

ACCESSIBILITY

AT THE 2024 MINNESOTA AUTISM CONFERENCE

ACCESSIBILITY CONTACT: ZEPHYR JAMES
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AuSM is serious about doing everything we can to provide a welcoming, accessible environment for all attendees. This is a general overview of the accessibility and inclusion services and facilities offered at the conference.

Unfortunately, we cannot make every aspect of the event barrier-free. We are limited by finances, logistics, facilities, and staffing. If you have any questions, please contact Zephyr James at zjames@ausm.org. Please send accommodation requests by April 12.

CURRENT ACCOMMODATIONS

- Wheelchair seating in each session, marked with tape
- Pronoun and socialization stickers
- Fidgets are available for purchase in the AuSM Shop
- Designated quiet room
- Attendees are welcome to fidget, leave sessions, sit on the ground, or self-regulate in any way
- Microphones and captions used in every session
- Accessible entrance
- Direct Service Providers (including PCAs) are welcome at no cost: note that if they would like lunch they will need to purchase it at cost
- Service animals are welcome
- Social narrative on AuSM website
- Cards for writing questions in each session
- Slides available for download in advance of the event
- Scent free table at lunch
- Lactation space
- Select sessions available for streaming after the event

ACCOMMODATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

- ASL interpretation
- Large print handouts
- Pre-printed handouts
- Reserved seating
- Meals with dietary restrictions
- Most reasonable requests can be accommodated if the request is made in writing in advance to zjames@ausm.org



AVAILABLE AT AUSM HEADQUARTERS

- Information on service animal toileting areas
- Map of the venue in the conference program
- Staff can help guide you to locations

POTENTIAL BARRIERS

- Some public areas can get very crowded
- Most convention signage features regular-sized print
- While AuSM has asked attendees to refrain from wearing scents, this event is not entirely scent-free
- Hotel toilet facilities use binary language (“men” and “women”)
- Many sessions are not available for streaming
- Most rooms use fluorescent lighting
- Some alternative reading formats are not available
- Hotel carpet can make wheeled travel more challenging
- Many people may be wearing masks, which can make lip reading challenging
- Some rooms have low ceilings, which can feel cramped or tight

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Bring your own fidgets or comfort items
- Dress in layers
- Attend with a Direct Service Professional
- Bring snacks or beverages