Programmatic and Policy Accessibility Checklist

This module offers a checklist designed to assess the accessibility of an agency's programs and services.

D1. Programmatic and Policy Accessibility Checklist

Purpose

This checklist is designed to assess the accessibility of an agency's programs and services for people with disabilities. (To assess physical/structural barriers to accessibility, see *Tools to Increase Access. Physical Accessibility Checklist for Existing Facilities.*) It is NOT intended to determine or imply compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). (See *Disabilities 101. Disability Laws.*)

Agencies can use this tool to assess their use of best practices to assure equal access to services for clients with disabilities. It can help them create more welcoming environments by identifying ways to modify policies and practices, redesign programs and enhance services to allow persons with disabilities to fully benefit. When access to services is limited, creative strategies related to programs and policies can increase accessibility outside of structural changes. Such strategies may include providing services in alternate or integrated settings; taking services to clients; adapting equipment; providing communication assistance; increasing staff capacity through training and knowledge of disability-specific resources; and including persons with disabilities in identifying barriers and strategies for increasing access. (See the *Disabilities 101* modules.)

The information gathered from this checklist can be useful when creating a plan to increase the accessibility of your agency's services. (See *Tools to Increase Access. Developing a Transition Plan.*)

In compiling this tool, the West Virginia Sexual Assault Free Environment (WV S.A.F.E.) project drew from multiple resources, as cited in the endnote section.²

Preparation

Consider in advance of completing this checklist what your agency will do with the results. It is recommended that agencies seek qualified technical support and guidance to review their assessment results and make recommendations to increase the accessibility of their services to clients with disabilities. Inquire if a local disability agency has the capacity to provide this support. Contact the regional Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center (DBTAC)-Mid Atlantic ADA Center at 301-217-0124 (V/TTY) or go to www.adainfo.org for recommendations of resources to provide this support. DBTAC-Mid Atlantic also sponsors the West Virginia ADA Coalition, which has members who may be available to offer this type of assistance. Contact the WV ADA Coalition at 800-946-9471 V/TTY or go to www.wvadacoalition.org/.

PROGRAMMATIC AND POLICY ACCESSIBILITY CHECKLIST

Assessment Information Agency Name: City: County: Type of Service Agency: Date(s) of Assessment: Name of Reviewer(s): 1. Policy Accessibility Note: "Unk" stands for "Unknown" and "N/A" stands for "Not Applicable." Yes No Unk N/A 1A. Does the agency have a policy stating its commitment and intent to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA Compliance Policy)? (Obtain a copy.) 1A.1. Has the agency conducted a self-evaluation for compliance with the ADA? 1A.2. If "Yes" to 1A.1., has the agency developed a transition plan for compliance? 1A.3. If "Yes" to 1A.2., describe in the "Comments" section the agency's stage in the process of implementing

the plan. Obtain a copy of the transition plan.

Com	ments:				
1B.	Does the agency require sub-contractors to comply with the ADA? A subcontractor could include individuals the agency utilizes for direct services (e.g., a psychologist who provides psychological evaluations) or for any other contractual relationship in which the agency engages.	Yes	<u>No</u> □	Unk	<u>N/A</u>
Com	ments:				
1C.	Does the agency have a designated staff person (single point of contact) responsible for coordinating and providing resources and information related to the agency's ADA compliance, policies and available accommodations? 1C.1. If "Yes," describe the qualifications of the staff person and their training on ADA compliance policies in the "Comments" section.	Yes	No	Unk	<u>N/A</u> □

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Comments:

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			<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unk</u>	N/A
1D.		he agency have a written policy on how to request a practice or procedure modification? (If "Yes," obtain a				
	1D.1.	Does the agency have a written process to determine when a policy, practice or procedure modification request would cause a fundamental alteration or undue burden on the agency? (If "Yes," obtain a copy.)				
	1D.2.	Does the agency have a complaint or appeal process to request a revision or exception to agency policies, procedures or practices to accommodate an individual's disability? (If "Yes," obtain a copy.)				
Com	ments:					
			Yes	<u>No</u>	<u>Unk</u>	N/A
1E.	limit pa	ere criteria for accessing services that could potentially articipation by people with disabilities (e.g., requiring a license rather than other governmental issued I.D. as				
	proof c	of identification)? (If "Yes," identify the criteria in the nents" section.)				
Com	proof c	f identification)? (If "Yes," identify the criteria in the				
Com	proof c "Comn	f identification)? (If "Yes," identify the criteria in the				
Com	proof c "Comn	f identification)? (If "Yes," identify the criteria in the				
Com	proof c "Comn	f identification)? (If "Yes," identify the criteria in the				
Com	proof c "Comn	f identification)? (If "Yes," identify the criteria in the				
Com	proof c "Comn	f identification)? (If "Yes," identify the criteria in the				

2. Accommodations

			<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unk</u>	<u>N/A</u>
2A.	2A. Do agency staff routinely ask if clients require any accommodations?					
	2A.1.	If "No," are clients given the opportunity to ask about or make a request for accommodations?				
	2A.2.	Are agency staff provided a list of available accommodation resources and options?				
	2A.3.	Are agency staff trained on providing accommodations? (If "Yes," describe which staff are trained and how often in the "Comments" section.)				
	2A.4.	Does the agency have a process to follow if requests for accommodations cannot be met? (If "Yes," describe in the "Comments" section.)				
Com	ments:					
			<u>Yes</u>	No	<u>Unk</u>	N/A
2B.	and the	he agency assure that service animals are allowed at staff are trained on how to handle related questions encerns?				
Com	ments:					

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2C.	Is there an accommodation/alternate format line item in the	Yes	<u>No</u>	<u>Unk</u> □	<u>N/A</u>
0	agency's budget?				
Com	ments:				
		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unk</u>	N/A
2D.	Are the following resources available in an alternate format fo				
	sexual violence victims with disabilities to ensure fully integrat services (e.g., is such information on file)?	ed			
	 Information about counseling/support services for the 				
	client or family?				
	 Information about how to access legal services? 				
	Information about how to access interpreters or other special services (e.g. personal attendants) for clients				
	special services (e.g., personal attendants) for clients with disabilities?				
	 Information about how to preserve evidence? 				
	 Contact information for advocacy groups for clients with 				
	disabilities?				
	Contact information for advocacy support services?				
	Contact information for Adult Protective Services (APS)? Out to at information for Object Protective Services (APS)?				
	Contact information for Child Protective Services (CPS)? Out to at information for Lawrence and Company and				
	Contact information for law enforcement? Information about paratrapait and public transportations.				
	 Information about paratransit and public transportation services? 				
	 Contact information for personal assistant/nursing care agencies? 				
	• Contact information for local disability service providers?				
	 Other? (If "Yes," list in the "Comments" section.) 				
	2D.1. Are all materials readily accessible? (If "No," explain in the "Comments" section.)				

Com	ments:				
3. O u	Does the agency make the general public aware of program accommodations to ensure equal access for persons with disabilities? (If "Yes," describe how this is communicated in the "Comments" section.)	Yes	<u>No</u>	Unk	<u>N/A</u>
Com	ments:				
3B.	Does the agency facilitate a welcoming environment by assuring that agency publications, outreach materials and services demonstrate that the agency's services are accessible to people with disabilities? 3B.1. If "Yes," which of the following specifically provide information regarding the availability and location of accessible communications, services and activities		<u>No</u>	Unk	<u>N/A</u>
	 Signage and posters? Telephone directories? 	j.			
	 Message boards (on wall and/or electronic)? 				
	Website?Other media and advertisements?				

Com	ments:				
3C.	Are all agency public informational materials and forms (including handbooks, brochures, eligibility criteria for participation, rights statement, etc.) available in alternate formats?	Yes	No	Unk	<u>N/A</u> □
	3C.1. If "Yes," identify the formats used:Computer/electronic format?				
	 Large print (e.g., 18 pt. and Arial or Times New Roman font)? 				
	Audio tape?				
	Braille?				
	 Other? (If "Yes," list in the "Comments" section.) 				
Com	ments:				
3D.	Do informational materials and agency literature:	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unk</u>	N/A
JD.	 Take into consideration the reading and comprehension levels of clients? 				
	Contain pictures of persons with disabilities?				
	 Display the International Symbol of Accessibility? 				
	 Provide TTY, text telephone number or relay number (711) for people who are deaf or hard of hearing? 				

Com	ments:				
4. Aç	gency Website and Telecommunications Accessibility				
4A.	Does the agency have its own website? (If "No," skip to question 4D.)	Yes	<u>No</u>	<u>Unk</u> □	<u>N/A</u>
Com	ments:				
4B.	Does the agency's website provide an e-mail contact link directly to the agency?	Yes	<u>No</u>	Unk	<u>N/A</u>
	4B.1. If "Yes," is a warning noted on the website that such links provide no confidentiality for the client? (Describe in the "Comments" section.)				
Com	ments:				

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unk</u>	<u>N/A</u>
4C.	Does the agency's website incorporate the following elements:				
	 Accessible for people who use a screen-reader (e.g., clear menus screens; free of flash graphics and pop-ups; contrasting color schemes accessible to people with color-blindness and people who have low vision; use of Alt Text for conversion of graphics/images to text, etc.)? 				
	 Appropriate grade-level of written information? 				
	Pictures of people with disabilities?				
	The International Symbol of Accessibility?				
	 TTY or text telephone number for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing? 				
	 Information on how to access services and accommodations? 				
Com	ments:				
		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unk</u>	N/A
4D.	Does the agency provide 24/7 services?				
Com	<u>iments</u> :				

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			<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unk</u>	N/A
4E.	Does to	the agency use an automated answering system or e?				
	4E.1.	If "Yes," is the answering system message short, easy to understand and have few navigation options?				
	4E.2.	If "Yes," does the automated answering system include an option to talk with a person immediately (e.g., press "0" option)?				
	4E.3.	If "Yes," is there 24/7 access to on-call staff?				
	4E.4.	If "Yes," is the automated answering system accessible using a TTY machine?				
Com	ments:					
5. Se	rvices	for People Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing				
			Yes	<u>No</u>	<u>Unk</u>	N/A
5A.	choice	ency staff offer <i>callers</i> alternative communication es regarding which form of communication would be effective for them (e.g., TTY or access to the relay n)?				
Com	ments:					

			<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unk</u>	<u>N/A</u>
5B.		he agency offer qualified interpreters for participants re deaf or hard of hearing? (If "No," skip to question				
	5B.1.	Is anyone on staff (staff or volunteer) trained in American Sign Language (ASL) for simple communication?				
	5B.2.	Does the agency have a list of qualified sign language interpreters?				
	5B.3.	Is there a clear and easy procedure for contacting qualified ASL interpreters?				
	5B.4.	Is there a clear mechanism for paying for qualified ASL interpreter services?				
	5B.5.	Is there a plan on how to provide ASL interpreter service during <i>all</i> hours of operation; including access to ASL interpreters outside of normal office hours for agencies providing 24-hour services?				
	5B.6.	Does the agency have procedures to address confidentiality concerns regarding interpreters who are acquaintances of clients who are deaf or hard of hearing? (If "Yes," describe in the "Comments" section.)				
Com	ments:					
			<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unk</u>	N/A
5C.	Does t	he agency have a TTY or text phone?				
	5C.1.	If "Yes," is the TTY available after normal working hours?				
	5C.2.	If "Yes," is the staff trained in using the TTY?				
	5C.3.	If "Yes," is signage posted above public telephones to either indicate the presence and location of the TTY?				

Com	nments:				
		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unk</u>	<u>N/A</u>
5D.	Are all staff and volunteers (including answering services) trained on using West Virginia Relay?				
Com	nments:				
6 51	aff Training and Competency Development				
0. 50	an Training and Competency Development				
		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unk</u>	<u>N/A</u>
6A.	Does the agency's mandatory staff/volunteer training include a section on disability awareness/etiquette? (If "Yes," obtain a copy of the curricula.)				
	6A.1. If "Yes," disability awareness/etiquette training is				
	provided in the following formats:				
	 Formal face-to-face training environment? 				
	 Self-paced/on-your-own reading material? 				
	 DVD, video or audio cassette? 				
	 Other? (If "Yes," describe in the "Comments" section.) 				
	6A.2. If "Yes," which of the following staff receive disability				
	awareness/etiquette training:				

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6A.3.	 Reception staff? Volunteers? Other? (If "Yes," list in the "Comments" section.) If "Yes," do staff/volunteers receive disability 	Yes	<u>No</u>	Unk 	<u>N/A</u>	
	 awareness/etiquette training via: New staff orientation? In-service training? Other? (If "Yes," describe in the "Comments" section.) 					
Comments:						
6B. Manda	Atory staff training pertaining to clients with disabilities is Never Once Annually More than once per year Unknown Other (Describe in the "Comments" section.) If training is provided, describe in the "Comments" section.					
Comments:						

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		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unk</u>	N/A
6C.	Besides disability awareness and etiquette training, does the agency provide training for staff and volunteers to increase their skills and knowledge for working and communicating with a client with a specific disability? 6C.1. If "Yes," does the training address working and communicating with individuals with:				
	 Cognitive disabilities? 				
	Mental illnesses?	\Box	$\overline{\Box}$	$\overline{\Box}$	\Box
	Sensory disabilities?				
	Physical disabilities?				
Com	iments:				
6D	Does the agency assure a welcoming environment through:	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unk</u>	N/A
6D.	Does the agency assure a welcoming environment through: • Annually evaluating staff service skills and performance?	Yes	<u>No</u>	<u>Unk</u>	N/A
6D.	Annually evaluating staff service skills and	Yes	<u>No</u> □	Unk	N/A
6D.	 Annually evaluating staff service skills and performance? Soliciting and utilizing client feedback for quality of 	Yes	No	Unk	N/A
6D.	 Annually evaluating staff service skills and performance? Soliciting and utilizing client feedback for quality of service improvement? Incorporating the concept of inclusive and welcoming 	Yes	No	Unk	N/A
6D.	 Annually evaluating staff service skills and performance? Soliciting and utilizing client feedback for quality of service improvement? Incorporating the concept of inclusive and welcoming client service within the agency's mission? Implementing regular client service training for staff and 	<u>Yes</u>	No	Unk	N/A

West Virginia S.A.F.E. Training and Collaboration Toolkit—Serving Sex	kual Violence	Victims with	Disabilities
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			<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unk</u>	<u>N/A</u>
6E.	for staf	ne agency provide referral information and training f and volunteers on other community resources and ts available to clients with disabilities?				
	6E.1.	If "Yes," are the referral resources/lists updated regularly? (Indicate how often and the date of the last update in the "Comments" section.)				
	6E.2.	If "Yes," are those resources/lists available in alternate formats?				
	6E.3.	If "Yes," does the agency regularly and actively communicate or collaborate with those referral agencies? (Describe in the "Comments" section.)				
Com	ments:					
7. En	nergenc	y Procedures				
7. En	nergenc	y Procedures	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unk</u>	N/A
7. En 7A.	Does th	y Procedures ne facility have an emergency evacuation procedure dresses the needs of individuals with disabilities?	Yes	<u>No</u>	Unk	<u>N/A</u>
	Does th	ne facility have an emergency evacuation procedure	Yes	<u>No</u> □	Unk	<u>N/A</u> □
7A.	Does th	ne facility have an emergency evacuation procedure dresses the needs of individuals with disabilities? If "Yes," do staff members and volunteers receive	Yes	<u>No</u> □	Unk	N/A
7A.	Does that add	ne facility have an emergency evacuation procedure dresses the needs of individuals with disabilities? If "Yes," do staff members and volunteers receive	Yes	<u>No</u>	Unk	N/A
7A.	Does that add	ne facility have an emergency evacuation procedure dresses the needs of individuals with disabilities? If "Yes," do staff members and volunteers receive	Yes	<u>No</u>	Unk	<u>N/A</u>
7A.	Does that add	ne facility have an emergency evacuation procedure dresses the needs of individuals with disabilities? If "Yes," do staff members and volunteers receive	Yes	<u>No</u>	Unk	<u>N/A</u>
7A.	Does that add	ne facility have an emergency evacuation procedure dresses the needs of individuals with disabilities? If "Yes," do staff members and volunteers receive	Yes	<u>No</u>	Unk	<u>N/A</u>
7A.	Does that add	ne facility have an emergency evacuation procedure dresses the needs of individuals with disabilities? If "Yes," do staff members and volunteers receive	Yes	<u>No</u>	Unk	<u>N/A</u>

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unk</u>	<u>N/A</u>
7B.	Does the facility have visual as well as auditory alarms?				
Com	ments:				

Thank you for your important work and your efforts to make your services more accessible for people with disabilities.

Project partners welcome the non-commercial use of this module to increase knowledge about serving sexual violence victims with disabilities in any community, and adaptation for use in other states and communities as needed, without the need for permission. We do request that any material used from this module be credited to the West Virginia Sexual Assault Free Environment (WV S.A.F.E.) project, a partnership of the West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services, the Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (2010). Questions about the project should be directed to the West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services at www.fris.org.

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¹Partnering agencies refer to the persons they serve as "clients," "consumers" and "victims." For convenience, the term "clients" is primarily used in this module to refer to those individuals who access the agency's services and programs.

²Resources drawn from to compile this tool: Adaptive Environments Center, Inc., *ADA Title II action guide for state and local governments* (Horsham, PA: LRP Publications, 1992), 71–120; S. Caprioli, *The women with disAbilities empowerment project: Family Services and Taconic Resources for Independence,* Incorporated (Poughkeepsie, NY: 2008); Hardesty, Gaffney, Rosenfeld & Mandel, *Accessing safety project: Promising practices in serving sexual violence survivors with disabilities* (Southern Arizona Center Against Sexual Assault, 2005); Institute on Disabilities at Temple University: Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Education, Research and Service, *Rape crisis/domestic violence comprehensive victim services, physical and programmatic accessibility survey* (Philadelphia, 2001), 4–16; Washington State's Collaboration to Improve Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy for People with disAbilities and Deaf Individuals, *Universal design/welcoming environments*, 29-50; Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy, Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Independence First, *Accessibility guide for domestic violence and sexual assault service providers* (Violence Against Women with Disabilities Project, 2004), 73-85; and WV S.A.F.E., *Rape crisis center accessibility survey* (Unpublished, 2007), 12–21.