Overview

Program launched in 2023. More info at https://www.vita.virginia.gov/websitemodernization/

Success Stories

- Agency compliance with accessibility standards increased from 44% to over 88%.

- A Commonwealth Branding Bar was created and deployed to 100% of agency main websites.

- Won StateScoop 50 award for State IT Innovation of the Year 2024.

- Increased VITA's engagement and partnership with Executive and Non-Executive agencies.

VITA Governance and Support

- Web System Standard, first released in February 2023, has been updated to align with ADA Title II Final Rule.

- Monthly training provided on various accessibility and user experience topics.

- On-demand accessibility training with custom certifications for web developers, designers, and content creators.
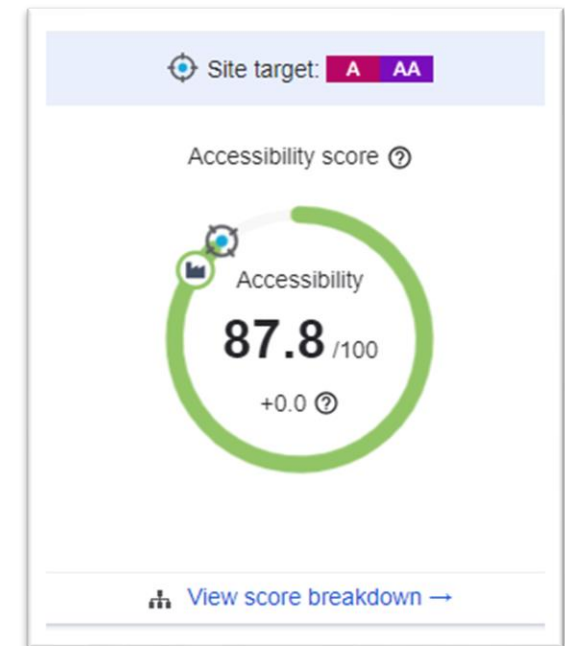
Resources Involved

People

- Dedicated Project Manager (converted to full-time program lead)

- Accenture-led project team

- Partnership with various teams (Security / Enterprise Architecture, Web Development / Design, Communications, Change Management / Business Readiness, etc.)

Tools and Vendor Partners

- Siteimprove – accessibility scanning and web traffic monitoring

- Siteimprove Frontier – custom Accessible Virginia training program

- Fusion / JAWS Inspect – screen reader and reporting tools

- State-wide contracts for Content Management Systems, web hosting, and design

Site target: A AA

Accessibility score

Accessibility
87.8 /100
+0.0

View score breakdown →

Looking Ahead

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

- Entities subject to Title II will be required to conform their digital content to the WCAG 2.1 Level AA, a set of guidelines and criteria for making web content more accessible to a wider range of people with disabilities.

- A public entity with a total population of 50,000 or more shall begin complying with this rule **April 24, 2026.**

Operationalizing

- Accessibility, for websites or otherwise, is not a one-time effort!

- Ongoing funding is needed to maintain and expand accessibility tools, so COV doesn't risk backsliding to the baseline from before the resources were available.

- Accessibility needs to be deeply rooted into how each agency does business – from contracting with a third-party to creating content to opening a new local office and training staff.

Questions

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Virginia IT Agency

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