4th Thursday ADA Talks

Webinar 1 - January 2026

Human Development Institute

Syracuse University Burton Blatt Institute

Southeast ADA Center

ADA Progress: Building Partnerships with Local Government

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3

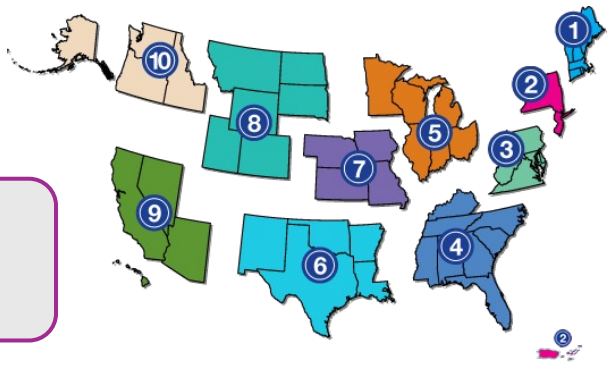
ADA National Network (ADANN)

The ADANN has 10 Regional ADA Centers

Phone: 800-949-4232

Web: adaTA.org

Find and Contact Your Regional ADA Center
ADAta.org/find-your-region



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ADA Progress: Building Partnerships with Local Government

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Human Development Institute

LEXINGTON
AccessLex Commission

January 22, 2026

5

Introductions and History

- Roger's background and roles
- Christina's background and roles
- How we came to this work together
- Mayor's Commission – Access Lexington

6

Why This Matters

- ADA compliance is a **civil rights obligation**, not a courtesy
- Local governments shape daily access to:
  - Public services
  - Facilities and infrastructure
  - Civic participation
- Strong relationships improve outcomes beyond minimum compliance
- Proactive engagement reduces complaints, lawsuits, and retrofits

7

Learning Objectives

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Understand how to build and sustain productive relationships with local government officials around ADA issues.
- Identify key questions to assess whether ADA considerations are embedded in local government decision-making.
- Describe the required components of an ADA transition plan.
- Recognize best practices for developing, reviewing, updating, and implementing ADA transition plans.

8

Understanding the Local Government Context

- Competing priorities and limited resources
- Multiple departments with shared ADA responsibilities
- Varying levels of ADA knowledge and training
- Importance of identifying:
  - ADA Coordinator
  - Public Works / Planning staff
  - Elected officials and department heads
  - Disability specific boards or commissions

9

Building Effective Relationships

- Lead with collaboration, not enforcement
- Frame accessibility as:
  - Risk management
  - Equity and inclusion
  - Good governance
- Be consistent, informed, and solutions-oriented
- Center lived experience of people with disabilities!
- Follow up and document conversations

10

Establish Credibility and Trust

- Reference ADA requirements accurately
- Use clear, non-adversarial language
- Share examples of best practices from other jurisdictions
- Offer technical assistance or connections to resources
- Recognize progress while still identifying gaps

11

Asking the Right Questions

- How is ADA considered during planning and budgeting?
- Who is responsible for ADA compliance across departments?
- How are accessibility concerns tracked and addressed?
- How does the local government engage and include people with disabilities?

12

Questions to Assess ADA Compliance

- When was the last ADA self-evaluation conducted?
- Does the jurisdiction have a designated ADA Coordinator, and is their contact information public?
- How are ADA complaints received, tracked, and resolved?
- Are staff trained regularly on ADA responsibilities?

13

What is an ADA Transition Plan?

- A required planning document under Title II of the ADA
- Identifies physical barriers to access
- Sets priorities and timelines for barrier removal
- Assigns responsibility and accountability
- Must be available to the public

14

Required Components of an ADA Transition Plan

- Inventory of facilities and public rights-of-way
- Identification of accessibility barriers
- Methods for making facilities accessible
- Schedule for completion
- Name and contact information of responsible officials
- Opportunity for public input, including people with disabilities

15

Common Gaps in ADA Transition Plans

- Outdated or incomplete inventories
- No clear timelines or funding strategies
- Lack of public engagement
- Plans that exist but are not implemented
- No regular review or updates

16

Encouraging Accountability and Progress

- Conduct regular self-evaluations
- Integrate ADA priorities into capital planning
- Update plans on a set schedule
- Publish plans online in accessible formats
- Engage disability communities meaningfully and continuously

Compliance or Inclusion?

- ADA compliance is the baseline, not the finish line!
- True accessibility requires:
  - Ongoing review
  - Community partnership and lived experience
  - Leadership commitment to curiosity and change
- Strong relationships make change happen

Questions and Discussion?

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Phone: 404-541-9001

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Web: ADAsoutheast.org

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HDI CATS
center for assistive technology services

Web: hdi.uky.edu/HDICATS

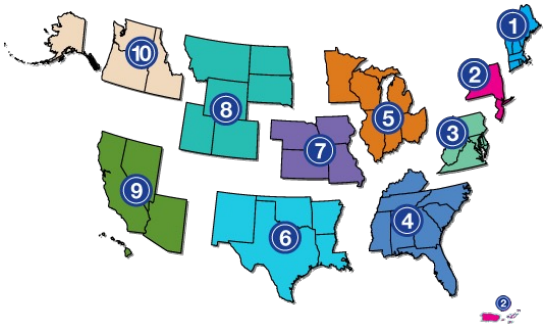
Connect

- Regional AT center of the KATS Network
- Lending Library, Training and Demonstration

ada **National Network**
Information, Guidance, and Training on the Americans with Disabilities Act

Phone: 1-800-949-4232

Web: adaTA.org



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4th Thursday ADA Talks 2026
Webinar 1:
ADA Progress: Building Partnerships with Local Government

Certificate of Participation

- Register and complete the Post Test Eval.
- Submit Confirmation of Attendance for the entire webinar (1 hour). **Attendance will be verified.**

Post Test Eval for Webinar 1 – ADA Talks 2026
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Archive: Recording will be available at: DisabilityWebinars.org