



MULTI-YEAR ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

Updated October 2017

CHATS is committed to treating all people in a way that allows them to maintain their dignity and independence. We believe in integration and equal opportunity. We are committed to meeting the needs of people with disabilities in a timely manner, and will do so by preventing and removing barriers to accessibility and meeting accessibility requirements under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

This accessibility plan includes a summary of the accessibility initiatives that CHATS has completed to meet requirements under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and outlines the actions that will put in place to continue to meet accessibility laws and improve opportunities for people with disabilities.

CURRENT ACHIVEMENTS

INTEGRATED ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS REGULATION (IASR)

Information and Communication

Accessible Website

CHATS website and content on the site conform with WCAG 2.0, Level A. Our website provides features that makes it compatible with screen readers and allows users to change the size of text online to suit their preference.

CHATS Will take the necessary steps to make the website and content on the site conform with WCAG 2.0, Level AA by January 1, 2021.

CHATS makes sure all publicly available information is provided in accessible formats upon request in a timely manner.

CHATS will notify the public about the availability of accessible formats and communication supports.

Feedback

A process was developed for receiving and responding to feedback from people with disabilities, this includes:

- AODA feedback form available in all locations, including the website.
- Several options and accessible formats for providing feedback (in person, in writing or by the phone)
- An AODA Ad hoc committee to be assembled to respond to accommodation requests

- Available technology (pocket talker, cctv) or one-on-one support

Accessible Emergency Information

CHATS is committed to providing the customers and clients with publicly available emergency information in an accessible way upon request. We provide employees with disabilities with individualized emergency response information when necessary.

Training

All new staff are required to participate in and complete an online AODA Customer Service Training, and Human Rights Code & Accessibility.

An AODA Volunteer Customer Service Training module was developed, made available to all existing volunteers and incorporated into the orientation process.

Training on the AODA Employment Standards will be provided to staff as it relates to the duties and responsibilities of their position.

Training on the AODA Information and Communication Standards will be provided to staff that are involved in developing or disseminating information internally or externally on behalf of the organization.

Employment

CHATS is committed to fair and accessible employment practices and to comply with the Employment Standards set out within the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, Regulation 191/11 has developed the AODA Employment Standard Policy. The policy is reviewed annually.

The recruitment and assessment process include a notice to the public and staff indicating that, when requested, accommodation for people with disabilities is provided. Assessment and accommodation is also provided to employees with disabilities after they are hired.

CHATS has implemented existing return to work and accommodation practices as per legislation (WSIA, OHSA, Human Rights). A process is in place to develop individual accommodation plans and return to work policies for employees that have been absent due to a disability.

Performance management, career development and redeployment processes take into account the accessibility needs of employees with disabilities. These processes have been reviewed to ensure that there are no barriers (attitudinal, information, communication, technology, organizational, architectural, physical) that would make these processes inaccessible.

Customer Service

CHATS has developed and implemented an AODA Customer Service Standard Policy to meet the Accessibility Standard for Customer Service Ontario Regulation 429/07. The policy is reviewed annually.

ANNUAL ACCESSIBILITY PLAN UPDATE 2017 - 2018

To meet the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, a working group was formed with members from management and leadership team, to identify barriers, develop strategies to address them and improve accessibility for clients, employees and other stakeholders. This plan will be reviewed annually by the management team to monitor progress and prepare an annual status report.

	BARRIER	ACTION	STATUS	RESPONSIBLE
Architecture	Adult Day Programs are not all secure (Friuli / SA / Korean)	Improve safety of all Adult Day Programs by seeking out secured and locked spaces		Adult Day Programs Manager
	Some sites for community programs are not wheelchair accessible	When possible, seek out accessible spaces for outreach programs during lease renewal	Ongoing	Community Programs Manager
Attitudinal	Some drivers can't recognize behavioral problems people with dementia, mental Health or other conditions present	Provide training to paid Drivers to interact and communicate effectively with clients with dementia.	June 2018	Transportation Manager / HR
Finance	Lack of budget to address accessibility issues (make upgrades and purchase equipment or technology, accommodation)	To budget for emerging accessibility needs	Ongoing	Director, Finance & Administration
Employment	Accommodation not embedded in all processes of day to day work. Measurement work standards/outcomes required to provide accommodation (flex work, work for home)	Provide training and support to supervisors and employees to build effective accommodation Plans, ensuring employees do their jobs successfully and organizational objectives are met.	In progress	Human Resources / Supervisors
Communication	Accessibility feedback form is not easy to find in website. Lack of knowledge that there is a feedback form (web or hard copy)	Ensure Accessibility Feedback form is readily available in all locations and easy to find in the website. Create an online form.	Completed In progress	Human Resources Marketing & Communications
	How to identify & relay to others that accommodation is required in first interaction with the public	Incorporate into process of greeting customers (customer service training) and in onboarding for reception	March 2018	Client Care, Operations & Quality Improvement Manager

	Employees lack of awareness of resources /devices available (screen magnifier, pocket talkers)	Remind current employees of resources/devices available as per AODA Customer Service Standard Policy. Add to personnel manual for new employees	In progress	Human Resources
	People with disabilities who don't reach person on live answer have difficulties understanding /following instructions of automatic message	The message system and script will be reviewed and recorded more slowly and louder, and create an option to press '0' to reach to reception desk.	Dec 2017	Client Care, Operations & Quality Improvement Manager
Technology	There is not a procedure that ensures new technology, purchases take into consideration accessibility needs	Include in Safe Purchasing Policy/AODA Customer Service Policy	July 2018	Human Resources
	Work from home accommodation arrangements not supported by current technology (OTN, Go To Meeting, Skype for business)	Enable virtual connectivity to support work teams	Ongoing	Director, Finances & Administration
Transportation	Current vehicles pose hazards, getting in/out. Moving to the back seat of a van can be difficult.	CHATS is leasing a van where the middle seat folds and moves right out of the way to see if this will be easier	Completed	Transportation Manager
Community Integration	Limited physical access to some program sites (SA ADP, Russian Program, Holland Landing, Friuli)	As opportunities arrive periodic work with sites to support upgrades, Advocacy, letters of support, etc.	Ongoing	ADP Manager / Community Programs Manager
Other	Effective process to consult with clients and employees on their accessibility needs	Include accessibility as an outstanding item in the Client Advisory Group agenda. Present on AODA legislation at the next meeting.	Ongoing	Marketing & Communication

For more information on the CHATS Accessibility plan and for accessible formats of this document, please contact:

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