

Free Resources on Promoting Disability Access in Healthcare

Summary

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Office of Civil Rights, Diversity, and Inclusion (OCRDI) works to support HRSA award recipients into compliance with their federal civil rights obligations through technical assistance, one-on-one consultations, and the publication of informational resources. Due to a high number of questions from HRSA award recipients on this front, OCRDI is publishing a list of trainings and informational resources focused on promoting disability access specifically in healthcare, available to the public at no cost. This list will be routinely monitored and updated.

Note: These resources are not endorsed by HRSA nor should they be used to determine legal compliance. They are listed to assist HRSA award recipients (including healthcare workers) in ensuring that their programs, activities and services are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Relevant Legal Authorities

Federal civil rights laws applicable to **disability access** obligations for HRSA award recipients include:

- [Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act](#);
- [Americans with Disabilities Act](#); and
- [Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act](#).

Free Trainings and Webinars

Title of Training	Description	Organization	Intended Audience	Length of Training	Date of Creation
Improving the Health of Underserved Populations	This training is organized into two parts. The first session summarizes relevant legal obligations related to language access and disability access. The second session provides strategies for healthcare organizations to promote effective communication with patients with disabilities.	HRSA/OCRDI	HRSA Award Recipients	2.5 hours	August 2022

Disability and Ableism in Medicine: A Curriculum for Medical Students	<p>This training was developed for medical students to address the gap in current medical school curriculum around disability and ableism. This training includes activities for privilege awareness, student-led discussions, and intervention brainstorming for overcoming health care barriers and biases.</p>	<p>Association of American Medical Colleges</p>	<p>Medical students</p>	<p>2-hour interactive training</p>	<p>January 2021</p>
Working with People with Disabilities: An Interactive Video-Lecture Session for First- and Second-Year Medical Students	<p>This training is an interactive introductory session designed for first- and second-year medical students on how to approach individuals with observable disabilities in clinical settings. Through a combination of lecture, discussion, and patient perspective, the training explores how physician behavior can create health care barriers and proposes a framework for serving patients with disabilities.</p>	<p>Association of American Medical Colleges</p>	<p>Medical students</p>	<p>50-minute interactive training</p>	<p>June 2020</p>
Responsive Practice: Providing Health Care & Screenings to Individuals with Disabilities	<p>This training prepares healthcare personnel assess health disparities experienced by people with disabilities; recognize healthcare barriers faced by people with disabilities; and use strategies to provide disability-competent, responsive care.</p>	<p>The Ohio State University, Nisonger Center</p>	<p>Healthcare personnel</p>	<p>40-minute training</p>	<p>N/A</p>
Responsive Practice: Accessible & Adaptive Communication	<p>This training prepares healthcare personnel to empower patients with disabilities understand, communicate, and participate in their own health care. It also helps healthcare personnel identify and use alternative methods of communication and improve patient-provider communication and patient-centered care.</p>	<p>The Ohio State University, Nisonger Center</p>	<p>Healthcare personnel</p>	<p>30-minute training</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Disability Healthcare Training	These courses are designed to increase the capacity of healthcare providers to ensure quality healthcare for persons with disabilities. Part I: People with Physical and Sensory Disabilities and Part II: People with Developmental Disabilities trainings present various disability issues, serving to strengthen participants' competence in physical/sensory and developmental disabilities.	The Ohio State University, Nisonger Center	Healthcare providers	Approximately 2 hours in total	Part I: April 12, 2022 Part II: September 1, 2019
Reimagining Primary Health Care for Individuals with Disabilities	This webinar reviews current models and strategies that could be widely adopted in healthcare to address inequities and care for individuals with disabilities.	The University of Michigan Medical School	Clinicians, students, administrators, and other health care professionals	1-hour webinar	April 14, 2022

Free Informational Resources

Title of Resource	Description	Organization	Intended Audience	Type of Resource	Date of Creation
Disability Access Plan Worksheet	This document serves as a template for healthcare organizations to use in drafting a plan regarding the provision of accessible programs, services, and activities for patients with disabilities.	HRSA/OCRDI	HRSA award recipients	Worksheet	2020
Effective Communication Fact Sheet	This document outlines legal requirements and prohibitions related to effective communication. It also provides examples of auxiliary aids and services used to promote effective communication with patients with disabilities.	HRSA/OCRDI	HRSA award recipients	Fact Sheet	2020
Video Remote Interpreting Fact Sheet	This document provides general requirements related to video remote interpreting (VRI), and discusses specific	HRSA/OCRDI	HRSA award recipients	Fact Sheet	2020

	instances of when VRI is useful in healthcare situations.				
Service Animals: Fast Facts for Recipients	This document lists legal requirements, prohibitions, and best practices related to service animals in healthcare.	HRSA/OCRDI	HRSA award recipients	Fact Sheet	2020
Fundamental Alteration Fact Sheet	This document provides examples of what may be considered fundamental alterations, within and outside of healthcare settings, according to federal guidance and case law.	HRSA/OCRDI	HRSA award recipients	Fact Sheet	2021
Disability Integration Toolkit	This toolkit includes active learning tools, continuing education modules, and resources for collaborators and healthcare providers. These resources include components that can be incorporated at both the pre-clinical and clinical stages, and emphasize the skills and knowledge needed to care for patients with disabilities.	Upstate Medical University	Designed to help medical educators incorporate disability education into their curriculum	Modules, clinical cases, webpages, and webinars	N/A
Healthcare for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)	This toolkit provides resources related to serving adults with IDD, physical health issues, as well as behavioral and mental health issues.	Developmental Disabilities Primary Care Initiative	Toolkit for primary care providers	Fact sheets, protocols, checklists, informational resources	N/A
Disability and Health Information for Health Care Providers	This CDC webpage provides best practices in healthcare for treating people with disabilities, as well as resources for additional information.	CDC	Healthcare providers	Webpage information and resources	September 15, 2020
Communicating With and About People with Disabilities	This CDC webpage provides best practices on communicating with and about people with disabilities.	CDC	Anyone communicating with people with disabilities	Webpage information and resources	February 1, 2022
Interdisciplinary Technical Assistance Center on Autism	The purpose of ITAC is to improve the health of infants, children, and adolescents who have, or are at risk for developing,	Association of University	Healthcare providers treating	News, upcoming	N/A

and Developmental Disabilities (ITAC)	autism and other developmental disabilities. ITAC provides technical assistance to help professionals use valid and reliable screening tools to diagnose or rule out autism as well as provide evidence-based interventions for children with ASD and other developmental disabilities.	Centers on Disabilities	infants, children, and adolescents	events, and resources	
Documenting Disability Status in Electronic Health Records	This toolkit was developed for healthcare organizations to help document disability status and accommodations through electronic health questions.	Disability Equity Collaborative	Healthcare personnel	Q&A guide with additional resources	N/A
Disability and Accommodations Tab Resources for Providers/Clinic Staff	This webpage provides resource guides and tip sheets for medical providers on how to care for patients with a wide range of disabilities, such as cognitive impairment, hearing impairments, intellectual/developmental disabilities, among others.	University of Michigan, Center for Disability Health and Wellness	Providers and clinic staff	Resources, protocols, workflow, and tip sheets	Most updated March 2022