

# Enterprise Operational Standard: Website Accessibility

Revised: May 1, 2017

Adopted: February 10, 2012

## Purpose

To make external State of Iowa websites accessible to the widest possible audience including people with disabilities.

## Overview

Inaccessible websites interfere with an individual's ability to obtain and use information quickly and easily. This standard will help eliminate barriers in websites, make available new opportunities for people with disabilities, and encourage development of websites that will help achieve these goals.

## Scope

All State of Iowa agencies, boards or commissions, and contractors for the State developing and maintaining websites, must give employees and members of the public with disabilities access to website information that is comparable to the access available to others.

Web content developed after August 10, 2012 is expected to comply. The Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa or designee will determine Agency compliance with this Standard.

## Definitions

Selected terms used in this standard are defined below:

- **Agency** - Any agency as listed in Iowa Code section 8B.1(11).
- **Standard** – A technique, method, process, or activity that is believed to be effective at delivering a particular outcome. Standards noted in this document are viewed as requirements, not recommendations.
- **Website (Web Content)** – web pages, electronic documents, images, videos or other digital assets that are addressed with a common domain name or IP address in an Internet Protocol-based network.
- **Contractor** - Individual or business under a contract with the State to deliver software or website development services.

## Website Accessibility Standard

It is the website accessibility standard of Iowa that:

1. Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended will supersede and replace this standard in cases where agencies have in place funding agreements with the Federal Government requiring websites be Section 508 compliant.
2. The State of Iowa has adopted all Web Content Accessibility Guidelines

[\(WCAG\) 2.0](#) levels A and AA as Iowa's standard for website accessibility. (See World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) website for definition of terms: <http://www.w3.org>).

3. Contractors are required to comply with this standard when providing services to develop or maintain State of Iowa websites. State website RFPs for contractors shall include a reference to this standard. Awarded contracts shall include a written acknowledgement that their product will meet this standard. The department receiving the contracted website service is responsible for auditing the compliance for this standard.
4. Websites shall pass a scan with a tool that has WCAG level A and AA standards and a WCAG HTML validator. Scan shall return no accessibility errors. Example: <http://wave.webaim.org> with no critical accessibility errors.

**Updates** This document shall be reviewed at least every two years and updated as needed.

**Effective Date** This standard shall be effective on the date of the Chief Information Officer's approval.

**Enforcement** This standard shall be enforced pursuant to Iowa Administrative Code 11—25.9 and Iowa Code 8B.21(1)(f)(2).

**Variance** Iowa Code 8B.21.5. provide for variances\waivers from standards. Requests for a variance\waiver from any of the requirements of this standard shall be submitted in writing to the Office of the Chief Information Officer, [cio@iowa.gov](mailto:cio@iowa.gov).