

EMPOWERING OURSELVES

All too often well-intentioned people just don't "get" how distance or stairs or standing more than a minute can be access barriers. These activities seem so simple. If we want truly accessible public spaces, we need to be the ones to educate and advocate. That education may come as "no, I can't walk that far even though it seems a short distance to you." Sometimes that advocacy must come as endless repetition and requests. But that is how we will trigger lasting change.

Together we can make a difference!

Encourage New Members!

**The larger our Alliance is, the more effectively we can advocate.
 Invite friends and family to join!**

Apparent Accommodation May Not Work

The character in the drawing below illustrates our day-to-day dilemma navigating community spaces that are trying to be accommodating but aren't always sensitive to our needs. This character might also be thinking any of the following:

- "I've already walked a long way from the parking lot... How will I make it to that chair?"
- "Where is the staff member I can ask for help?"
- "How will my place in line be obvious once I sit down?"
- "If I call out for seated service, will I be seen as rude?"

Perhaps this bank assumes that those needing "seated service" will be in wheelchairs rather than walking. Service layouts unfortunately usually assume that people can walk further than is feasible for those of us with HMD. So how do we keep mobile and walking without getting into situations where we have to walk further than is healthy for us?

What solutions have you created in your community with local service providers to offer HMD-accessible services?



**Too far to the seated service ...
 Why not have it right here by the door?**

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**8 Core Members
 108 Supporting Members**

Educate others!
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