**Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) Standards:**

**Category: 2000 Software Domain**

[**2705**](#a010007) **– Web Accessibility Standards**

**Definition:**

As per COT #2705:

Software that provides content authoring, content review and approval, tagging and aggregation, content publishing and delivery, and syndication management.

Accessibility standards require applications to have an equivalent user experience, no matter how the user encounters the application. The standards ensure users with disabilities are able to use the applications as well as non-disabled users.

Web Accessibility Standards are a set of guidelines and best practices that ensure people with disabilities can access and use websites, applications, and digital content without barriers. These standards aim to promote equal access to information and services provided on the web for everyone, regardless of their abilities.

**Approved Standard(s):**

Web Accessibility Standards:

1. Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG): These are a set of technical standards developed by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) that provide guidance on making web content more accessible to people with disabilities. The latest version of WCAG is 2.1 and comes in 3 levels: A, AA, AAA. CHFS Applications should meet minimum WCAG 2.0/2.1 level AA standard.

2. Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973: This is a set of standards that require federal agencies to make their electronic and information technology accessible to people with disabilities.

3. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): This is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities and requires businesses and organizations to ensure that their goods and services are accessible to all.

Accessibility Testing Standards:

CHFS applications must use Compliance Sheriff, or a similar tool approved by CHFS, Job Access with Speech (JAWS) tools, as well as visual testing to confirm accessibility standards are met.

**Approved Product(s) for New Applications:**

Authoring:

Please refer to category**: 8000 Applications Development Domain**

Publishing:

Please refer to category**: 8000 Applications Development Domain**

**Justification/Comments:**

This standard ensures the cabinet’s applications are published and accessible to most users and meets federal requirements.

**Exceptions:**

Any exceptions to this standard must follow the procedures established in CHFS IT Policy #070.203.

**Review Cycle:**

Annually

**Timeline:**

Last reviewed: 09/11/23

Next review: 04/01/24

**Cross Reference:**

COT Standard #2705 – HTML Authoring and Web Publishing

COT Standard #7025 – Accessibility for Internet/World Wide Web Design and Publishing

CHFS Standard #6020 – Web Application User Interface (UI) Development

**Link to all COT Software Domain Standards:**

[KITS\_Report.pdf (ky.gov)](https://cgp.ky.gov/sites/COTPUBDOCS/Standards/KITS_Report.pdf)

**Link to all CHFS IT Standards:**

[CHFS IT Standards - Cabinet for Health and Family Services (ky.gov)](https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/os/oats/Pages/itstandards.aspx)

**Link to all CHFS IT Policies:**

[CHFS IT Policies - Cabinet for Health and Family Services (ky.gov)](https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/os/oats/Pages/ITpolicies.aspx)