



Disability Inclusive Development

This guide offers practical steps for developers to collaborate with the disability community and integrate inclusive design practices. Working directly with disabled residents and disability-led organizations from the start builds long-term partnerships that raise awareness about your project, help recruit disabled applicants for your accessible units, and ensure your project is designed to meet market needs.



Attend & Support Disability-led Events & Efforts

Understand that building mutual, trusting relationships with the disability community takes time. Don't always expect them to come to you. You will learn a lot about the community's diverse needs by subscribing to organizations' newsletters and showing up to their events in the communities in which your housing developments are based.



Plan & Budget for Accessible Meetings

Hold meetings in accessible locations and make accessible design a line item in your meeting agenda. Provide different ways to participate like gathering online, in person, meeting 1:1, or in groups. Budget to offer support like participation stipends, food, transportation, interpreters, closed captions, and large-print materials.



Request Feedback with Time for Changes

Give the community time to provide feedback during all stages of your design and build process. Give yourselves time to implement changes from this feedback ahead of when final decisions are required. Making decisions with enough time will help you mitigate and navigate any cost barriers.



Practice Inclusive Design to Design Beyond Code

Building beyond minimum code requirements makes housing more accessible and usable for people with diverse needs. Inclusive design ensures homes work for everyone, including people with disabilities, at any stage of life. This leads to happier residents, and a better return on investment, often at no extra cost.

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Learn More and Connect

To learn more, visit The [Inclusive Design Standards](#), co-created by The Kelsey and Mikiten Architecture. The Standards provides 300+ Elements that offer a structured framework for inclusive development, spanning development strategies, building features and physical design, operational policies, leasing practices, and resident services.

List of Local Disability-Led Organizations

The Arc – Detroit

Phone: (313) 831-0202

Detroit Area Agency on Aging

Phone: (313) 446-4444

Detroit Disability Power

Email: info@DetroitDisabilityPower.org

Disability Network of Wayne County - Detroit

Phone: (313) 923-1655

Michigan Bureau of Services for Blind Persons

Phone: (517) 241-1100

Michigan Developmental Disabilities Institute

Phone (Toll Free): (888) 978-4334

Email: middi@wayne.edu

Michigan Division of Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing

Phone: (313) 437-7035

Email: DODDBHH@michigan.gov

MI-UCP (Michigan United Cerebral Palsy)

Phone: (800) 827-4843

Email: info@mi-ucp.org

United Community Housing Coalition

Phone: (313) 963-3310

Warriors on Wheels of Metropolitan Detroit

Phone: (313) 251-5777

Learn More:

- Article: [Beyond Code: Taking a Progressive Approach to Disability Accessibility & Inclusion](#)
- Article: [How Cross-Disability Design Makes Housing Better for Everyone](#)
- Article: [Moving from Integration to Inclusion](#)
- Print Resource: [The Business Case for Disability-Forward Design](#)
- Resource: [Inclusion Concierge: Top Considerations for Resident Services for Disability Inclusive Communities](#)
- Resource: [Development and Finance Basics](#)
- Case Study: [Ayer Station's capital stack](#)