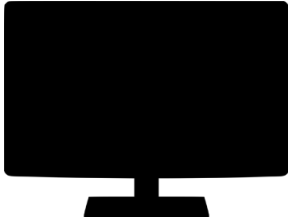




Which Improvement Category/Categories Should I Select?

There are many ways that businesses and organizations can make their spaces more accessible and inclusive for Livingston County residents. If you are not sure which category or categories to select on the nomination form, here is a quick guide to what each one means:



Digital Accessibility

A lot of the information available through digital media is inaccessible to people with disabilities. This category thanks nominees who have made their digital information accessible to a wider range of users. Examples include closed captioning on videos and television, audio options for articles, providing readable PDFs, and simplifying text on websites and social media.



Environmental Accessibility

For many businesses and organizations, physical barriers and environmental stimuli can make it difficult for people with and without disabilities to access and enjoy the same spaces. This category thanks nominees who have made changes to their business environment to accommodate sensory needs and make physical access easier for everyone. Examples include ramps, accessible seating, and appliances (i.e. sinks) at different heights, decibel meters, softer fabric textures and lighting, and the elimination of flashing lights.



Employment Accessibility

The standard hiring practices used by workplaces often make it difficult for candidates with disabilities to apply. These barriers contribute to a high nationwide unemployment rate among people with disabilities. This category thanks nominees who engage in accessible hiring practices. Examples include interview accommodations, accessible employment applications, and disability-inclusive hiring teams.



Accessibility Training and Awareness

Even today, the personnel for many businesses and organizations are not well-educated on the issues of disability accessibility and inclusion. The result is that many are unequipped to adequately serve members of the public with disabilities. This category thanks nominees who have included themes of accessibility in their employee training and have made inclusion part of their own day-to-day practices.



Communications Accessibility

Many people with sensory and intellectual disabilities find it difficult to navigate a space when information is not being communicated in a way that they can process. This category thanks nominees who have made changes to their communication materials to accommodate everyone. Examples include printed flyers and room signs in braille, and announcements in both audio and text, information presented in picture form.