DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY FOR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

# **Accessibility barriers** block access to government services

Digital accessibility barriers can make it harder for the 1 in 4 U.S. adults with a disability to access critical government services.



# Poor accessibility locks people out of essential public services As part of our 2025 Digital Accessibility Index, we scanned 34,583 pages across 793 government websites and

found that the average page had 307.4 accessibility violations that could make it difficult for people to apply for benefits, pay taxes, or access public resources.

BY THE NUMBERS

## 307.4

average accessibility issues per page.

# 51%

of pages fail keyboard accessibility **standards** — more than any other industry

#### 61 million U.S. adults who have one or more disabilities.



TOP ISSUES

# Essential services shouldn't be this hard to access

harder for people to access the public services they need.

From local agencies to federal websites, unlabeled forms, vague links, and keyboard barriers are making it



### OF IMAGES LACK CLEAR ALT TEXT

Government websites rely on images for essential content

like maps, infographics, and application instructions. But our scan found an average of 15.3 inaccessible images per page.

For people with visual disabilities, these gaps make it harder

to access critical public information, apply for benefits, or understand important policies — turning essential services into inaccessible obstacles.

VIOLATIONS OF WCAG'S MINIMUM COLOR CONTRAST REOUIREMENTS PER PAGE

information.

75.4

When critical text blends into the background, key services become harder to access — making it harder for people with low vision to apply for benefits, pay taxes, or find emergency

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#### mouse, critical government services become out of reach for those who need them most.

51%

OF PAGES HAVE KEYBOARD ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES

When menus, forms, and buttons can't be accessed without a

applications, tax forms, and emergency resources.

TJ OLSEN

AUDIOEYE A11IANCE MEMBER

77%

TO ALL USERS

OF ALL PAGES HAVE LINKS THAT ARE NOT CLEAR

websites or access essential services like benefit

When a link's purpose isn't clear, it can be harder for people with visual and cognitive disabilities to navigate government



LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

comply with WCAG 2.1 AA standards.

Accessibility isn't optional — it's the law

New regulations, including Section 508 of the Rehab Act and Title II of the ADA, require government agencies to

agencies have until April 2026 or April 2027 to ensure their websites and digital content conform with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA standards.

Under **Title II of the Americans** 

with Disabilities Act, government

employees and members of the public.

Under Section 508 of the

agencies must make their

electronic and information

technology (EIT) accessible to

people with disabilities, including

**Rehabilitation Act**, federal

**▼** 67% Deliver accessible government services to everyone

meet compliance requirements while making sure everyone

Check out a <u>demo of our tools and services</u> or <u>talk to an</u>

can access essential services.

expert about your accessibility needs.

AudioEye customers saw a 67% reduction in valid legal claims, compared to other industry solutions. At AudioEye, our combination of powerful automation, expert custom testing, and dedicated legal support helps agencies

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