minimal slope to main attraction





Facility Considerations

- Multiple locations for accessible seating with companion seats
- Ushers or helpers to assist with seating
- Shade or options for shade
- Seating along the pathways
- Restrooms-Portable and accessible
- Handwashing stations
- Directional signs





Facility Considerations

Indoor Venues

- Convenient door drop off
- Ensure that the facility has a barrier free entrance and safety egress
- Restrooms that are accessible
- Variety of seating types if possible
- Seating available along any potential lines or long walkways
- Wide aisles (40") with space to move around tables/displays

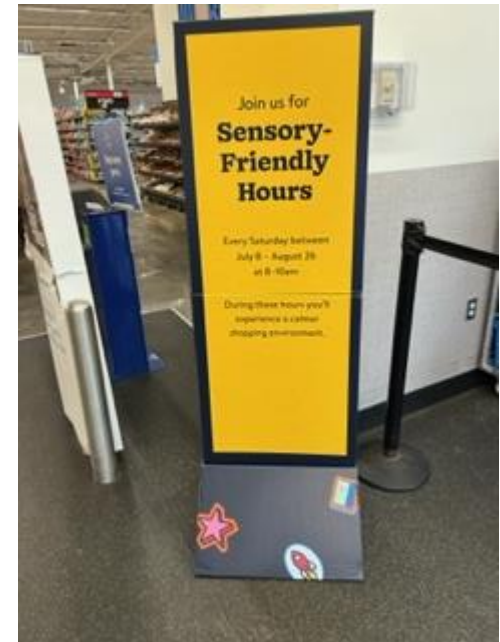




Facility Considerations

Indoor Venues

- Lower counters if check-in is needed
- Helpers if food is served (buffet)
- Straws and/or Beverage lids
- Convenient door drop off
- Quality sound amplification even if you don't think you need it.
 - Enhanced Listening devices
 - Loop





Facility Considerations

Indoor Venues

- Consider Closed Captioning (CART)
- Sign Language Interpreter
- Lighting-no strobe
- Print material not glossy
- Agenda's and schedules available online or electronically prior to event





Event Advertising

Always ASK:

Do you require an accommodation in order to fully participate in this program? If so please describe (sign language, wheelchair access, language access, dietary preference)

Fonts: Tahoma, Calibri, Helvetica, Arial, Verdana, and Times New Roman.

Contrast: There should be an appropriate color contrast between the background and the text.

Color: Your choice of text color is also paramount. More specifically, you should refrain from using text colors to communicate meaning.

Size: At least 12pt, the largest that you can

Use Accessibility Feature on Power Point PDF

Object identity (Alternative text)

Reading Order



Resources

Ky Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

(CART-Closed Captioning and Sign Language Interpreters)

[KCDHH: Home \(ky.gov\)](https://www.ky.gov/kcdhh/)

Kentucky Council of the Blind

[About the Kentucky Council of the Blind | Kentucky Council of the Blind \(kentucky-acb.org\)](https://kentucky-acb.org/)



Questions?

Kristy Stambaugh, CTRS, MRC, CRC
Director of Aging and Disability Services

Lexington KY

kstambau@lexingtonky.gov

859-278-6072

