

BARRIERS CAN TAKE MANY FORMS

COMMON BARRIERS:

- buildings or facilities, including entrances and bathrooms, that are not wheelchair or walker accessible.
- parking lots or sidewalks that pose a hazard for people with mobility challenges. This could be due to design or maintenance
- communications, materials, signage or lighting that does not consider the needs of people with visual or hearing impairments,
- print material or on-line information that is written or presented in a way that is difficult to understand
- important communication that doesn't reach the entire community
- organizations' policies, attitudes or lack of awareness that result in limited opportunities for services, employment or volunteering for people with disabilities.

TYPES OF BARRIERS

- **Architectural** – any physical factor that makes accessibility difficult for an individual. Examples include: narrow doorways and hallways, stairways, bathrooms that are not physically accessible for all, arrangement of furniture which may restrict easy movement, poor lighting for visually impaired individuals, alarms which hearing impaired individuals may not hear.
- **Environmental** - an item which affects the area an individual spends time in. Examples include: excessive noise, flickering lighting, fragrances which may cause an allergic reaction.
- **Attitudinal** - a negative attitude towards the people with diverse abilities. Examples include: negative attitudes of staff or other members of the community, a lack of acceptance or inclusion, negative language or "labels."
- **Financial** – anything that may mean, at an organizational level, that a service is restricted or eliminated because of a lack of sufficient finances.
- **Employment** – a workplace that does not provide sufficient flexibility, training, or equipment to ensure a productive and satisfying workplace for employees.