Other Federal Accessibility Laws

A reference to the federal laws, beyond the ADA's public-facing titles, Section 504, Section 508 and the CVAA, that reach disability access

Who this is for: Compliance leads, counsel and program staff who need to know which other federal laws may apply to them, and where to read each one.

Not covered here: State and local law in any detail. States and cities have their own disability rights and accessibility laws, and the federal laws below leave room for them.

Current as of November 17, 2026. Federal law. Each section ends with the sources it rests on.

In this guide

- How to use this reference
- The ADA's other titles
- The Rehabilitation Act's other sections
- Buildings and transportation
- Housing
- Voting
- Education, health care and workforce programs
- Communications and technology
- Disasters and emergencies
- Copyright: accessible formats
- State and local law
- Primary sources

How to use this reference

Our guides to Section 504, Section 508, ADA Title II, ADA Title III, the CVAA and child care and the ADA cover those laws in depth. Many other federal laws reach disability access in a particular setting. This reference names each one, who it binds and what it requires at the level of its main rule, with the citation to read. More than one law often applies at once.

The ADA's other titles

Law	Who it binds	What it requires
ADA Title I, 42 U.S.C. 12111-12117; 29 CFR Part 1630	Employers with 15 or more employees for each working day in 20 or more calendar weeks in the current or preceding year	No disability discrimination in hiring, firing, pay and other terms of employment; reasonable accommodation for qualified applicants and employees. Charges are filed with the EEOC.
ADA Title IV, 47 U.S.C. 225 and 611	Telephone carriers; federally produced or funded television public service announcements	Telecommunications relay services for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or have a speech disability; closed captioning of federally funded public service announcements

Law	Who it binds	What it requires
ADA Title V, 42 U.S.C. 12201-12213	Everyone covered by the ADA	General provisions, including the rule that the ADA doesn't limit laws giving equal or greater protection, the ban on retaliation and coercion, and attorney's fees
ADA Amendments Act of 2008, Pub. L. 110-325	Everyone covered by the ADA, and the Rehabilitation Act provisions that use its definition	Aimed at "reinstating a broad scope of protection," in Congress's words, and added rules of construction now in 42 U.S.C. 12102

Source: 42 U.S.C. 12111(5)(A), 12112, 12117(a); 47 U.S.C. 225(a)(3), (c); 47 U.S.C. 611; 42 U.S.C. 12201(b), 12203(a), 12205; 42 U.S.C. 12101 note (2008 findings and purposes); 42 U.S.C. 12102(4); 28 CFR 35.101(b); 29 U.S.C. 705(20)(B)

The Rehabilitation Act's other sections

Law	Who it binds	What it requires
Section 501, 29 U.S.C. 791; 29 CFR 1614.203	Federal executive branch agencies, the Postal Service and the Smithsonian, as employers	Nondiscrimination and affirmative action in federal employment. Each agency must adopt reasonable accommodation procedures, post them on its public website and make them available in written and accessible formats, with minimum contents set by 29 CFR 1614.203(d)(3).
Section 503, 29 U.S.C. 793; 41 CFR Part 60-741	Federal contractors and subcontractors with contracts above $20,000 (the regulation's inflation-adjusted threshold; the statute says $10,000); a written affirmative action program at 50 or more employees and a $50,000 contract	Nondiscrimination and affirmative action in employment. A Labor Department final rule effective September 21, 2026 removed the self-identification provisions (60-741.42) and the utilization goal (60-741.45).

Source: 29 U.S.C. 791(b); 29 CFR 1614.203(d)(3)(i); 29 U.S.C. 793(a); 41 CFR 60-741.1(b), 60-741.40(b); 91 FR 54482 (Aug. 21, 2026)

Buildings and transportation

Law	Who it binds	What it requires
Architectural Barriers Act, 42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.	Buildings and facilities built, altered or leased by or for the United States, or financed by a federal grant or loan where the authorizing law sets design standards	Accessible design under federal standards, such as those the General Services Administration prescribes; the U.S. Access Board enforces compliance
ADA transportation rules, 49 CFR Parts 37 and 38	Public and private transportation providers covered by the ADA	Part 37 carries out the transportation provisions of ADA Titles II and III; Part 38 sets the accessibility specifications for vehicles
Air Carrier Access Act, 49 U.S.C. 41705; 14 CFR Part 382	U.S. airlines and, within limits, foreign airlines	No discrimination in air transportation against a qualified individual with a disability. Title III's transportation provisions exclude aircraft; federally assisted airports have their own Section 504 rules.

Source: 42 U.S.C. 4151(1)-(3), 4152; 29 U.S.C. 792(b)(1); 49 CFR 37.1, 38.1; 49 U.S.C. 41705(a); 14 CFR 382.1; 42 U.S.C. 12181(10); 49 CFR 27.71

Housing

Law	Who it binds	What it requires
Fair Housing Act, 42 U.S.C. 3604(f); 24 CFR Part 100	Housing providers, and those who design and build covered multifamily housing	No disability discrimination in the sale or rental of housing; reasonable accommodations in rules and policies; permission for reasonable modifications at the resident's expense; accessible design in covered multifamily dwellings built for first occupancy after March 13, 1991. The disability provisions date from the 1988 amendments to the Act (Pub. L. 100-430).
Section 504, HUD rule, 24 CFR Part 8	Recipients of HUD funding, including public housing agencies	Accessible units and program access in federally assisted housing

Source: 42 U.S.C. 3604(f)(1)-(3) and source credits; 24 CFR Part 100; 24 CFR 8.20-8.33

Voting

Law	Who it binds	What it requires
Help America Vote Act, 52 U.S.C. 21081(a)(3)	Voting systems used in federal elections	Accessibility for voters with disabilities, including nonvisual accessibility, with the same opportunity for privacy and independence, through at least one accessible voting system at each polling place
Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act, 52 U.S.C. 20101-20107	Political subdivisions that conduct federal elections	Accessible polling places, with limited exceptions such as emergencies

Source: 52 U.S.C. 21081(a)(3); 52 U.S.C. 20102(a)-(b)

Education, health care and workforce programs

Law	Who it binds	What it requires
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.; 34 CFR Part 300	States and school districts that receive IDEA funds	A free appropriate public education for eligible children with disabilities ages 3 through 21, subject to state law at the ends of that range
Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act, 42 U.S.C. 18116; 45 CFR Part 92	Health programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance, and programs administered by an Executive agency	No discrimination on the grounds covered by Section 504, among others. The rule requires health programs delivered through information and communication technology to be accessible, and requires recipients and State Exchanges to make their websites and apps comply with Section 504 as interpreted consistent with ADA Title II.

Law	Who it binds	What it requires
Section 188 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, 29 U.S.C. 3248; 29 CFR Part 38	Programs and activities funded or financially assisted under WIOA	Nondiscrimination, including on the basis of disability under Section 504, in WIOA-funded programs

Source: 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(1)(A)-(B); 42 U.S.C. 18116(a); 45 CFR 92.204(a)-(b); 29 U.S.C. 3248(a); 29 CFR 38.1

Communications and technology

Law	Who it binds	What it requires
Section 255 of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. 255; 47 CFR Parts 6 and 7	Manufacturers of telecommunications equipment and providers of telecommunications service	Accessibility and usability where readily achievable, and compatibility with peripheral devices otherwise. The FCC has exclusive jurisdiction over complaints.
Hearing aid compatibility, 47 U.S.C. 610; 47 CFR 20.19	Essential telephones, telephones made or imported for use in the U.S., and equipment for two-way voice calls held to the ear, with exemptions the FCC reviews	Built-in means for effective use with hearing aids. The FCC's wireless handset rule is 47 CFR 20.19.
Television Decoder Circuitry Act of 1990, Pub. L. 101-431, now in 47 U.S.C. 303(u) and 330(b)	Manufacturers and importers of television receivers and other video apparatus	Built-in closed caption decoding, later extended by the CVAA
21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act, Pub. L. 115-336	Executive agencies	New and redesigned public websites and digital services accessible under Section 508, to the greatest extent practicable
Assistive Technology Act, 29 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.	States that receive grants under the Act	Federally funded statewide programs that make assistive technology devices and services easier to get. Rewritten in 2022 by the 21st Century Assistive Technology Act (Pub. L. 117-263).

Source: 47 U.S.C. 255(b)-(d), (f); 47 U.S.C. 610(b)(1)-(2); 47 CFR 20.19; 47 U.S.C. 303(u), 330(b); 47 U.S.C. 609 note (short title); Pub. L. 115-336, sec. 3(a)(1); 29 U.S.C. 3001 and notes

Disasters and emergencies

Law	Who it binds	What it requires
Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, section 308, 42 U.S.C. 5151	Governmental bodies and other organizations that distribute or receive federal disaster assistance	Relief and assistance carried out in an equitable and impartial manner, without discrimination on grounds that include disability, under regulations the President issues

Source: 42 U.S.C. 5151(a)-(b) and source credits

Copyright: accessible formats

The Copyright Act allows an authorized entity to reproduce and distribute accessible-format copies of previously published literary works, and musical works fixed as text or notation, exclusively for eligible persons, without infringing copyright (17 U.S.C. 121, often called the Chafee Amendment). A separate section, added in 2018 for countries in the Marrakesh Treaty, allows exports of accessible-format copies by authorized entities and imports by authorized entities and eligible persons (17 U.S.C. 121A).

Source: 17 U.S.C. 121(a); 17 U.S.C. 121A(a)-(b) and source credits (Pub. L. 115-261)

State and local law

Federal law is a floor. The ADA says it doesn't invalidate or limit the remedies, rights and procedures of any federal, state or local law that provides greater or equal protection, and the Justice Department's rules say the same. States and cities have their own disability rights, building and technology accessibility laws. Where one gives greater protection, an organization covered by it and by federal law has to meet both, which in practice means meeting the stricter rule.

Source: 42 U.S.C. 12201(b); 28 CFR 35.103(b); 28 CFR 36.103(c)

> **Working rule.** List every law that applies to your organization by asking four questions: who funds you, who you sell to, where you operate, and what you offer the public. Then write each duty to the strictest version that applies.

Primary sources

- U.S. Code, Title 42, Chapter 126 (ADA) on govinfo
- 29 CFR Part 1630, EEOC ADA Title I rule
- 41 CFR Part 60-741, Section 503 rule
- Section 503 final rule, 91 FR 54482 (Aug. 21, 2026)
- 24 CFR Part 100, Fair Housing Act rule
- 14 CFR Part 382, Air Carrier Access Act rule
- 45 CFR Part 92, Section 1557 rule
- 29 CFR Part 38, WIOA Section 188 rule
- U.S. Access Board

ADA Access for All (Guillaume & Co. LLC) performs the ADA and Section 504 program function for organizations. Principal Marc Guillaume holds the ADA Coordinator Certification (ADACC) from the University of Missouri, is a DHS Trusted Tester and served as a Disability Service Facilitator for New York City Public Schools. More material: adaaccessforall.com/resources · info@adaaccessforall.com