



THE STATE  
*of* ALASKA  
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Office of the Governor

COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

800 A Street, Suite 204  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3669  
Main: 907.274.4692 / 907.276.7474  
TTY/TDD: 711 for Alaska Relay  
Fax: 907.278-8588

November 19, 2021

To Whom it May Concern,

Please see the enclosed resolution regarding a draft State of Alaska website accessibility policy, sent to you as directed per the Commission in the resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Barker".

Jennifer Barker  
Commission Secretary

Enc. Resolution  
Draft Policy



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### RESOLUTION 2021-1

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Human Rights Law prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in places of public accommodation, AS 18.80 *et seq.*; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Human Rights Law prohibits the State of Alaska and its political subdivisions from refusing or denying any person any services, goods, facilities, advantages, or privileges because of physical or mental disability, AS 18.80.255; and,

**WHEREAS**, “physical or mental disability” is defined in the Alaska Human Rights Law as a condition that may require the use of a prosthesis, special equipment for mobility, or service animal, AS 18.80.300(14)(D); and,

**WHEREAS**, even using some commonly available software intended to assist people with visual impairments, the State of Alaska’s executive branch websites are difficult or impossible to navigate for people with visual impairments; and,

**WHEREAS**, the State of Alaska’s executive branch websites are inconsistent and effectively deny people with visual impairments from using or navigating them in ways that prohibit visually impaired people from participating in state government on equal footing with other Alaskans; and,

**WHEREAS**, other states have undertaken uniform and systematic changes to their websites to provide equal accessibility for people with visual impairments; and,

**WHEREAS**, the State of Alaska’s Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Program reviewed website accessibility for visually impaired people, and prepared a draft statewide Accessibility of Information and Communication Technology policy to address these concerns; and,

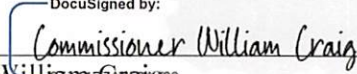
**WHEREAS**, the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights is aware that this draft is being considered by various officials in the Department of Administration for likely consideration by the Governor’s Office.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights:

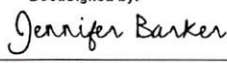
1. fully supports the draft Accessibility of Information and Communication Technology policy that was circulated, and more importantly supports any initiatives that provide equal access to the State of Alaska's websites for visually impaired people; and,
2. calls on the Department of Administration to carefully consider the draft policy in an expedited manner, and forward it to the Governor's Office for consideration by the Governor of Alaska and his cabinet; and,
3. calls on the Governor of Alaska to implement a statewide policy providing equal access to the State of Alaska's executive branch websites for visually impaired people thereby allowing them to participate in all online aspects of state government.

Copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Office of the Governor, the Governor's cabinet members, and all independent executive branch agencies.

**ADOPTED** at Anchorage, Alaska, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021.

DocuSigned by:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William Craig  
Interim Chairperson  
Alaska State Commission for Human Rights

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution 2021-1 is a true and accurate copy of the language adopted by the Commission on October 20, 2021.

DocuSigned by:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Barker  
Secretary  
Alaska State Commission for Human Rights

# Accessibility of Information and Communication Technology

Policy and Procedure Number:

Attachment/Forms:

Replaces Policy Dated:

Authority:

- 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.
- 28 C.F.R. 35 et seq.
- Alaska Statute 18.80.255
- Alaska Statute 39.28.055
- 6 AAC 65.010
- Administrative Order 129

Date:

Approved By:

## **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this Policy and Procedure is to establish a statewide policy that lowers the technical barriers to accessibility on State of Alaska Information and Communication Technology systems for individuals with disabilities.

## **POLICY:**

A qualified individual with a disability may not be excluded from participation in or denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a state agency, or be subject to discrimination by a state agency, because of that disability.

An agency shall operate each of its services, programs, and activities so that each service, program, or activity, when viewed in its entirety, is readily accessible to and usable by qualified individuals with disabilities.

## **APPLICATION:**

This Policy and Procedure will apply to all State of Alaska executive branch agencies to include a department, division, office, public corporation, board, commission, authority, or other organizational unit of the executive branch of state government.

## **SCOPE:**

This Policy and Procedure describes the minimum standards for the accessibility of Information and Communication Technology and applies to all official State business, including being hosted on State servers, contracted or procured with the State, and/or supported by State funds.

## **DEFINITION:**

“Information and Communication Technology” means information technology and other equipment, systems, technologies, or processes, for which the principal function is the creation, manipulation, storage, display, receipt, or transmission of electronic data and information, as well as any associated content. Examples of ICT include, but are not limited to: computers and peripheral equipment; information kiosks and transaction machines; telecommunications equipment; customer premises equipment; multifunction office machines; software; applications; websites; videos; and, electronic documents. *See* 36 C.F.R. Appendix A to Part 1194.

## **PROCEDURES:**

- I. Each agency shall:
  - A. Adopt a standard for information and communication technology that complies with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794d). For websites and online applications, each agency shall train its staff and use the latest version of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) level A and AA issues, maintained and published by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) for this purpose.
  - B. Monthly test all information and communication technology systems under the control or management of each agency for accessibility issues. Tools to perform this work must meet the current WCAG standards.
  - C. Establish a mechanism for users to report accessibility issues or concerns.
- II. The Office of Information Technology (OIT) shall:
  - A. Identify OIT personnel involved in planning, designing, building, testing, maintaining, and procuring information and communication technology so they receive appropriate and regular accessibility training, consistent with their assigned roles.
  - B. Integrate accessibility standards as defined in this policy throughout all stages of the software development life cycle (e.g. initiate, plan, implement, sustain) for OIT developed information and communication technology.
  - C. Identify and implement supplier digital accessibility requirements for various types of procurements (Requests for Proposals, contractual agreements, etc.).
- III. Review by Chief Information Officer:

The OIT Chief Information Officer may review compliance with this Policy and Procedure.