



Updated October 2024

The Colorado Office of the State Public Defender Digital Accessibility Report

Purpose

The Office of the Colorado State Public Defender is committed to providing equitable access to our services to all Coloradans.

To that end, it has a plan to prioritize, evaluate, remediate, and continuously improve every digital touchpoint within our services, programs, and activities.

In accordance with Section 24-34-802 (1)(c)(II), C.R.S., this report outlines the ongoing efforts to improve and maintain a digital landscape that is inclusive and accessible to everyone, including its ongoing accessibility efforts to meet or exceed accessibility standards.

Accessibility Standards

The Colorado Office of the State Public Defender is engaged in ongoing efforts to ensure that its information and communication technology meets or exceeds the following standards and guidelines:

- Levels A or AA success criteria in the most recent official version of the [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines](#) (WCAG) published by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C);
- [8 CCR 1501-11](#) Rules Establishing Technology Accessibility Standards promulgated by the Colorado Governor's Office of Information Technology pursuant to [Section 24-85-103, C.R.S.](#); and
- the production and remediation of PDF documents to meet [ISO 14289-1](#). Document management applications - Electronic document file format enhancement for accessibility - Part 1: Use of ISO 32000-1 (PDF/UA-1).

Accessibility Approach

Accessibility is required to be integrated into all aspects of the organization, including but not limited to digital procurement, governance, application development, and publications. Ensuring accessibility requires an ongoing and iterative process including:

- **Inventory:** Compiling an inventory allows staff to identify the scope of legislative digital products required to undergo changes, and informs the careful consideration and prioritization of existing products.
- **Auditing:** Auditing allows staff to understand the scope and methodology of remediation that is required for each digital product.
- **Remediation:** The remediation process implements the recommendations of the audit to ensure that digital products are accessible.
- **Accommodation:** Establishing a reasonable accommodation request process enables a person with a disability to request the remediation of products not in active use or that may require additional alteration.

Current Efforts

The following efforts in planning, budgeting, and policy development; personnel and administration; collaboration; procurement, software, and tools; and audit, evaluation, and remediation demonstrate the ongoing work towards compliance with Section 24-34-802 (1)(c)(II), C.R.S.

- Completed Efforts
 - Creation and maintenance of an accessibility report-to-date in accordance with Section 24-34-802 (1)(c)(II), C.R.S.;
 - Creation of a centrally located accessibility page on the existing Colorado Office of the State Public Defender [website](#);
- Ongoing Efforts:
 - Contracting with a comprehensive Accessibility Solutions Provider to assist us in delivering fully compliant accessible communications, support people with disabilities, and ensure equitable access to information for all;
 - Define an accessibility roadmap including timeline, goals, roles, responsibilities and policies as needed for our organization.
 - Development of a budget for accessibility remediation and training
 - Conduct and maintain an inventory of technology then prioritize, validate through testing and address issues that are found in current technology.
 - Create and implement a plan for providing reasonable accommodation and modification until the technology can be made accessible.
 - Development of internal standard operating procedures and resources.
 - Third-party accessibility audit of key applications in active use. The first priority is the Colorado Office of the State Public Defender’s public [website](#), which is mostly complete.
 - Incorporate accessibility requirements into our technology development stages including design, development, user experience, and quality assurance.
 - Development of a document accessibility procedure to provide for the ongoing evaluation and remediation of publicly posted documents and ad hoc requests.
- Future Anticipated Efforts:
 - Hire an Accessibility Analyst to coordinate the digital accessibility efforts.

- Development and implementation of a staff education and training course in digital accessibility core competencies, best practices, software, and tools.
- Incorporate accessibility into procurement processes.