

# CASp

Certified Access Specialist Program



## Implementation Status Report

March 2006

## **Overview**

In 2003, Senate Bill 262, Chapter 872, Statutes of 2003 authorized “the State Architect to establish and publicize a program for state certification of access specialists.” In December 2003 DSA staff began development of the Certified Access Specialist (CAsp) Program.

This report updates current activities of the Division of the State Architect (DSA) for implementing the California Certified Access Specialist (CAsp) Program. It notes accomplishments and significant events that have occurred since the previous report of October 2005.

DSA project staff is currently concentrating on (1) finalizing the certification examination (test development and administration logistics); (2) preparations for rulemaking of the regulations for the CAsp Program; and (3) when rulemaking concludes, proceed with launch of program operations scheduled for the Fall of 2006.

## **Fiscal Analysis**

Fiscal analysis for the CAsp program has been completed, and projected cash flow indicates program viability, based on a conservative number of certification candidates.

## **Certification Criteria**

In March 2004, DSA hosted the first of five productive meetings of the *Implementation Advisory Committee* for the CAsp program. Collaboration with program development staff concluded in December 2004. Resulting recommendations of criteria for certification of access specialists were forwarded to the State Architect and subsequently approved (see Appendix A & B).

## **Project Management**

DSA staff is following a comprehensive schedule for program development focused on two major accomplishments: (1) certification examination (both test development and test administration); and (2) regulatory law for the CAsp Program.

## **Examination Development**

DSA retained a consultant in early 2005 to ensure that the certification examination is developed in accordance with rigorous educational testing and accreditation standards. A key milestone was achieved in June 2005 with the completion of the test specification. This document prescribes the content of the certification examination in terms of the proportions of test questions in specific subject areas.

## **Independent Training Resources**

DSA staff architects assigned to the CAsp program have extensive experience in accessibility training and have been working collaboratively with the new DSA Academy to provide: Access Plan Review, Project Inspection for Accessibility, Project Scoping, Field Investigations, Facility Surveys, Mitigation Plans, Designing for Accessibility, and Universal Design.

## **Development of Regulations**

DSA staff has drafted proposed regulations and is in the final stages of preparing for rulemaking, scheduled to begin toward the middle of 2006. To date, DSA has hosted two public workshops with two more presently being planned for the end of March (in San Diego) and the first part of April (in Sacramento). Specific notice regarding these meetings is located at [www.dsa.dgs.ca.gov/CertifiedAccess/default.htm](http://www.dsa.dgs.ca.gov/CertifiedAccess/default.htm). The purpose of these workshops is to receive public comment on the proposed governance and

administration of the CASp Program.

### **Marketing and Program Information**

DSA executive staff has initiated discussions with key government allies and other stakeholder groups, such as the California Architects Board, the California Association of Local Building Officials and the California Foundation of Independent Living Centers. Anticipation of key program announcements is increasing, and the CASp Program will begin accepting applications for the first time in mid 2006. Program-related announcements will first appear on the web page for the CASp Program on the DSA website (see below).

Project staff is preparing a comprehensive *Candidate Handbook*. This publication is written with the aspiring Access Specialist in mind, and will describe the step-by-step process for attaining state certification as an Access Specialist.

For more information, please contact:

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APPENDIX 'A'

California Certified Access Specialist Program  
**Certification Requirements**  
 February 2006

Certification Classification	Access Investigator	Access Architect
Potential Candidates	Practicing <b>Accessibility Consultants</b> and allied <b>Design Consultants</b>  <b>Plans Examiners</b> and <b>Construction Inspectors</b>  Individuals Qualified By <b>Nontraditional</b> Means	<b>Architects</b>  <b>Landscape Architects</b>
Experience Qualification	Understanding of construction practice and regulation, evidenced by at least two years full-time experience: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Employed by a code enforcement agency or consulting firm;</li> <li>(2) Employed by a Design Professional, respectively licensed or certified as such;</li> <li>(3) Employed by a licensed general contractor; or</li> <li>(4) Involved in an environment that has resulted in a body of knowledge incorporating accessibility codes and standards.</li> </ol>	As required for initial California licensing as an Architect or Landscape Architect
Education Qualification	Understanding of construction concepts and basic design principles, evidenced by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Completion of fifteen semester units of college coursework in construction technology or a related field of study; or</li> <li>(2) High school diploma or GED, and two additional years of eligible experience in addition to the specified experience qualification above.</li> </ol>	
Examination Qualification	Core Knowledge Exam	
		Access Architect Exam

APPENDIX 'B'

California Certified Access Specialist Program  
**Required Knowledge Bases**  
 February 2006

Certification Classification	Access Investigator	Access Architect
Professional Roles	<p><b>Independent consultant</b> to the general public or a code enforcement agency.</p> <p><b>Employee</b> of a code enforcement agency.</p> <p><b>Employee</b> responsible for accessibility to employer's facilities.</p>	<p>Prime <b>Design Professional</b> with direct contractual relationship with a facility owner or operator.</p> <p><b>Staff Design Professional</b>, responsible for accessibility of specific construction projects.</p>
Design Services	May provide professional design services, as limited by the Architects Practice Act.	Professionally responsible for providing accessibility.
Core Knowledge Base	Prescriptive Requirements of Accessibility Codes and Standards	Prescriptive Requirements of Accessibility Codes and Standards
	Project Scoping of Access Requirements	Project Scoping of Access Requirements
	Field Investigations and Accessibility Reports	Field Investigations and Accessibility Reports
Knowledge of Professional Practices	Plan Review of Accessible Features in Construction Documents	Design of Accessible Features in Construction Documents
		Legal Performance Obligations to Design for Accessibility
		Designing for Accessibility with Equivalent Facilitation
		Applied Principles of Universal Design