**Accessibility grants**

Accessibility is a challenge for churches in older buildings, and although they are exempt from the ADA, it is important to be welcoming to people of all abilities. Churches need funding as well as education and awareness of the issues and possible solutions.

Grants will be available up to $2,000 to any church that completes the [Accessibility Assessment Form](https://umcdmc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/umc-accessibility-audit-2019-fillable.pdf)\*. After the [Assessment](https://umcdmc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/umc-accessibility-audit-2019-fillable.pdf) is completed, the church will set goals and create a plan to begin making upgrades to become more accessible.

Top 10 DIY or low budget improvements with *estimated* costs

1. temporary ($100-500) or permanent ($1,000-2,000) ramp to enter the church
2. temporary or permanent ramp to cover thresholds ($50-250)
3. temporary ($100-500) or permanent ($1,000-2,000) ramp to provide access to the altar
4. signage to direct people to accessible entrances, restrooms, large print materials, speakers, etc. ($50-500)
5. grab bars and/or handrails ($20-250)
6. lower height soap dispensers (free)
7. accessible sinks (modification $100, replacement $100-500)
8. door handles to replace door knobs ($20-200)
9. large print book of common prayer and hymnals ($100-500)
10. sound system upgrade or priority seating by the speakers for the hard of hearing (live closed captioning through Facebook Live, YouTube Live, or Zoom $0, sound system upgrades for Bluetooth connectivity with hearing aids $100-500)

How to apply for funding

Submit application, completed assessment, list of upgrades with estimated cost, up to $2,000.

**Resources:**

[Improving Accessibility with Limited Resources](https://miusa.globaldisabilityrightsnow.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Access-Improving-Accessibility-with-Limited-Resources.pdf)

[Ableism in church spaces](https://sojo.net/articles/ableism-still-core-part-church-spaces-here-s-how-change-it)

[Disability Rights Center - NH](https://drcnh.org/issue-areas/access-accommodation/)

[NH Gov Commission on Disability](https://www.newenglandada.org)

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**Potential Consultants to help with the Assessment**

Disability Rights Center 603-228-0432 mail@drcnh.org

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