



# CITY OF EAST WENATCHEE

## Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Notice

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), prohibits federal agencies, and other entities, programs, and activities receiving federal financial assistance, from discriminating against individuals with disabilities. The Rehabilitation Act is sometimes confused with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). While there are many parallels between the Rehabilitation Act and the ADA, there are some fundamental differences. Both laws prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities and share many of the same definitions and provisions. However, the Rehabilitation Act covers federal agencies and entities receiving federal funding, while the ADA applies to state and local governments, public accommodations, commercial facilities, transportation, telecommunications, and the U.S. Congress.

Section 504 protects qualified individuals with disabilities. Under this law, individuals with disabilities are defined as persons with a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities. People who have a history of, or who are regarded as having a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, are also covered. Major life activities include caring for one's self, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, working, performing manual tasks, and learning. Some examples of impairments which may substantially limit major life activities, even with the help of medication or aids/devices, are: AIDS, alcoholism, blindness or visual impairment, cancer, deafness or hearing impairment, diabetes, drug addiction, heart disease, and mental illness.

The City of East Wenatchee receives federal grants on an annual basis as an entitlement community under the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. All organizations and firms contracting with the City in programs supported by federal funding, except those providing tangible goods, must comply with the Section 504.

HUD's regulations for Section 504 may be found in the Code of Federal Regulations at 24 CFR Part 8. There are also regulations that govern Section 504 in programs conducted by HUD which may be found at 24 CFR Part 9. In general terms, Section 504 prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in any program, service, or activity that receives federal financial assistance. This means, for example, that persons with disabilities may not be denied the opportunity to participate in a program, service, or activity; may not be required to accept a different kind or lesser program or service than what is provided to others, and may not be required to participate in separate programs and services, even if separate programs and services exist. The City adopted Resolution 2014-05 establishing a Policy for Compliance Regarding Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

If you feel that you have been discriminated against as a qualified individual with a disability in any City of East Wenatchee government program, service or activity that is supported by federal funding, you may file a complaint with the City of East Wenatchee 504 Coordinator, the Federal Civil Rights Department, or you may initiate a court action. To file a complaint with the City of East Wenatchee please contact the following individual:

Devin Poulson, ADA Coordinator/Section 504 Coordinator  
271 9th St. N.E.  
East Wenatchee, WA 98802  
(509) 884-9151