



Accessibility Plan – Executive Summary

The Spectrum Network's history is marked with accomplishments in the area of creating an accessible environment of people with disabilities who use its services. The creation of this organization goes back to 1974 when the parents and guardians of 13 clients believed that integration and accessibility to the community were important to a meaningful life. Many barriers have been removed since the last accessibility survey including the following;

- Conducted an educational workshop for Iowa professionals, parents, and the public on issues related to autism with input from parent advisory group
- Created a single point of entry intake system identifiable on the Web site and in brochures
- Created an organizational plan that identifies programs and flow within the organization
- Conducted annual surveys of clients and stakeholders
- Conducted accessibility surveys of all staff and visitors to Washington Street site
- Added touch screens to the computer lab in the Education room
- Renovated Web site was completed in accordance with accessibility guidelines set by World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)
- Added large screen in computer lab in the Education room
- Addressed architectural barriers in Washington Street site

Future needs that will be addressed would include:

- Architectural barrier: Access, clearance, and other issues at the store in Cresco require intervention
- Attitudinal barrier: Alternatives for parent/guardian/stakeholder support sessions require consideration
- Communication barrier: Using technology to improve identification of barriers and meet increasing requirements and regulations
- Financial barrier: Alternative funding/subsidy for potential clients ineligible for public funding should be explored
- Communication barrier: Increasing accessibility of Web site and alternative technology for hearing and visually impaired should be explored