

Carol A. Beatty, Secretary
Christian J. Miele, Deputy Secretary

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor



Dear Department Secretary,

I am writing to ask for your help in improving architectural access in State facilities for people with disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act was passed into law in 1990 as the landmark piece of civil rights legislation that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities. Title II of the Act addresses making public services accessible. Designing, constructing, and renovating facilities is a key component to ensuring programmatic access under Title II of the ADA. This means that government agencies and public entities are required to ensure that their current facilities are accessible to people with disabilities. In order to help State agencies afford the cost of needed accessibility modifications, the Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) runs Access Maryland, a funding program that allocates capital funds each year to the improvement of State facilities to ensure greater ADA compliance and architectural access. To date, Access Maryland has funded over \$30 million dollars in accessibility upgrades in state facilities.

In order to help assess physical accessibility of State-owned buildings, MDOD created an online Facility Accessibility Notification form that we are requesting each State agency include on its website. This form would allow the public to identify key areas of State facilities that they are unable to access or access only with difficulty. These forms will be electronically delivered to MDOD's ADA Coordinator who will, in turn, track the response and forward to the respective State agency ADA Coordinator. MDOD and the Office of the Statewide Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinator of Maryland are also making this form available on their websites. With your help we can use this tool to define the existing need for continued accessibility renovations and assess the progress of ADA upgrades within our State buildings to date.

Please submit any questions to Keyonna Baker, Access Maryland, ADA Coordinator, and Fiscal Manager with the Maryland Department of Disabilities, kbaker@mdtap.org or 410-554-9245.

To access the form, please visit:

<https://www.doit.state.md.us/selectsurvey/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=762J792>

Together, we can ensure that each State agency is positioned to serve all of its constituents through full programmatic access to services and facilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol A. Beatty".

Carol Beatty

Secretary, Maryland Department of Disabilities

cc: Teresa A. Garraty, Executive Director, DBM Office of Capital Budgeting