One of the Florida Disability and Health Program’s (DHP) goals is to educate Department of Health Staff on the importance of program accessibility for people with disabilities (PWD) in an effort to increase comfort in working with this population. In order to achieve this goal, the DHP created a Program Access Guide which was sent to all Bureau of Chronic Disease staff along with a self-assessment survey.

The access guide, entitled “Access and Communication Guide for Health Programs in Florida,” discussed marketing to PWD, materials and signage, physical accessibility and included resources; and gave recommendations on how to improve these aspects of a program so they are more accessible to PWD. The access guide was accompanied by a 5-question survey which was sent to over 40 Bureau of Chronic Disease Program Managers and staff. A total of 22 responses were received, completed, and used for analysis.

**Survey Results**

Respondents were asked if they felt they had increased knowledge about the access and accommodation needs of people with disabilities in chronic disease programs after reading the access guide. A full 100% of respondents reported feeling more knowledgeable on the topic. Similarly, there was an overwhelming sense of increased skill in delivering health promotion education to people with disabilities; 95% of respondents reported feeling increased skill after reading the access guide.

Representatives were also asked to assess whether the information about people with disabilities in the guide was useful. Results were positive, with a full 100% of respondents reporting that the information presented was at least somewhat useful. According to survey results,

- 50% of respondents found the guide very useful
- 45% of respondents found the guide useful
- 5% of respondents found the brief somewhat useful
- No respondents found the brief somewhat useless, useless, or very useless
When asked whether they would use the information learned about access and accommodations needs of people with disabilities in future program planning, 95% of respondents reported that yes, they would use the information in the future. Only 5% of respondents reported that they would not use this information for future program planning decisions.

Finally, when asked whether they now knew where to go to find more information and resources on people with disabilities, 100% of respondents said that yes, they knew where to go for such information.

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The access guide “Access and Communication Guide for Health Programs in Florida” can be found on the DHP website: [http://fodh.phhp.ufl.edu/training-resources/](http://fodh.phhp.ufl.edu/training-resources/)