



For Immediate Release
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Contact:
Lynda Gledhill
(916) 651-9028

California Releases Accessibility Toolkit and Policy ***Effort helps state entities comply with AB 434***

SACRAMENTO – California today released policy, training, and resources designed to help departments make their websites more accessible to persons with disabilities.

State websites are a vital tool for communicating with the public and it is important that the sites are available to every Californian. Without digital accessibility, millions of Californians experience barriers when using the internet to search for services, forms or content on state government websites.

“Our state’s websites are key communications tools and may be a lifeline for some with disabilities,” said Government Operations Secretary Marybel Batjer. “It is critical that California state departments make sure their information is accessible to all.”

AB 434 requires state entities to post on their website by July 1, 2019 a certification that the site meets Web Accessibility Initiative standards. The certification must be renewed every two years.

The California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) and California Department of Technology (CDT) worked with Government Operations Agency to create guidance for state entities to help them comply with AB 434.

“Equality is at the heart of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the anniversary of which we celebrate this month. The DOR’s partnership with CDT and GovOps will further advance equality for people with disabilities,” said Joe Xavier, DOR Director.

The DOR toolkit helps state entities start the steps necessary to determine website accessibility and useful links for making website items and content accessible.

CDT issued policy and a sample certification for state entities to use. Each department can use its own certification.

In addition, DOR and CDT have collaborated to create training to help departments learn more about accessibility.



“The accessibility policy and toolkit are the result of months of hard work from the Government Operations Agency, DOR and CDT,” said Amy Tong, California Chief Information Officer and CDT Director. “This kind of close collaboration is a demonstration of how one technology community can come together to serve the evolving needs of all Californians.”

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