A Bigger Table: Inclusivity in GIS

Member Resources & Friends

Why Does Accessibility Matter?

- Nearly 1 in 4 Americans have a disability
- Enhanced accessibility features can improve all user's experiences

2024 ADA Update

- Title 2 of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires state and local governments to abide by the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)
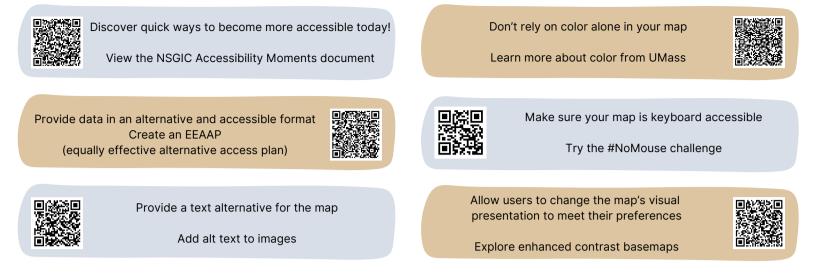
What Does That Mean For Me?

- Your agency's web content needs to meet WCAG
- This includes web maps, PDF maps, and websites

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State governments are required to conform to WCAG 2.1 Level AA standards by April 2026

How Can I Get Started?

Discover quick ways to become more accessible today!

View the NSGIC Accessibility Moments document

Don't rely on color alone in your map

Learn more about color from UMass

Provide data in an alternative and accessible format
Create an EEAAP
(equally effective alternative access plan)

Make sure your map is keyboard accessible

Try the #NoMouse challenge

Provide a text alternative for the map

Add alt text to images

Allow users to change the map's visual presentation to meet their preferences

Explore enhanced contrast basemaps

Geospatial technologies have taken a large role in the constituent facing websites and applications that State and Local governments provide. Now more than ever before, geospatial solutions help constituents find data, apply for voter ballots, file tax documents, register for programs, find vaccines, and communicate service needs. With this growing reliance on a technology that has previously been designed for individuals without disabilities in mind (particularly those who are visual consumers), combined with new requirements for compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), State governments need to evaluate the compliance of their interfaces and find ways to build more inclusive designs that meet the growing needs of individuals with disabilities.

Make Sure Your Content POURs

Perceivable — Users can recognize the presented information via sight, hearing, and/or touch

Operable — Users can navigate and operate the user interface via alternative input methods

Understandable — The navigation of content and the content itself is able to be understood by visitors

Robust — A wide variety of web browsers and assistive technologies can interpret the information

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Interested in learning more? Let the Accessibility Working Group know by scanning the QR code and filling out the interest form