

Policies that Provide Accommodations to Common Barriers Faced by People with Disabilities

People with disabilities may face barriers in many settings, including community spaces, health care settings, and long-term care facilities. Governments and organizations at all levels have the opportunity to improve access to these spaces through laws and policies that require accommodations for people with disabilities.

Barrier



Lack of access to medical diagnostic equipment like exam tables or weight scales, which can prevent people with physical disabilities from getting primary and preventive care services

Successful Accommodations

A settlement with the Washington Hospital Center in Washington, DC addressed barriers to accessible medical equipment by specifying timelines and criteria for purchasing—including parameters for equipment height and locking capability.



Limited access to recreation spaces, fitness programs, and facilities due to barriers in built and social environments

To reduce barriers to community resources for people with disabilities, the Access Navigators program in Portsmouth, New Hampshire developed a web-based guide that features accessibility information about community spaces, like restaurants and tourist sites.



Lack of access to leisure, social, religious, or community activities due to living in an institutional setting rather than at home or in the community

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Money Follows the Person (MFP) program gives states and tribal partners matching funds to help people who need long-term care transition from institutions back into community settings.

Minnesota has 2 programs that help residents move from nursing homes into the community: a MFP demonstration project, and the Return to Community Program, which serves people who have been in a nursing home for less than 90 days. Both of these programs allow people with disabilities to participate more fully in their communities—while still getting necessary health services.

For more information: <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/law-and-health-policy>

