Accessibility and Equity Resource Directory

These health equity resources relate to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS). Each resource is tagged with a symbol to help identify and describe its purpose.

Please note that this is not a comprehensive list of health equity-related resources. The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) does not endorse the external resources listed here and has no financial arrangements that might influence their inclusion. RIDOH is not responsible for external resources or organizations' content or privacy practices.

	ADA		CLAS		Health Equity		Rhode Island Specific		Laws

♿	ADA Complaint Against State or Local Government or a Private Business	The **Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division,** offers instructions on filing various ADA complaints with federal agencies.
♿	Civil Rights Violations	Contact the **Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division** to report a civil rights violation unrelated to employment, air travel, or housing.
♿	Employment Discrimination	Find instructions on filing employment discrimination claims with the **U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission** or a state or local agency (for issues at work or when applying for a job).
♿	Discriminatory Treatment Against Disabled Travelers (Air Carrier Access Act)	Find information about filing air travel discrimination claims from the **U.S. Department of Transportation**.
♿	Housing Discrimination	Learn how to report housing discrimination to the **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development** (e.g., denied housing or an accessible living space based on disability).
♿	Practical Advice for Drafting and Implementing Reasonable Accommodation Procedures	This 2005 guide from the **U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission** describes how to make a reasonable accommodation request and includes sample forms.
♿ ⚓	Request for Reasonable Accommodations or Modifications	To request an accommodation or modification within a state agency, complete this form from **Rhode Island Governor's Commission on Disabilities**.
♿ ⚓	Rhode Island Office of Rehabilitation Services (ORS)	**ORS** operates the Vocational Rehabilitation Program, Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Adaptive Telephone Equipment Loan Program, Assistive Technology Access Partnership, and Disability Determination Services.

[Rhode Island Livable Homes Modification Grant Program](#)	This program helps cover the cost of safety changes (home modifications) for people with disabilities. Find more information from the **Rhode Island Governor's Commission on Disabilities**.
[Assistive Technology Access Partnership (ATAP)](#)	The **Rhode Island Office of Rehabilitation Services** ATAP program improves access to assistive technology for individuals with disabilities.
[Adaptive Telephone Equipment Loan (ATEL)](#)	The **Rhode Island Office of Rehabilitation Services** ATAP program provides landline, telephone, and wireless devices on loan to qualified individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, neuromuscular damage, or disease that hinders them from using a standard telephone.
[Rhode Island Disability Resources Library](#)	The **Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services** shares a list of Rhode Island-based organizations and resources.
[ADA Information Line](#) 800-514-0301 (Voice) 1-833-610-1264 (TTY)	The **Department of Justice Civil Rights Division** accessibility specialists can answer ADA questions from individuals, businesses, and state and local governments. All calls are confidential.
[ADA National Network](#) 800-949-4232 (Voice and TTY)	The **ADA National Network** provides information, guidance, and training on implementing the ADA.
[U.S. Access Board](#) 800-872-2253 (Voice) 800-993-2822 (TTY)	The **U.S. Access Board** develops and maintains design criteria for the built environment, transit vehicles, public right-of-way, information and communication technology, and medical diagnostic equipment. It also provides technical assistance and training on these requirements and accessible design. It continues to enforce accessibility standards that apply to federally funded facilities under the **Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA)**.
[Rhode Island Governor's Commission on Disabilities (GCD)](#)	The **GCD** provides assistance and training to businesses, public and not-for-profit agencies, realtors, and people with disabilities and their families.
[2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design](#)	Learn about the ADA and its revised regulations from the **Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division**.
[New England ADA Center](#)	The [**Institute for Human Centered Design's**](#) **New England ADA Center** is one of the 10 regional ADA centers that comprise the ADA National Network. Each center provides guidance, training, resources, and research on the ADA to help people understand and use the law.

[Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH)](#)	**BHDDH** works to guarantee high-quality, safe, and accessible healthcare services for Rhode Islanders.
[National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD)](#)	The **NACDD** supports programs nationwide that promote self-determination, integration, and inclusion for people with developmental disabilities.
[Administration for Community Living (ACL)](#)	The **ACL** is an operating division of the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**. It funds services from networks of community-based organizations so that people of all ages with disabilities can participate fully in their communities.
[CLAS Standards Blueprint](#)	The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** created this guide to help healthcare organizations advance and sustain culturally and linguistically appropriate services. It explains each standard's purpose, components, and strategies for implementation.
[State-Level CLAS Legislation Factsheet](#)	This factsheet from the **Network for Public Health Law** summarizes and outlines which states have enacted CLAS legislation.
[A Practical Guide to Implementing CLAS: For Racial, Ethnic and Linguistic Minorities, People with Disabilities and Sexual and Gender Minorities](#)	This toolkit from the **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Office of Minority Health** helps healthcare organizations implement CLAS.
[Developing a Language Access Plan](#)	This guide from the **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services** outlines how organizations can ensure people who may not speak English or have LEP receive meaningful, high-quality care.
[2022 Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan](#)	Find the **Rhode Island Division of Statewide Planning's** 2022 plan to comply with Presidential Executive Order 13166: *Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency.*
[Policy and Procedure Template: Providing Meaningful Communication for Persons with LEP](#)	This template from the **United States Department of Health and Human Services** and **Office for Civil Rights** helps organizations create policies and procedures for communicating and providing services to people with LEP.
[Making CLAS Happen: Training Series](#)	The **Massachusetts Department of Public Health** has a guide to providing culturally and linguistically appropriate services in various public health settings. This manual offers innovative and practical approaches for agencies to incorporate the federal CLAS principles and practices into all organizational activities.

💬	[Language Needs Assessments Guide](#)	This guide to language needs assessments from the **Massachusetts Department of Public Health** includes assessment templates, reasons for implementation, and more.
💬	[Enhanced CLAS Standards Checklist](#)	The **San Francisco County Department of Behavioral Health** summarizes and provides examples for each CLAS standard. This resource is useful as a checklist and study guide.
💬	[Advancing and Sustaining CLAS Policy and Practice](#)	The **New Jersey Department of Health, Office of Minority and Multicultural Health,** offers a guide for CLAS implementation.
💬	[Cultural and Linguistic Competency Policy](#)	The **San Francisco Department of Public Health** outlines its cultural and linguistic competency policy and guiding principles.
💬	[Minnesota's Limited English Proficiency Plan](#)	This example of a CLAS implementation plan is from the **Minnesota Department of Human Services**. Find plans for staff training, plan rollout and distribution, complaint procedures, and other helpful tips.
💬	[CLAS Implementation Resources](#)	This CLAS implementation resource from **the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities,** includes worksheets and a detailed guide to help agencies meet CLAS standards.
💬	[Implementing CLAS Standards: Improving Cultural Competency, Cultural Humility, and Language Access Toolkit](#)	This **Arizona Department of Health Services** toolkit is a practical guide to implementing CLAS in healthcare. Find resources, training, and more.
💬	[Language Access Implementation Plan](#)	This Language Access Implementation Plan from the **New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene** is an example of monitoring and improving established CLAS standards.
💬	[LEP Resources](#)	**LEP.gov** is a government website offering LEP resources and information for individuals and agencies covering various topic areas.
💬 ⚓	[Rhode Island CLAS Resources](#)	The **Rhode Island Department of Health, Health Equity Institute** offers Rhode Island-based CLAS information, training, and resources. You can find I Speak cards and other language identification tools, file complaints, request a training session, and more.
💬 ⚓	[Translation and Interpretation Services](#)	The **Rhode Island Department of Health, Health Equity Institute** lists companies that offer translation and interpretation services. Find rates, turn-around time, and other information.
💬 ⚓	[Translation and Interpretation Training](#)	The **Rhode Island Department of Health, Health Equity Institute** provides a list of companies that offer translation and interpretation certification and training. Find information about programs, fees, and more.

	Resource	Description
💬	[Language Identification Card: I Speak...](#)	This "I Speak" resource document from the **United States Department of Agriculture** helps identify the primary language of non-English speakers.
💬	[Language Access Cards](#)	These printable bilingual language access cards and pamphlets from the **City of Philadelphia** are available in 28 languages.
💬	[Cultural and Linguistic Competence Policy Assessment](#)	A 30-minute self-assessment and user guide from **Georgetown University, National Center for Cultural Competence** helps healthcare organizations evaluate CLAS competence.
💬	[Think Cultural Health CLAS Landing Page](#)	The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** *Think Cultural Health* page offers a comprehensive introduction to CLAS and several related resources including guides, toolkits, and information in various languages.
💬	[Language Identification Chart](#)	This tool from **Refugee Council UK** helps to identify the primary language of non-English speakers.
💬	[Understanding and Implementing the CLAS Standards: Standard 13](#)	The **AIDS Education and Training Center-National Multicultural Center at Howard University** offers a CLAS complaint and grievance guide.
💬	[LEP Success Stories](#)	The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** shares a collection of examples where healthcare and government organizations have committed to improving accessibility for people with LEP.
🌐	[Policy Guidance: Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination](#)	The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** provides revised compliance guidance for the Title VI prohibition against national origin discrimination.
🌐	[Health Equity in Healthy People 2030](#)	The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** identifies health equity as one of its overarching goals in *Healthy People 2030*, its plan to improve health and well-being over the next decade.
🌐	[Anti-Racism and Equity Definitions](#)	A dictionary from the **Collaborative for Anti-Racism & Equity** includes key terms and concepts related to health equity.
🌐 ⚓	[Food Access and Security: Data Dashboard](#)	The **Rhode Island Food Policy Council** presents data and graphs to demonstrate the state of food security in Rhode Island communities.
🌐 ⚓	[Rhode Island Data Dashboard on Domestic Violence](#)	The **Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence** and its partners presents data that describes the problem of domestic violence in Rhode Island. It also includes data related to factors that increase the risk of domestic violence, such as economic insecurity, or that help protect against it, such as access to safe, affordable housing.

🌐 ⚓	[Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Maternal, Infant, and Young Children's Health in Rhode Island](#)	In its 2023 brief, **Rhode Island Kids Count** explores disparities in maternal, infant, and young children's health and shares data, graphs, and recommendations.
🌐 ⚓	[Climate Justice Plan](#)	This 2019 report from the **City of Providence** describes the state of governance, housing, community health, the economy, energy, and transportation through a climate justice lens.
🌐 ⚓	[2022 Community Health Needs Assessment](#)	In its 2022 assessment, the **Hospital Association of Rhode Island** presents statistics related to healthcare access, health risk factors, chronic disease, aging populations, mental health, substance use disorders, and more.
🌐	[Universal Design (UD)](#)	The **Universal Design Project** presents UD, a principle that helps to ensure our environment is functional for all people, including those with any type of impairment.
🌐	[Universal Design for Learning (UDL)](#)	The UDL Guidelines from the **Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST)** are used in the implementation of UDL, a framework to improve and optimize teaching and learning for all people based on scientific insights into how humans learn.
📄	[Title VI: Civil Rights Act Factsheet](#)	A two-page factsheet from the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights** outlines Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and details how to file a complaint.
📄	[Religious Accommodations in the Workplace](#)	The **U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission** provides a sample accommodation request form for religious accommodations in the workplace.
📄	[Hospital Survey and Construction Act of 1946](#)	The **Office of the Law Revision Counsel**, **Unite States Code** details legislation allowing the Secretary of the **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development** to offer loans, grants, and payments to public and nonprofit agencies to pay for operation and maintenance of community facilities or equipment.
📄	[Title VI: Civil Rights Act, Discrimination](#)	The **U.S. Department of Labor** details a section of the Civil Rights Act prohibiting discrimination of race, color, or national origin in programs or activities that receive federal funding or assistance.
📄	[Section 1557: Affordable Care Act (ACA)](#)	The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** outlines a section of the ACA that prohibits discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex in covered health programs or activities.
📄	[Section 504: Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#)	The **U.S. Department of Labor** outlines a section of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act that prohibits excluding people with disabilities from programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance.

	[Section 508, Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#)	The **Federal Communications Commission** outlines a section of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act that requires federal departments and agencies to provide individuals with disabilities equal access to electronic information and data.
	[Rhode Island General Laws § 23-17-54: Provisions of interpreter Services](#)	This **Rhode Island legislation** requires hospitals and facilities to provide a qualified interpreter for non-English speaking patients seeking care as a condition of licensure.
	[Rhode Island General Laws § 23-17-64.1 Commission for Health Advocacy and Equity](#)	This **Rhode Island legislation** establishes the [Commission for Health Advocacy and Equity (CHAE)](#) and details its purpose, powers, duties, and required data and reports.
	[Executive Order 13166 Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency](#)	LEP.gov shares an executive order requiring federal agencies to examine and improve services for people with LEP.

For more information or to give your confidential feedback on any of these resources, please visit health.ri.gov/equity or call the Health Information Line at 401-222-5960 / RI Relay 711. You can also email RIDOH.CLAS@health.ri.gov for support with CLAS-related resources.