

Americans with Disabilities Act 35th Anniversary



July 26, 2025, marks the 35th anniversary of the **Americans with Disabilities Act**. Signed into law in 1990, the ADA was a groundbreaking civil rights statute that aimed to ensure access and disability justice for all individuals with disabilities in employment, public services, transportation, and public accommodations. Over the past 35 years, the ADA has transformed communities by removing physical, digital, and societal barriers—paving the way for greater independence, inclusion and dignity for millions of Americans.



The journey toward human rights, disability rights, and social justice is ongoing. While we've seen significant advancements in accessibility, employment, education and public awareness, barriers still exist. The ADA was never just about compliance; it was about a cultural shift toward valuing equality. As we mark this milestone, it's an

opportunity to celebrate the impact of the ADA and recommit ourselves to its vision—a world where disability is not a barrier to opportunity, but a valued part of human diversity.

Protections under the ADA

- Employers must provide people with disabilities an equal opportunity to benefit from the employment-related opportunities available to others.
- State and local governments must provide people with disabilities an equal opportunity to benefit from all of their programs, services and activities.
- Public transit systems must provide people with disabilities an equal opportunity to benefit from their services.
- Businesses must provide people with disabilities an equal access to the goods or services that they offer.
- Telephone companies must provide services to allow callers with hearing and speech disabilities to communicate.

Resources

- [Introduction to the Americans with Disabilities Act | ADA.gov](https://www.ada.gov)
- [Northwest ADA Center | ADANW](https://www.adanw.org)
- [Change, Not Charity: The Americans with Disabilities Act | Full Film \(YouTube\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)
- [The impact of the Deaf President Now protest - The Deaf President Now \(DPN\) Protest | Gallaudet University](https://www.gallaudet.edu)