

# NEWS RELEASE

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DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

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## **DAS Recognizes 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the ADA**



**Nebraska's Fort Robinson Lodge after an ADA ramp upgrade.**

**Lincoln** – July 26, 2022, marks the 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA makes it illegal to discriminate against people because of their disabilities, and applies to employment, housing, public accommodations, education, transportation, and access to public services, among other areas.

In the past five years, the Department of Administrative Services' (DAS) 309 Task Force for Building Renewal (309 Task Force) division has managed 23 ADA compliance renovations with total allocations exceeding \$6.4 million. During the past fiscal year (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022), the 309 Task Force has opened four projects classified as ADA upgrades, with an allocation of roughly \$510,000. These projects include upgrading restrooms with handicap stalls, renovating parking lots to include disabled parking, and installing ramps at state parks and historic sites. The 309 Task Force also provides ADA training opportunities to state building officials across Nebraska.

“In Nebraska state government, we are constantly working to provide high-level customer service to the people of Nebraska,” said DAS Director Jackson. “Making state government accessible for all of our customers, including our teammates, is a critically important component of that overall goal.”

The 309 Task Force is a division within DAS, charged with administering investments in deferred repairs, building safety systems, making energy conservation upgrades, and ensuring ADA compliance.

Current 309 Task Force ADA related projects include building ramps at Fort Robinson Lodge and the George Norris House to improve access to facilities, enhancing access and upgrading parking at Cedar Point's Goodall Lodge, and improving access to the First Nebraska Administrative Building in Lincoln.

The 309 Task Force's mission is to address the State of Nebraska's sizable need for deferred building repairs and improvements to the extent possible with available funding, while utilizing those funds wisely and efficiently. With the 32-year celebration of the passage of the ADA, Nebraska state government continues to emphasize the importance of accessibility for state teammates and communities across Nebraska.

Also housed within DAS is the ADA Task Force, whose mission is to coordinate the efforts of state agencies, boards, and commissions to comply with Title II of the ADA. Recently, Director Jackson adopted the new charter for the ADA Task Force which can be found on [DAS' website here](#). The ADA Task Force is currently looking to fill one vacancy, and those interested in applying can email [nebraska.ada.coordinator@nebraska.gov](mailto:nebraska.ada.coordinator@nebraska.gov).

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