

New York City Dance Rehearsal Space Subsidy Program ADA Standards & Compliance

This program requires that grantees provide affordable access to rehearsal space(s) that are either physically accessible (ADA-compliant as defined by the requirements detailed below) at the time of application OR by the time the grant period begins (April 1, 2022).

The United States Department of Justice's revised regulations for the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) were published in the Federal Register on September 15, 2010. These revised regulations adopted revised and enforceable accessibility standards called the [2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design](#) ("2010 Standards.") As of March 2012, compliance with the 2010 Standards is required for new construction and physical building alterations that meet criteria specified in Titles II and III of the 2010 Standards. Priorities for physical alterations of existing facilities are detailed in [ADA Checklist for Existing Facilities Version 2.1](#).

The timing and implementation of the 2010 Standards means there is a vast spectrum of compliance in facilities across New York City--newly constructed facilities must meet the 2010 standards, some renovated facilities meet the 2010 standards while others meet previous standards and of course there are many facilities that do not and can not meet the standards for a variety of reasons.

Dance/NYC has worked in consultation with Christine Bruno, Disability Inclusion Consultant and Delia Nevola, Managing Principal, of Steinberg Hart architecture to review the 2010 Standards, consider the spectrum of compliance and set achievable requirements for this program.

The resulting guidelines will help applicants understand whether or not they operate studios that are considered ADA-compliant for the purpose of this program. While it would be ideal for all of this program's grantee facilities to meet the 2010 Standards, Dance/NYC understands that is not achievable for many spaces. If necessary, Dance/NYC may conduct physical site visits to assess an applicant's level of compliance and ultimately determine program eligibility.

In addition, facilities that have a combination of ADA-compliant and non-ADA-compliant studios are eligible for this funding opportunity. However, only ADA-compliant studios will be considered and all subsidized rentals must be provided in those studios.

Program Requirements

(adapted from the [ADA Checklist for Existing Facilities Version 2.1](#))

1/ Studios Hosting Subsidized Rentals Must Have an Accessible Approach/Entrance

To be eligible for this program, facilities must include:

- A route of travel to studios that: does not require the use of stairs (i.e. elevators, lifts, ramps, flat corridors), is at least 36 inches wide, is stable, firm, slip-resistant and able to be accessed easily without assistance.

- Adjacency to intact and low curb cuts that allow disabled people to easily access the facility from the street.
- An entrance door with a clear opening that is at least 32 inches wide (for a double door, at least one 32-inch leaf) when the door is open.
- At least 18 inches of clear wall space on the pull side of the entrance door, next to the handle.
- Interior doors that can be opened without too much force, with door handles that are no higher than 48 inches and operable with a closed fist.
- Circulation paths that are completely free of any objects and remain clear at all times.

2/ Studios Hosting Subsidized Rentals Must Have at Least One Accessible Restroom Available to Disabled People of Any Gender Identity

To be eligible for this program, facilities must include one restroom that is fully accessible to disabled people of any gender identity. That restroom must include:

- A doorway that is 32 inches clear when the door is open.
- Entrance doors equipped with accessible handles (operable with a closed fist) that are 48 inches high or lower.
- Adequate maneuvering space for a wheelchair user (36 inches of clear width for forward movement and a 5-foot diameter or T-shaped clear space) to make turns.
- A 36-inch wide path to all fixtures.
- A stall door that is operable with a closed fist inside and out.
- A wheelchair-accessible stall that has an area of at least 5 feet by 5 feet, clear of the floor swing, OR a stall that is less accessible but provides greater access than a typical stall (either 36" x 69" or 48" x 69").
- A toilet seat 17 to 19 inches high as well as grab bars behind and on the side wall nearest the toilet in the wheelchair-accessible stall.
- Sink/hand washing that can be operated with one closed fist.
- Clearance below the sink for wheelchair users.
- Signage at inaccessible restrooms to provide directions to accessible restrooms.

3/ Studios Hosting Subsidized Rentals Must Provide Disabled People Access to Key Features

When the following features are provided, they (or functional remote access) must be 15 to 48 inches from the floor:

- Light switches/dimmers
- Sound system
- Heat or air conditioning controls, if assistance is not available
- Intercom or telephone to communicate with any on-site staff

In order to provide access to drinking water:

- At least one drinking fountain must have a spout that is no higher than 36 inches from the floor. Alternatively, access to drinking water can be provided if an accessible drinking fountain is not available.

Additional Considerations (Not Required)

Given the wide definition of ‘accessibility’ and vast spectrum of accessibility standards, some facilities may exceed the requirements detailed above. Dance/NYC is also interested in understanding other ways that applicants currently (or plan to) provide access for disabled people through features, policies and practices such as:

- Emergency egress systems with flashing lights and audible signals
- Accessible signage
- Seats, service counters and tables with accessible heights and spacing,
- Stair treads and rails
- Assisted listening/sound loop
- Scent-free environments
- Staff trained in accessibility
- Other features noted in the [2010 Standards](#) and [ADA Checklist for Existing Facilities](#).