

### **Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1 (WCAG)**

In April 2024, the US Department of Justice released a final rule revising the Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which requires websites of public entities to comply with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1, Level AA digital accessibility standards.

Public entities with populations of more than 50,000 people must comply by April 24, 2026. Public entities with populations of fewer than 50,000 have until April 26, 2027 to comply.

Because our population is less than 50,000, we have until April 26, 2027 to comply with these new standards. We will begin the process of assessing our web site and its content now in order to be in compliance by next year.

The Library is working under the guidance of our legal counsel to adopt a plan for achieving compliance. The steps are as follows:

- **March 2026:** Talk to the Board about WCAG and the requirements for compliance.
- **April 2026:** The Board will pass a resolution to formally adopt WCAG 2.1 Level AA as the Library's digital accessibility standard.
- **April 2026:** Board will approve the WCAG Digital Accessibility Plan (attached).
- **April 2026:** Following the April Board Meeting and the passing of the Resolution and the Accessibility Plan, the Library will post the following Web Accessibility Statement on the website:

***Elmhurst Public Library Web Accessibility Statement:***

*The Elmhurst Public Library is committed to ensuring that all members of the community have equal access to the Library's collections, programs, services, and online resources. The Library has adopted the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) version 2.1, Level AA as its digital accessibility standard and is working to maintain and improve conformance with these guidelines to make its website and digital offerings accessible to everyone.*

*If you experience any barriers while using the Library's website, mobile applications, or other digital platforms, or if you wish to report an accessibility concern or request an accessible format or reasonable accommodation, please contact the Library at [marybeth.harper@elmlib.org](mailto:marybeth.harper@elmlib.org) or 630-279-8696. The Library will respond promptly and work to provide effective communication and accessible content to meet your needs within a reasonable time.*

*The Library welcomes feedback regarding the accessibility of its digital services and encourages individuals to contact the Library directly so that accessibility concerns can be addressed promptly.*

- **April 2026 – April 2027:** The Library will begin implementing the transition plan.
- **April 2026 – April 2027:** The Library will incorporate digital accessibility language into all relevant RFPs, contracts, renewals, and amendments for website services, software platforms, and other information and communication technology.
- **April 2027:** Achieve compliance with WCAG 2.1.

**Elmhurst Public Library**  
**WCAG 2.1 Level AA Digital Accessibility Transition Plan**  
**Compliance Date: April 2027**

**Purpose and Commitment**

The Elmhurst Public Library (“Library”) is committed to digital accessibility and adopts this transition plan to guide its good-faith efforts toward phased compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and applicable regulations of the U.S. Department of Justice requiring conformance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) version 2.1, Level AA.

**Scope**

This plan applies to the Library’s public website, mobile applications (if any), online services, forms, event registrations, digital documents, board materials posted online, and third-party tools integrated into Library web services, to the extent required by law.

**Accessibility Standard**

The Library adopts the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) version 2.1, Level AA, as its digital accessibility standard.

**Phased Implementation**

**Phase 1: Assessment and Inventory**

The Library will assess its website and core digital services, identify accessibility barriers, and inventory content to distinguish between current content and archived content.

**Phase 2: Priority Remediation**

Priority will be given to content necessary for public participation and access to services, including navigation, service pages, online forms, event and program information, and board materials created or posted after adoption of this plan and materials necessary for meaningful public participation.

**Phase 3: Ongoing Remediation and Maintenance**

Remaining content will be addressed on a rolling basis based on priority, available resources, and the Library’s obligation to ensure effective communication and equal access to programs and services. Accessibility checks will be integrated into routine updates and content creation to prevent the introduction of new barriers.

**Archived Content**

Content created before April 2026 and maintained solely for reference, research, or recordkeeping may be treated as archived content consistent with applicable regulations of the U.S. Department of Justice, provided it is clearly segregated, labeled as archived, and not modified after archiving. Accessible versions of archived content will be provided upon request within a reasonable time where required by law.

**New Content and Vendors**

All new digital content shall be created in accessible formats. Accessibility requirements will be incorporated into applicable RFPs, contracts, renewals, and vendor relationships to the extent reasonably feasible to prevent the creation of new accessibility barriers.

**Training**

Staff responsible for posting content or procuring digital tools will receive appropriate accessibility guidance or periodic training focused on preventing common accessibility issues.

**Accessibility Statement and Feedback**

The Library will maintain a public accessibility statement that includes contact information for reporting accessibility barriers, and will respond promptly to accessibility requests, accommodation requests, or reported barriers.

**Monitoring and Review**

This transition plan will be reviewed periodically and updated administratively as laws, guidance, technology, or Library services evolve.

**Implementation Authority**

The Library Director, or the Director's designee(s), is authorized to implement and administer this transition plan. Implementation of this transition plan may be supported by an external accessibility consultant or vendor, provided that the Library retains oversight and responsibility for compliance decisions, prioritization, and accommodation requests.