



Admin
MINNESOTA

Department of Administration

Division of State Building Construction

STATEWIDE BUILDING ACCESS STATUS REPORT

February 1998



Admin
MINNESOTA

Department of Administration

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February 27, 1998

The Honorable Arne H. Carlson
Governor of Minnesota
130 State Capitol Building

The Honorable Richard J. Cohen, Chair
State Government Finance Committee
Minnesota State Senate
317 State Capitol Building

The Honorable Linda Berglin, Chair
Human Resources Finance Committee
Minnesota State Senate
309 State Capitol Building

The Honorable Keith Langseth, Chair
Education Finance Committee
Minnesota State Senate
122 State Capitol Building

The Honorable Loren Solberg, Chair
House Ways and Means Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives 309
343 State Office Building

Dear Governor and Committee Chairs:

In accordance with Minnesota Laws 1989, Chapter 300, Article 1, Section 14(a), we are submitting the annual Statewide Building Access Status Report. This reports on progress to date in making state-owned buildings accessible to persons with disabilities.

Sincerely,


Elaine S. Hansen
Commissioner

esh/wlo

cc: Legislative Reference Library(6)



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Funds were appropriated to the Department of Administration (Admin) to improve access to state-owned buildings and properties for individuals with disabilities as follows:

- Laws of Minnesota 1989, Chapter 300, Article 1, Section 14(a) \$29.0 million
- Laws of Minnesota 1994, Chapter 643, Section 2, Subdivision 3 \$11.5 million
- Laws of Minnesota 1996, Chapter 463, Section 13, Subdivision 3 \$ 9.0 million

Admin, the Minnesota State Council on Disability, and participating agencies form work teams to implement the Statewide Building Access (SBA) program. This report covers progress as of December 31, 1997, and an action plan for calendar year 1998.

Admin surveyed and compiled data on more than 3,000 state-owned properties and identified 2,399 projects. In 1997 there were 563 projects (127 in design or construction and 436 completed) totaling \$34.7 million. This compare to 483 projects (161 in design or construction and 322 completed) totaling \$30.3 million in 1996. The balance of the three appropriations as of December 31, 1997 is \$11.5 million compared to \$15.4 million for the same period in 1996.

Although 1,836 projects estimated at \$52 million remain unfunded, many of those projects can be deferred as low priorities without jeopardizing compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The primary goals for 1998 are to continue to make state-owned buildings accessible, and to identify future funding needs. The 1999 Statewide Building Access Status Report will provide cost information by project for each agency similar to the Capital Asset Preservation and Replacement Account (CAPRA) Summary Report.

BUILDING ACCESS UPDATE

INTRODUCTION

This is the seventh annual report of the Statewide Building Access (SBA) program. The objective of the SBA program is to make state-owned properties accessible to programs and services for people with disabilities as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The SBA team consists of staff from the Department of Administration (Admin), the Minnesota State Council on Disability (MNCOD), and staff from participating agencies. The funds to implement the SBA program were appropriated to Admin as follows:

- Laws of Minnesota 1989, Chapter 300, Article 1, Section 14(a) \$29.0 million
- Laws of Minnesota 1994, Chapter 643, Section 2, Subdivision 3 \$11.5 million
- Laws of Minnesota 1996, Chapter 463, Section 13, Subdivision 3 \$ 9.0 million

This report summarizes the program's status as of December 31, 1997, and outlines an action plan for calendar year 1998.

STATUS

Minnesota is currently in compliance with the requirements of the ADA by continuing the plan to provide access to state-owned programs and services. The SBA program implements this plan by allocating the appropriated funds to agencies, and administering the use of the funds for approved access projects.

Access projects have three stages.

Stage 1: Projects Approved. Agencies identify their projects based on the results of the property surveys and knowledge of their buildings, programs and services. The agency list is reviewed by Admin and MNCOD with the agency participants, all of whom comprise the SBA team for that agency. Each project is reviewed according to SBA guidelines (Appendix A). The first stage is complete when the agency receives project prioritization and approval from the SBA team.

Stage 2: Project Design/Construction. Each agency budgets their approved projects within their allocation in the priority established by the SBA team. The agency starts the management and implementation of their projects.

Stage 3: Projects Completed. Upon completion of a project, an agency reports its status to Admin for updating the project database. A record of the project lists and completed projects are maintained in Admin's system.

Projects In Stage 1

As of December 31, 1997, of the 2,399 projects approved, 563 projects were funded or completed (see Table 2), leaving 1,836 to be funded at a later date. When an agency's allocated funds are exhausted, any remaining projects will stay as an unfunded project until funding is provided.

Table 1

UNFUNDED PROJECTS		
Agency	Quantity	Estimated Cost (\$)
Administration	78	11,157,905
Center for Arts Education	1	14,760
Children, Families and Learning	4	26,090
Corrections	601	14,062,310
Economic Security	7	74,368
Historical Society	32	1,288,030
Human Services	26	6,645,886
Iron Range Resources	88	424,800
Military Affairs	9	573,675
Natural Resources	9	119,500
State Colleges and Universities	942	17,101,659
Transportation	23	290,405
Veterans Home Board	16	922,560
Zoological Gardens *	0	0
TOTALS	1,836	52,701,948
<p>*All of the Zoological Garden's barriers has been grouped into projects and all of the projects are in design, construction, or completed as noted in Table 2 on page 4.</p>		

Projects In Stages 2 and 3

The SBA team allocated the 1989, 1994, and 1996 appropriations to agencies for accessibility projects. **Table 2** shows the agency allocations, as well as quantity and financial information for the projects that are in design or construction, and completed.

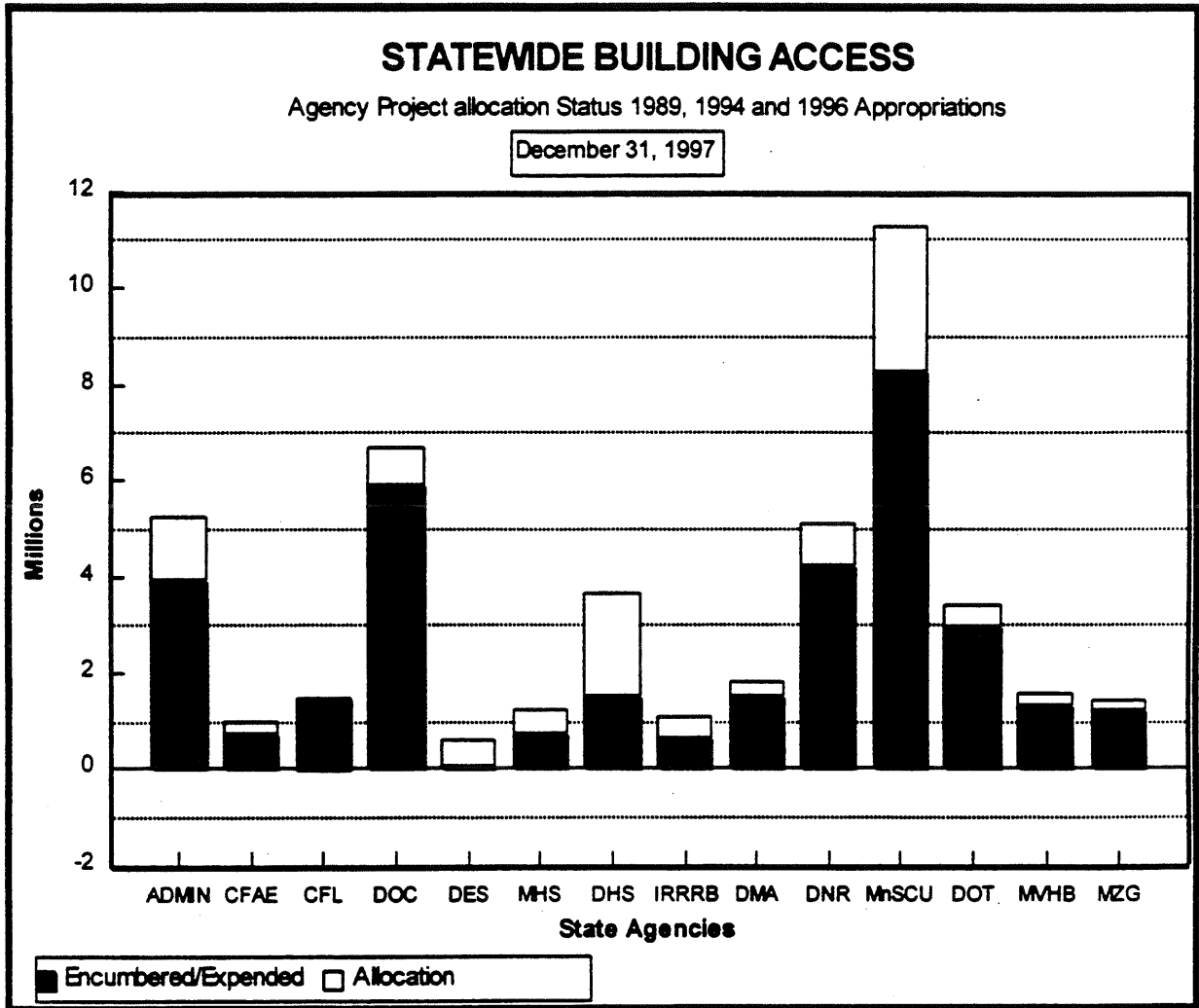
Table 2

CURRENT AND COMPLETED PROJECTS					
AGENCY	FUNDS ALLOCATED	DESIGN/ CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS- Stage 2		COMPLETED PROJECTS- Stage 3	
		Quantity	Encumbered	Quantity	Expended
Administration (ADMIN)	\$5,221,000	16	\$1,039,643	30	\$2,889,066
Center for Arts Education (CFAE)	966,000	0	0	4	740,088
Children, Families and Learning (CFL)	1,429,500	1	609,309	7	862,490
Corrections (DOC)	6,677,340	9	1,293,267	23	4,603,661
Economic Security (DES)	600,000	0	0	4	70,677
Historical Society (MHS)	1,240,000	5	8,026	26	734,713
Human Services (DHS)	3,640,000	4	1,421,060	7	104,376
Iron Range Resources (IRRRB)	1,070,500	0	0	4	634,258
Military Affairs (DMA)	1,815,000	11	379,569	15	1,119,017
Natural Resources (DNR)	5,111,500	36	542,780	85	3,674,504
State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU)	11,250,000	18	1,263,738	187	7,031,981
Transportation (DOT)	3,418,500	3	152,018	22	2,834,621
Veterans Home Board (MVHB)	1,579,000	5	390,485	11	928,644
Zoological Gardens (MZG)	1,443,000	19	847,933	13	395,093
TOTALS	\$45,461,340	127	\$8,028,404	436	\$26,623,189

Agency Allocations

Each bar in **Table 3** represents an agency's total allocation from the 1989, 1994 and 1996 appropriations. The amount of money encumbered/expended for construction projects as of December 31, 1997 is shown in proportion to the agency's total allocation from **Table 2**.

Table 3



Project Prioritization Process

Projects continue to be identified by agencies. These projects are reviewed by the SBA team for approval. The SBA team addresses the most critical access issues first by applying the established guidelines (see Appendix A). During the review, agencies may express needs that show cause for deviating from the guidelines. Projects approved and not funded by access funds are either placed on hold until funding is provided, or funded by agency resources.

Emergency Barrier Removal Plan

An emergency barrier removal plan set aside \$500,000 of the 1994 appropriation to provide funding for the removal of barriers due to sudden or unforeseen circumstances requiring immediate action. This includes providing access to programs, services, or employment where time and monetary constraints might otherwise impede an immediate resolution. To qualify for this funding, the barriers must have come under complaint and present a potential human rights violation.

The 14 agencies participating in the SBA program received copies of the Emergency Barrier Removal Plan and an application form. We received three applications and approved all three. The agencies were able to use existing allocations to address the emergencies leaving the \$500,000 emergency fund intact.

Action Plan of 1997

The Action Plan in the Statewide Building Access Status Report dated February 1997 outlined two action steps. Step one identified the need for interagency agreements for agencies that have construction authority. This step has received support from those agencies and will be implemented within the next three months.

Step two is to evaluate each agency's progress in achieving accessibility. This step is continuing into calendar year 1998. Admin is working with all agencies to evaluate their progress in achieving accessibility and this evaluation will continue to be part of the Action plan for 1998.

The SBA program continues to make state-owned buildings accessible, focusing on highest priority projects and identifying future funding needs. Current approved projects are reviewed by the SBA team prior to funding to ensure they meet the SBA guidelines.

SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS

The following three tables show the status of each appropriation according to the year of the appropriation. **Table 4** shows the three major appropriation years and the amount. **Table 5** shows the allocation distribution for each appropriation, and **Table 6** reports the corresponding encumbrances and expenditures by appropriation year.

Table 4

	1996	1994	1989	Total
Appropriated Amount	9,000,000	11,500,000	29,000,000	49,500,000

Table 5

Allocation Status	1996	1994	1989	Total
Survey and Related Cost	350,000	0	2,100,558	2,450,558
Agency Transfers	0	0	788,102	788,102
Emergency Barrier Reserve	0	500,000	0	500,000
Administrative Contingency	300,000	0	0	300,000
Construction	8,350,000	11,000,000	26,111,340	45,461,340
Total Allocated	9,000,000	11,500,000	29,000,000	49,500,000

Table 6

Encumbrance/Expenditure Status	1996	1994	1989	Total
Survey and Related Cost	65,000	0	1,947,275	2,012,275
Agency Transfers	0	0	788,102	788,102
Emergency Barrier Reserve	0	500,000	0	500,000
Construction	1,604,512	6,782,458	26,264,623	34,651,593
Allotment Free Balance	7,330,488	4,217,542	0	11,548,030
Total	9,000,000	11,500,000	29,000,000	49,500,000

1998 ACTION PLAN

Admin will take the following steps in 1998:

1. Use interagency agreements for agencies that have construction authority. The agreements will reassert the priority guidelines and project approval process.
2. Continue to evaluate status of accessibility and identify when agencies can assume responsibility for maintaining ADA compliance.
3. Provide cost information by project for each agency similar to the Capital Asset Preservation and Replacement Account (CAPRA) Summary Report.

Appendix A

STATEWIDE BUILDING ACCESS

Guidelines for Prioritization

1. Barriers that obstruct access to programs, services or employment opportunities should be given top priority for removal.
2. Barriers needing immediate attention that have been identified in complaints from employees and the public.
3. General areas of building access that should be given top priority include:
 - a. Accessible pathway into a building from sidewalks, parking or public transportation stops.
 - b. Signage that is need for accessible entrances, room numbers, restrooms and services.
 - c. Access to restroom facilities.
 - d. Interior vertical circulation such as elevators and stairs.
 - e. Visual and auditory fire and life-safety alarm systems.
 - f. Access to all remaining programs and services.