

LEGAL AND REGULATORY NOTES, AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2015

DOJ Issues ADA Technical Assistance Document for Local Governments

The Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) recently issued “*ADA Update: A Primer for State and Local Governments*,” a technical assistance document that introduces local government officials to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA is a federal law that prohibits discrimination against a person with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. The ADA also declares that such people are entitled to all the rights and opportunities that others enjoy when participating in civic activities. The Act applies to all state and local governments and all departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of those governments.

The Primer provides easy-to-understand information about the ADA’s nondiscrimination requirements, such as provisions relating to program accessibility, service animals, communicating with people with disabilities, and power-driven mobility devices. It also explains how the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design apply to existing municipal buildings and facilities, new construction, and alterations. The document is posted online at http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/titleII_2010/title_ii_primer.html.

The DOJ has also published “*ADA Guide for Small Towns*,” which addresses issues that arise in the context of programs and services provided by municipal governments. You can download the guide at <http://www.ada.gov/smtown.htm>.

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