

ACCESSIBILITY

So you've found transportation to your doctor's office, but once there you might encounter a problem: You can't get up on the examination table. The office staff can't communicate with you. The nurse can't weigh you. Or maybe the radiologist can't properly X-ray you.

These situations and others can be remedied. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment provides valuable resources regarding accessibility for people with disabilities at the following link: <http://www.kdheks.gov/diabetes/disabilities.htm>. There you will find guides, federal tax incentives, and organizations that can help encourage your community to become more accessible. Here is an overview of the resources available.

1. **Removing Barriers to Health Care: A Guide for Health Professionals** – This is something you could give to your health care provider to educate him/her about access. It includes recommended Universal Design features, selected Americans with Disabilities Act requirements for health care providers and communication tips for specific disabilities.
2. **Federal Tax Incentives for Improving Accessibility** – The good news for health care providers is that there are three tax incentives available to help them offset the cost of improving access to goods and services for both employees and people with disabilities. You can inform your provider about these tax incentives in case he/she isn't aware of them.
3. **Resources for Making an Office or Clinic More Accessible as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**
Detailed information is available in these areas:
 - o Accessible exam tables, chairs and scales
 - o Improving accessibility with limited resources
 - o Providing Information in Alternative Formats
4. **Centers for Independent Living (CILs)** are organizations that help people with disabilities live independently in their community. Your local CIL can help you personally or help you target outreach to people with disabilities in your community. Find your Local Center for Independent Living at the website of the Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas: <http://www.silck.org/cils.htm>
5. **The Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Disability and Health Program** can provide further resources and information. Contact:
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<http://www.kdheks.gov/disability>