

IOWA CITY VISITABILITY STANDARDS

ACCESSIBILITY R326.1

Scope. The provisions of this section are enacted to implement the City's policy that structures regulated by this Code constructed with public funds be constructed using universal design features that provide accessibility and usability for all. Public funds shall mean funding or assistance from the City of Iowa City or any agent thereof thorough any of the following means: 1. a building contract or similar contractual agreement involving a City-funded program or fund; 2. any real estate received by the owner through a subsidy, lease, or donation by the City or its agents; 3. preferential tax treatment, bond assistance, mortgage assistance, or similar financial advantages from the City or its agents; 4. disbursement of federal or state construction funds including a Community Development Block Grant; or 5. a City contract to provide funding or a financial benefit for housing.

R326.2 Minimum accessibility requirements for all dwelling units using public funds.

1. Wall Reinforcement. One first floor bath shall be provided with wood blocking installed within wall framing, to support grab bars as needed. The wood blocking, when measured to the center, shall be located between thirty-three inches (33") and thirty-six inches (36") above the finish floor. The wood blocking shall be located in all walls adjacent to a toilet, shower stall or bathtub.
2. Interior Doors. All first floor doorways shall provide a minimum clear opening of thirty-two inches (32") when the door is open ninety degrees (90°), measured between the face of the door and the opposite stop.
3. Switch and Outlet Requirements. All wall switches controlling light fixtures and fans, shall be located at a height not to exceed fort-eight inches (48") above the finished floor. Height shall be determined by measuring from the finished floor to the center of the switch. All receptacles shall be located at a height not less than fifteen inches (15") above the finished floor. Height shall be determined by measuring from the finished floor to the center of the receptacle. When the receptacle placement is prohibited by the height of a window or design feature, an alternate location can be approved by the Building Official or a duly authorized designee.
4. No-Step Entrance. Must provide at least one building entrance that complies with the Iowa City Building Code standard for an accessible entrance on an accessibly route served by a ramp or a no-step entrance. A building entrance door must have a minimum net clear opening of thirty-two inches (32"). The Building Official may waive this requirement based on the determination that strict compliance is financially or environmentally impractical.

