



SOURCES OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR DISABILITY ACCESS

This list of organizations and web sites is offered as a starting point for businesses looking for information about affordable ways to comply with the Chicago Human Rights Ordinance and other laws requiring public accommodations to be accessible to persons with disabilities. This list is not meant as a guarantee of service.

Great Lakes ADA Center

1640 W. Roosevelt Road, Chicago, IL 60608

(312) 413-1407 and (800)-949-4232 (Voice/TTY), www.adagreatlakes.org

Provides information, problem solving assistance, and referrals for implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other laws requiring accessibility for people with disabilities. It is one of ten regional centers funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, a division of the U.S. Department of Education. It operates out of the Department of Disability and Human Development under the College of Applied Health Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD), City of Chicago

Architectural Services Unit

121 North LaSalle Street, City Hall, Room 104, Chicago, IL 60602

(312) 744-4441, TTY (312) 744-4964, www.cityofchicago.org/disabilities

Division of City of Chicago government. It provides consultative services and technical assistance to business owners, architects, and developers who are renovating or building a residential or public accommodation facility. Professional staff answer questions about the rights and responsibilities of business owners, employees, and consumers under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Fair Housing Amendments Act (FHAA), Illinois Accessibility Code (IAC), Chicago Building Code, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development, City of Chicago

Small Business Improvement Fund

SomerCor, 601 South LaSalle, Ste. 510, Chicago, IL 60605

(312) 360-3300, <http://somerco.com/sbif/eligibility>

The Department of Planning and Development, through its vendor SomerCor, administers the Small Business Improvement Fund which provides grants to businesses for improvements to small business properties in select Chicago neighborhoods. The program uses Tax Increment Financing (TIF) revenues to help owners of commercial properties and tenants within specific TIF districts to repair or remodel their facilities. Assistance is also available to help pay for improvements made to accommodate patrons or workers with disabilities.

Access Living

115 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60610

(312) 640-2100, TTY (312) 640-2102, www.accessliving.org

Not-for-profit organization which works to integrate people with disabilities into community life. It has an information and referral service which can help locate products and services to support accessibility. Call and ask for the Information and Referral Coordinator, or possibly submit a question through Access Living's web site.

Illinois Attorney General, Disability Rights Bureau

(312) 814-5684, TTY (312) 814-3374, <http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/rights/publications.html>

The Bureau offers technical help to public and private entities on compliance with disability rights laws.

U.S. Department of Justice

The ADA Home Page at www.ada.gov has many informational publications such as:

- *ADA Guide for Small Businesses*, 15 pp
- *Checklist for Readily Achievable Barrier Removal*, 15 pp
- *Commonly Asked Questions about Service Animals in Places of Business*, 3 pp

Tax Incentives

IRS Code 44: Small Business Tax Credit

IRS Code 190: Architectural Barrier Removal Tax Deduction

<http://www.dol.gov/odep/ietoolkit/publications/186.pdf>