

Championing Digital Accessibility: The Pivotal Role of Leadership

DIR Discover Pre-Conference
September 21, 2023



Texas Department of Information Resources

Transforming How
Texas Government
Serves Texans

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Today's Objectives

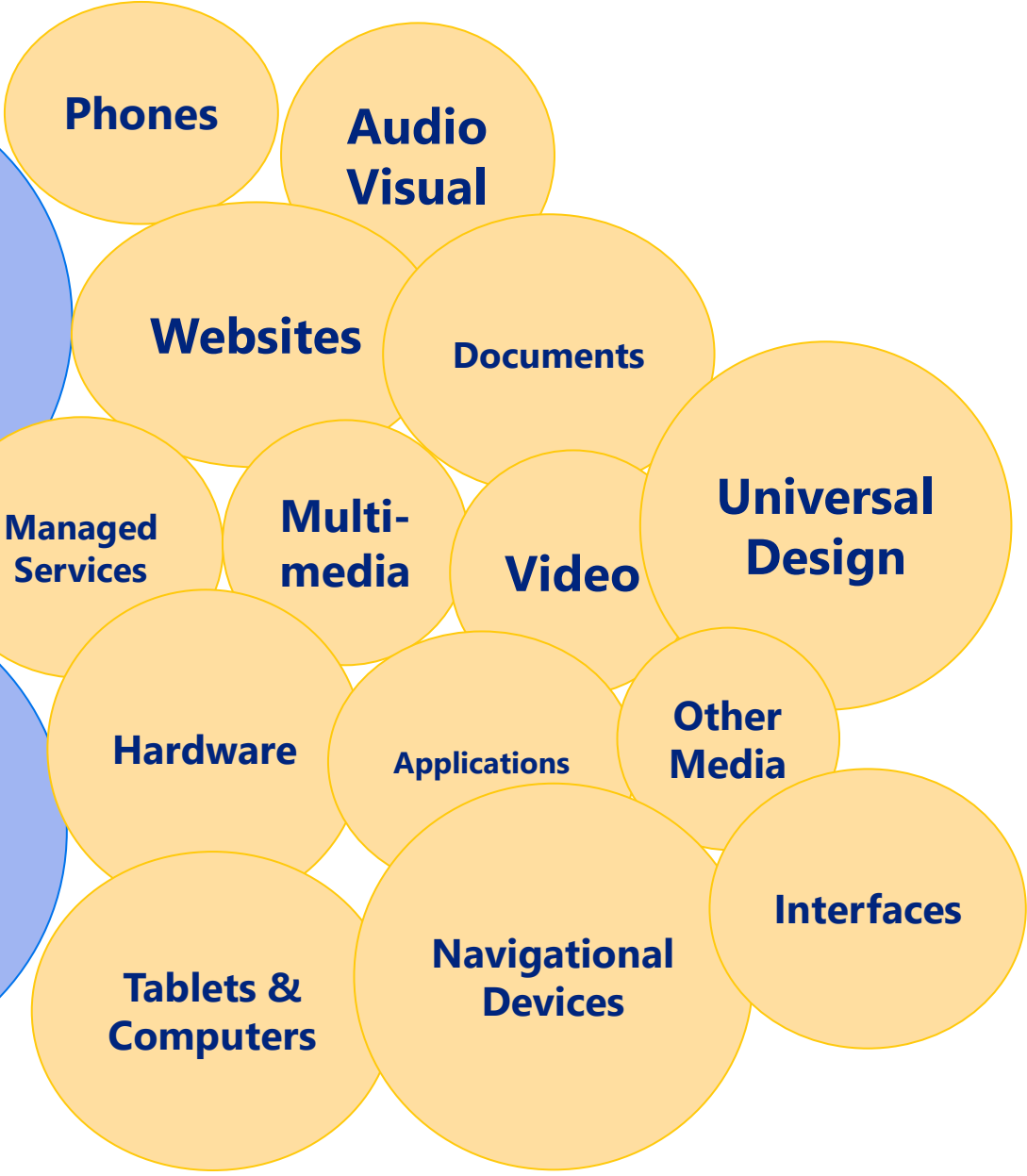
- Digital Accessibility Scope
- Why
- Digital Accessibility Officer
- Pain Points
- Agency Champions

Digital Accessibility Scope

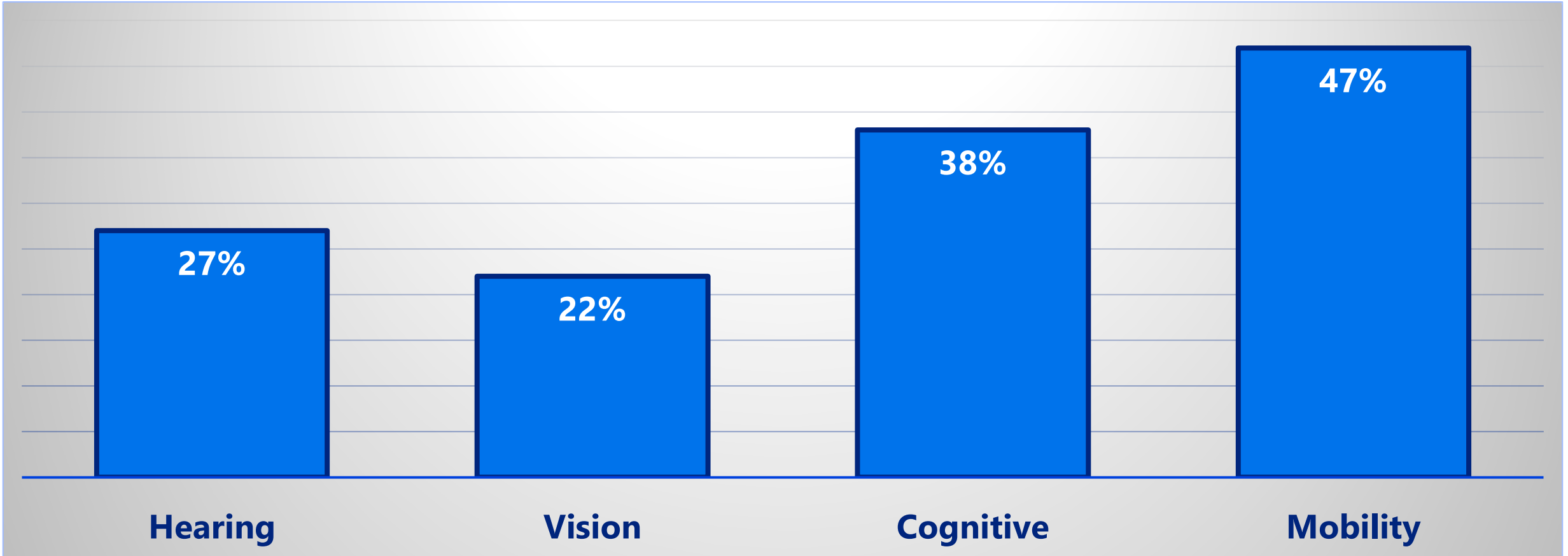
Digital Accessibility
"Disability inclusion is about creating equitable experiences."

(ICT)
Information & Communications Technology
[Pull]

(EIR)
Electronic & Information Resources
[Push]



Population by Disability



Texas Demographics

5% of children under 18

10% age 18 to 64

35% over 65

49% over 75



Source: Every Texan 2021 survey

University Websites



Agencies Website



Compliance



Federal

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Section 508 (1998 Rehabilitation Act)
- DOJ Website Guideline

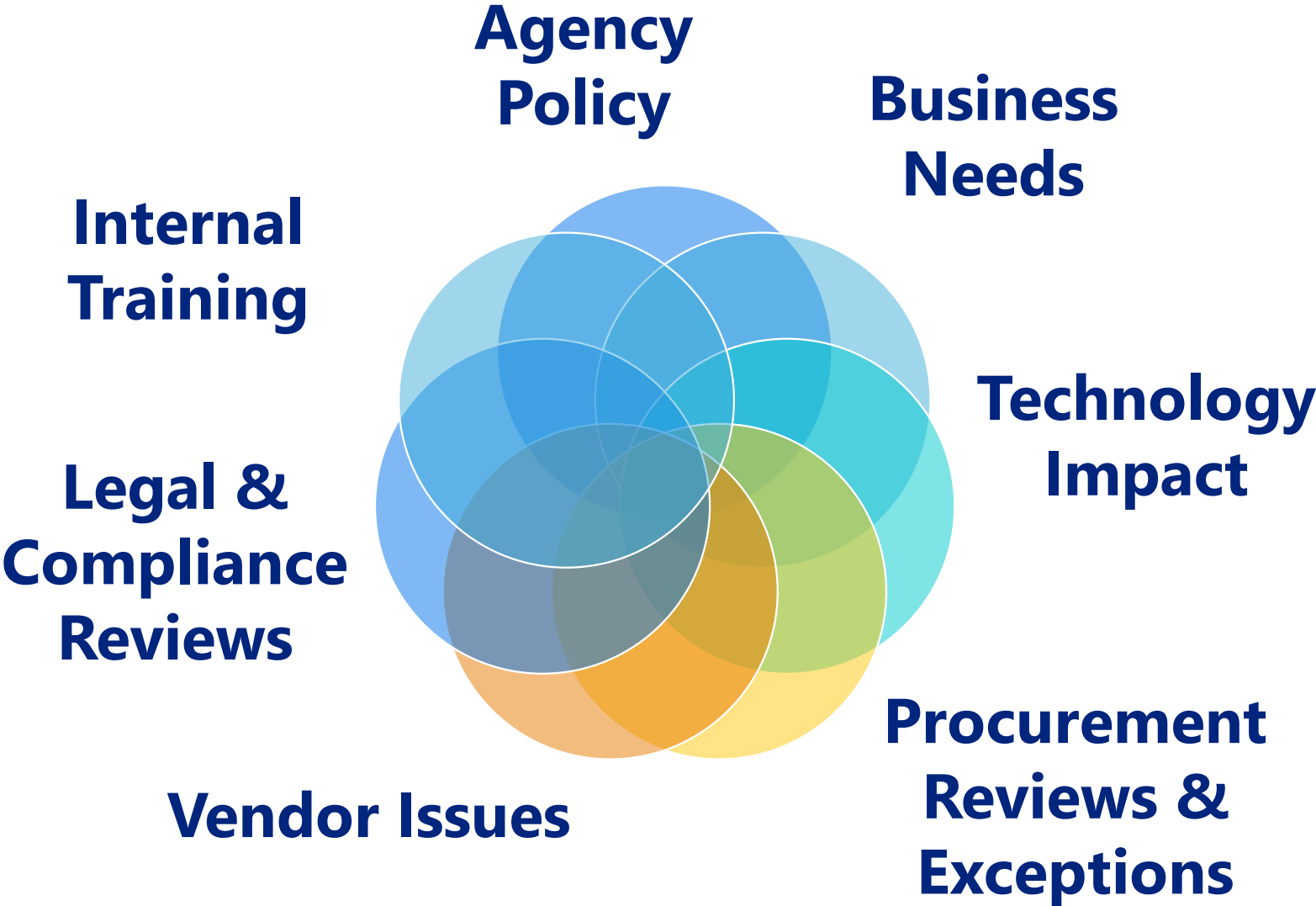
Texas

- TGC 2054 DIR Requirements (subchapter M)
- TAC 206 Websites
- TAC 213 Electronic and Information Resources

Industry

- WCAG Website Standards
- ITI Council VPAT Standards

Agency Digital Accessibility SME



Pain Points



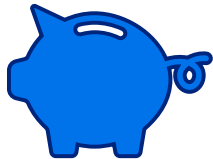
Vendor compliance

- No ACRs
- ACRs without proper testing



Compliance gaps and exceptions

- Inaccessible technology
- Exception volumes & process



Procurement Process

- Buying technology without including the EIRAC
- Inconsistency

Agency Champions

Leadership support – agencywide

- State Strategic Plan & Agency Strategic Plan
- Information Resources Deployment Review (IRDR) survey
- Biennial Performance Report

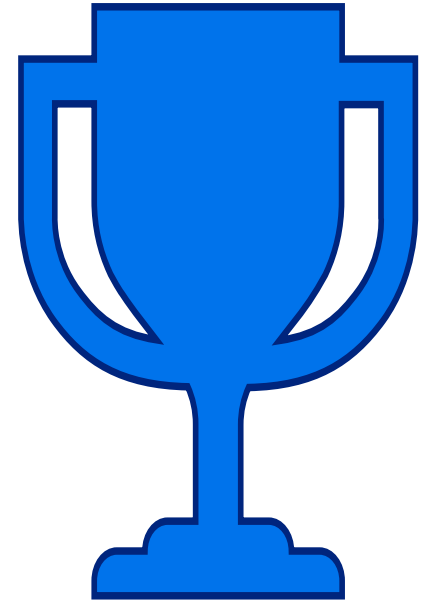
Evangelize the vendor community – Texas partners

- Work with vendors
- Education

Agency policy - procurement process and exceptions

- Required by TAC 213.21
- Set your internal policy and the processes to ensure consistency

Digital Accessibility Officer - agency SME



Solicitation Lifecycle Phases

- Review and edit RFx language
- Ensure VPAT, VADSIR, and PDAA templates are included
- Consult on changes with procurement team

Solicitation Development

Vendor Conference

- SME for pre-bid conference with vendors
- Digital accessibility presentation
- Provide responses to vendors' digital accessibility questions

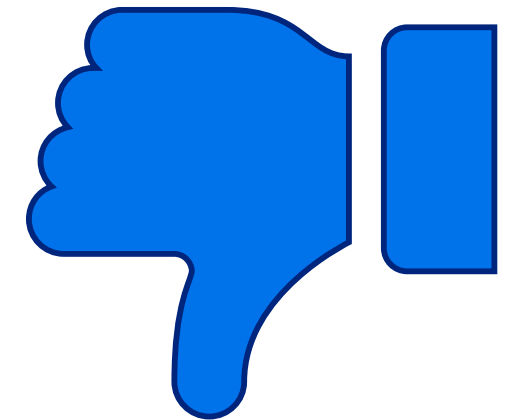
- Review RFx
- Review submitted Pricing List and corresponding ACRs and VADSIRs
- Review PDAA
- Score digital accessibility response
- Submit to evaluation team

Digital Accessibility Evaluation

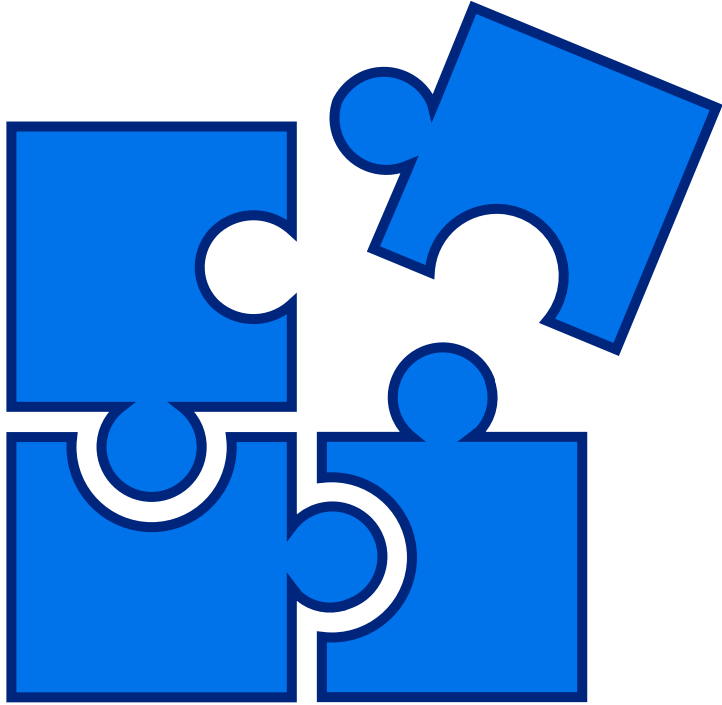
Takeaways

- ✓ Digital accessibility is equal access to technology.
- ✓ We have a digital accessibility strategy to serve all Texans who come to us for services and information...and there are compliance requirements.
- ✓ The agency Digital Accessibility Officer or EIRAC is the focal point for agency accessibility and has a significant role.
- ✓ Existing pain points can be remedied with leadership support.
- ✓ DIR is here to help with training, best practices, resources, and tools.

Digital Accessibility Pre- Conference Evaluation - DIR Discover 2023



Interactive Session



Thank you!

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