

Measuring Up: Glossary



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The following definitions are given to terms as they are used within the Measuring Up program. These definitions may be different than those used by other organizations. Please provide any comments or input about these definitions to the Measuring Up program at measuringup@2010LegaciesNow.com.

Accessible: free of barriers, can be used independently by all people.

Adaptable Housing: homes designed to adapt to the needs of inhabitants through all stages of life.

Assessment: a process of community consultation involving the participation of persons with disabilities, local government, the business sector, other grass-roots community leaders, and the general public.

Built Environment: all buildings, roads, walls, plazas and other spaces or structures created by people.

Disability: A general term referring to a range of impairments, activity limitations and participation restrictions experienced by individuals; can be visible or invisible, short-term or long-term.

Inclusion: welcoming and enabling participation from everyone.

Multiple Formats: providing information in a variety of communication forms (e.g. large print, Braille, American Sign Language, etc.) to make it accessible to persons with diverse needs.

Personal Supports: any supports needed by an individual. This includes the services of attendants or caregivers, equipment such as wheelchairs, and assistive devices such as lifts.

Plain Language: an approach to writing and developing communication materials so they are understandable by the persons who will use them.

Universal Design: an approach to building and design, which makes sure that human-made spaces or structures are usable by everyone, to the greatest extent possible; also known as Barrier-Free Design.