

Accessibility for Farmers Markets

The City of Chicago strives to be the most accessible and inclusive city in the nation for people with disabilities. Therefore, as a Permit Applicant, please take the following items into consideration and plan to ensure you comply with all applicable laws and regulations that protect the rights of people with disabilities.

Resources

Here are some resources regarding the most common questions that Farmers Markets have about accessibility and the ADA.

- Masks <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/faq-face-coverings-business>
- Service Animals https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service_animal_qa.html
- Disability Awareness & Etiquette Tips (link to attached doc)

In addition, here are some guidelines for events which may apply to your market:

Accessibility

- ✓ Pick-up and drop-off areas closest to event should comply with passenger-loading zone requirements (people with disabilities should be able to enter/exit the event in the same area as the rest of the patrons). Provide an address of this designated area on website, printed material, and social media/postings for those who may be using paratransit services.
- ✓ Provide accessible routes through the event space. To enter/exit, there must be 36" minimum clear pathway for one wheelchair and 60" minimum clear pathway for two wheelchairs. Entrance width must be at least 36" wide.
- ✓ When feasible, remove tripping hazards, changes in elevation and gaps greater than .5" (e.g., steps/thresholds).
- ✓ Booth food counters and tables must be no more than 28" – 34" above the floor, 12" maximum depth and 36" width of usable space to allow access for people using wheelchairs.
- ✓ People using wheelchairs must have knee clearance under a table. This requires clearance that is at least 27" high, 30" wide and 17" deep under accessible tables and counters.

Signage and Materials

- ✓ Directional signage and written materials must use high-contrast colors. Signage indicating accessible features should be placed above/near counters/booths, restrooms, curb cuts, accessible parking and ramps. The surface of the sign should be well lit and have a matte or other non-glossy finish and use the International Symbol of Access:



- ✓ Printed documents being shared onsite should be accessible online before the event and with adequate notification to all patrons. Link useful resources to a website or mobile app, when possible (e.g., itinerary of performance times).
- ✓ Websites should be accessible, by using captions on videos, image descriptions on images (to improve auditory readability), tags and displaying event accessibility information prominently.

Additional Strategies

- ✓ Do not block curb cuts with trash cans, vehicles, barricades, or event signage.
- ✓ Expect to accommodate service animals that are specially trained to perform essential tasks to assist people with disabilities. Service animals cannot be denied entrance to any public event or facility and should be provided with an accessible animal relief area. If you are concerned if a dog is an actual service animal, there are two questions you can legally ask: "Is that a service animal?" and "What task does it perform for the individual?"
- ✓ Designate on-site personnel familiar with the accessibility features to serve as a point-of-contact when, or if, issues arise. Provide this person's contact information in event materials. Ideally, train all staff/volunteers on all accessibility features.

Suggested Wording

Unacceptable / Acceptable

Handicapped / Person with a disability

Handicapped parking/entrance/restroom / Accessible parking/entrance/restroom

An epileptic / A person with epilepsy