In the research phase, the working group reviewed various accessibility maturity models. These models differ in scope, structure, and intended audience. In addition to general-purpose frameworks, some are tailored to specific industries. Examples include the California Community Colleges Accessibility Capability Maturity Model (CCC ACMM) and frameworks developed by major tech companies like Microsoft. Three of the most widely referenced general models are the Digital Accessibility Maturity Model (DAMM), the NASCIO PDAA framework, and ISO 30071-1.

* The Digital Accessibility Maturity Model (DAMM) outlines 15 dimensions across organizational, technical, and experiential domains, each evaluated on a five-level maturity scale. It emphasizes institutional commitment, cross-functional processes, and user-centered testing.
* The NASCIO PDAA Maturity Model focuses entirely on procurement, including policy creation, workforce training, and supplier engagement. Although it is targeted to support Section 508 compliance, its guidance is relevant across sectors. An online self-assessment tool supports organizational use.
* ISO 30071-1 is an international standard derived from the British Standard BS 8878. It provides structured guidance for integrating accessibility into digital product development, including a maturity model to assess organizational processes. ISO 30071-1 helps align accessibility with risk management, quality assurance, and procurement standards across jurisdictions.
* The California Community Colleges Accessibility Capability Maturity Model (CCC ACMM) is a model specific to the education sector, created for California’s community colleges. It evaluates institutional accessibility practices across five stages of maturity, focusing on governance, procurement, content creation, and professional development. Its structure reflects the decentralized nature of higher education systems and provides actionable benchmarks for post-secondary institutions.
* Microsoft’s Accessibility Maturity Model offers a high-level view of accessibility across five dimensions: vision, culture, governance, processes, and capability. It is designed to help organizations build long-term accessibility strategies aligned with business goals. The model is proprietary but publicly documented, with Microsoft positioning it as a tool for partners and enterprise clients to self-evaluate and plan programmatic improvements.

Many other proprietary accessibility maturity models exist. There is limited transparency around methodology or scoring in these situations. In many cases, these models serve as marketing vehicles to attract consulting clients rather than as open, replicable tools that support independent program growth. This makes it difficult for smaller organizations and public institutions to engage meaningfully with these frameworks. Publicly available models such as the W3C Accessibility Maturity Model provide a no-cost framework that can be completed without outside consulting services.