

Resource Guide for Supporting Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Individuals

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Published by the Office of Developmental Program's Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Advisory Committee

Introduction

The purpose of this guide is to offer resources in one central location for those who support or care for someone who is Deaf, hard of hearing, or DeafBlind and receives supports from the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP). Development of this guide included input from individuals within the Deaf, DeafBlind, hard of hearing, and hearing communities.

This guide provides some of the most frequently accessed resources to assist in addressing the unique needs of these populations.

This is not an endorsement of particular providers nor meant to be an exhaustive list; this information is publicly available online. Resources may change or no longer be available before the next annual publication. We are not responsible for the views and opinions expressed on the sites included in this resource.

The Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Advisory Committee

The Mission

The mission of the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Advisory Committee (the Committee) is to make recommendations to improve services and supports for Deaf, DeafBlind, and hard of hearing individuals with a developmental disability in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Everyday Lives

Everyday Lives is a guide to the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) as it develops policy and designs programs. Providers of services will use the recommendations of Everyday Lives to support individuals and their families to achieve an everyday life.

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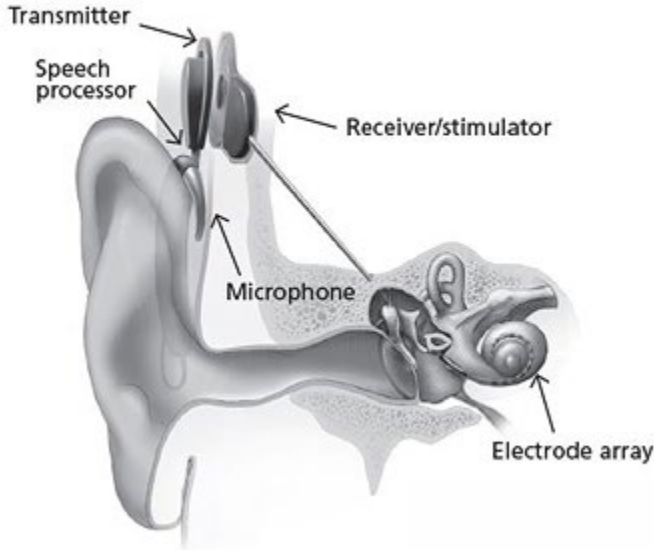
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If you are aware of additional resources for future publications or come across a current resource that is no longer active or up to date, please contact RA-ODPDeafServices@pa.gov.
Thank you!

Glossary of Terms

The following terms relate to Deaf, DeafBlind, and hard of hearing programs and topics. They are not all inclusive but may provide insight. If you need clarification on a term or know of another one that needs to be added, please email RA-ODPDeafServices@pa.gov.

American Sign Language (ASL):	American Sign Language (ASL) is the recognized sign language of the Deaf community in the United States. ASL conforms to linguistic principles (semantics, syntax, morphology, phonology, and pragmatics) and has complex visual-spatial linguistic structure. ASL is not the same as English. (National Association of the Deaf)
American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreter:	A person trained in facilitating communication between a spoken language and American Sign Language (ASL). (National Association of the Deaf)
Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC):	Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) is any type of communication that is not spoken language. There is unaided and aided. Unaided communication is any type of communication that can be produced by an individual without the assistance of a tool. Aided communication refers to any communication that requires a tool to produce it, such as a picture board, cell phone, or tablet. (American Speech-Language-Hearing Association)
Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI):	A Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI) is a Deaf or hard of hearing person whose native language is Sign Language. CDIs have firsthand knowledge and experience with deafness, the Deaf Community, and Deaf Culture. CDIs may use props, drama, and visual gestural communication. A CDI serves as an equal member of the interpreting team along with a certified hearing interpreter or a certified interpreter. The CDI interprets the message from the deaf consumer (without using English syntax) to the hearing interpreter and the hearing interpreter then relays the message to the hearing consumer by putting the content into English.

	CDIs are particularly useful when the deaf individual's language is unique, when they have minimal or limited language skills, or when they use signs that a hearing interpreter may not be familiar with such as "home" signs, international sign language, visual gestural communication, regional signs, etc. (Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.)
Cochlear Implant:	A cochlear implant is a small, complex electronic device that can provide a sense of sound to a person who has severe to profound hearing loss. The implant consists of an external portion that sits behind the ear and a second portion that is surgically placed under the skin. An implant does not restore normal hearing. Instead, it can give a deaf person a useful representation of sounds in the environment and help them to understand speech. Ear with cochlear implant  (Hearing Loss Association of America)
Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART):	Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) is live transcription in which a human captioner transcribes the audio. The text produced by the CART service can then be displayed on a computer, projected, or appear as captions for a video presentation (for example, a meeting in Zoom). (Hearing Loss Association of America)

Deaf:	Referring to a particular group of deaf people who share a language – American Sign Language (ASL) – and a culture. (National Association of the Deaf)
deaf:	Referring to the medical condition of not hearing. (National Association of the Deaf)
DeafBlind:	A condition in which an individual has combined hearing and vision loss, thus limiting access to both auditory and visual information. Although it is a combination of two sensory losses (vision and hearing), the result is unique from either condition alone. (Helen Keller National Center on Deafblindness) Note: You may see DeafBlind, Deafblind, deafblind, deafblind, Deafblind, etc. in various writings. Currently, the Helen Keller National Center encourages the use of DeafBlind.
Dysfluency:	The state of not being fluent in one's own native language, or best, language manifesting in abnormal language patterns (vocabulary deficits, absence of key grammar features, mixing of languages, difficulty with time sequencing, and/or difficulty answering wh- questions). It could refer to the expressive mechanics of producing the language or the receptive understanding of the language. (Journal of the American Deafness and Rehabilitation Association)
Frequency Modulation (FM) System:	An FM system is like a radio station with its own frequency. An FM system has two parts; a microphone and a receiver. The speaker wears the microphone. The person listening wears the receiver on their ears (like headphones) or in their hearing aids. This lets the speaker's voice go directly to them, making it easier to hear. People can use an FM system almost anywhere, like in classrooms, restaurants, meetings, and nursing homes. (American Speech-Language-Hearing Association)
Hard of Hearing:	A person with a mild-to-moderate hearing loss. (National Association of the Deaf)

Hearing Aids:	A hearing aid is an electronic device that is worn in or behind the ear. It makes some sounds louder so that a person with hearing loss can listen. A hearing aid has three basic parts: a microphone, amplifier, and speaker. The hearing aid receives sound through a microphone, which converts the sound waves to electrical signals and sends them to an amplifier. The amplifier increases the power of the signals and then sends them to the ear through a speaker. There are several different types of hearing aids. (Hearing Loss Association of America)
Hearing Impaired:	This term is no longer accepted by most in the Deaf community but was at one time preferred, largely because it was viewed as politically correct. For many people, the term “hearing impaired” is viewed as negative. The term focuses on what people can’t do. It establishes the standard as “hearing” and anything different is “impaired,” or substandard or damaged. It implies that something is not as it should be and ought to be fixed. (National Association of the Deaf)
Hearing Loop:	Hearing Loops or induction loop systems work with hearing aids. The loop wire goes under the carpet or in the ceiling. The wire connects to a microphone. An electrical current moves through the wire when someone talks into the microphone. This creates an electromagnetic field in the room. The person wearing a hearing aid switches it to the "T" or telephone setting, picking up the signal so they can hear the speaker. (American Speech-Language-Hearing Association)
Intervener:	An intervener provides consistent one-to-one support to a student who is DeafBlind and has training and specialized skills in deafblindness. The intervener helps the person gather information, learn concepts and skills, and develop communication and language that lead to greater independence. (Helen Keller, Open Hands Open Access)

Personal Sound Amplifier:	Personal sound amplification products are not medical devices. They are intended to make environmental sounds louder for people with normal hearing. These are bought over-the-counter and can vary widely from handheld devices to others worn near or on the ears. (FDA.gov)
Remote Microphone System:	A remote microphone is a small wireless microphone that is connected to hearing aid(s). Anything the microphone picks up is sent to the hearing aid(s). (HearingTracker.com)
Signed Exact English (SEE):	Signing Exact English (SEE) is a sign system modeled after the English language. SEE includes many signs that are taken from ASL (ASL is its own language); however, the sentence structure, the idioms, the verb endings, etc. are taken from English. In essence, SEE is a visual form of English. (SignedExactEnglish.com)
Support Service Provider (SSP):	A Support Service Provider (SSP) is trained to support adult individuals who are DeafBlind in leading a more self-determined life. This is done by facilitating communication and acting as a human guide in such instances as running errands, accessing social events, etc. The support of an SSP empowers the person who is DeafBlind to make decisions for themselves based on the visual environment and social information provided by the SSP. (Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing)
Pidgin Signed English (PSE):	Pidgin Signed English (PSE) is a mode of communication arising from contact between American Sign Language (ASL) and spoken or signed English. Vocabulary is borrowed from ASL, while grammar typically follows English word order. (Gallaudet University Press) Note: Although the formal linguistic definition of “pidgin” languages has a different meaning, the commonly understood definition of PSE is as a “contact” language, as described here.

ProTactile (PTASL):	ProTactile was created by DeafBlind people to allow for direct communication between DeafBlind people. It prioritizes touch over visual and auditory senses. It is a tactile representation of visual information (heads nodding, yawning, laughing, agreeing, etc.). (Western Oregon University)
Tactile Sign Language:	Tactile sign language is a form of communication that combines sign language with touch to allow access for people who cannot see. It's a hand-over-hand signing method that allows the DeafBlind person to place their hand on top of the signers to feel the shape, location, and movement of the message being conveyed. (National Center on Deafblindness)
Telecoil or t-coil:	A telecoil, also called a t-coil, is a wire that is installed inside many hearing aids and cochlear implants to act as a wireless receiver. The telecoil receives an electromagnetic signal from the hearing loop and turns it back into sound within the hearing aid or cochlear implant. This eliminates distracting background noises and delivers sound customized for one's own need. For people who do not have a telecoil-equipped hearing aid or cochlear implant, loop receivers with headsets can provide similar benefits, but without the customized feature that matches one's hearing loss pattern. (Hearing Loss Association of America)
Touch Cues:	Physical cues that are used in a consistent manner on an individual's body to communicate information about an activity, action, or interaction (such as touching the shoulder as a greeting). They are used to support understanding, anticipation, and receptive communication.
Visual Gestural Communication (VGC):	A method of communication that does not use vocabulary and grammar rules of a language. Instead, it involves gestures, facial expressions, and body language use and analysis.
Visual Impairment:	A decrease in the ability to see to a certain degree that causes problems not fixable by usual means, such as glasses.

	There are four terms used to describe different levels of vision impairment and blindness — partially sighted, low vision, legally blind, and totally blind. (Industries for the Blind and Visually Impaired) Note: Although “hearing impaired” is no longer a term accepted by the Deaf community, using the term “visual impairment” is still accepted and appropriate.
Video Phone (VP):	A video phone is connected to the regular telephone system that allows Deaf and hard of hearing people to communicate in real-time using a visual language, like ASL. A video phone can connect directly to another video phone, or it can connect to a typical telephone using an interpreter through the Video Relay System. (Rochester Institute of Technology)

Professionals to Consider Adding to Your Team

This section includes professionals that may be a good addition to the individual’s multidisciplinary support team.

Audiologist

Although not an ODP service, it is important to fully understand an individual’s level of hearing. An audiologist is a medical professional, who can provide person-centered expertise on hearing differences and needs.

Behavior Specialist (BS)

Behavior is communication. In the ODP waivers, the Behavior Specialist offers:

- A comprehensive assessment
- A behavior support plan and crisis intervention plan
- Implementation of strategies, which may include providing direct behavioral support, educating the participant and supporters regarding the underlying causes/functions of behavior, and modeling and/or coaching of supporters to carry out interventions

For more information on the Behavioral Support service, see the waivers at [Waiver Information](https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/medicaid/waivers.html) (https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/medicaid/waivers.html).

Communication Specialist

In the ODP waivers, the Communication Specialist offers direct and indirect supports to individuals with nontraditional communication needs. Nontraditional communication may consist of sign language, lip reading, visual gestural communication, touch cues, objects of reference, braille, print and symbol systems, speech generating devices, etc. This Specialist offers:

- A comprehensive review of the communication needs and skills (both expressive and receptive)
- Development and implementation of a communication plan
- Establishing, modifying, and maintaining environments that best support communication
- Training, modeling, and coaching the team to carry out the communication plan

For more information on the Communication Specialist service, see the waivers at [Waiver Information](https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/medicaid/waivers.html) (https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/medicaid/waivers.html).

Occupational Therapist

Hearing loss and vision impairments can cause sensory processing challenges. This can lead to concerns with balance and gravity in the person's body, attention control, and motor skills development. Working with an Occupational Therapist may be beneficial for identifying and addressing occupational performance issues.

For more information on the Therapy service, see the waivers at [Waiver Information](https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/medicaid/waivers.html) (https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/medicaid/waivers.html).

Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Support Service Provider (SSP)

Although not an ODP service, this is a professional that may be a good addition to a DeafBlind individual's multidisciplinary support team. An SSP is trained to support individuals who are DeafBlind in leading a more self-determined life. This is done by facilitating communication and acting as a human guide in such instances as running errands, accessing social events, etc. An SSP is not an interpreter.

More information about SSPs can be found at [Deafblind People and Support Service Providers in the 21st Century](https://www.nationaldb.org/info-center/Support-Service-Provider-White-Paper/) (<https://www.nationaldb.org/info-center/Support-Service-Provider-White-Paper/>) and below under the Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Ophthalmologist

Although not an ODP service, this is a professional that may be a good addition to an individual's multidisciplinary support team. It is important to fully understand each individual's access to vision. An ophthalmologist is a licensed medical physician who specializes in eye and vision care.

Ophthalmologists provide advanced eye care, including the diagnosis and treatment of all eye conditions, prescribing medications, performing eye surgery, and providing vision correction through eyeglasses, contact lenses, or low vision aids.

Optometrist

Although not an ODP service, an optometrist is a medical professional who can provide person-centered expertise on vision differences and needs. They are responsible for routine eye and vision care. They can examine the eyes to evaluate health and visual abilities, diagnose eye diseases and conditions, and provide necessary treatment such as eyeglasses, contact lenses, vision therapy, and low vision aids.

Orientation and Mobility Specialist (O&M)

Orientation and Mobility Specialists (O&Ms) help people who are blind or visually impaired to develop the skills necessary for independent and safe travel within their homes, workplaces, and communities.

Otolaryngologist

Although not an ODP service, this is a professional that may be a good addition to an individual's multidisciplinary support team. An otolaryngologist is a medical professional who can provide expertise on medical conditions of the ear, nose, and throat, as well as cochlear implantation.

For more information on the Therapy service, see the waivers at [Waiver Information](https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/medicaid/waivers.html) (<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/medicaid/waivers.html>).

Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP)

Speech Therapy is available through most insurances. In the ODP waivers, an SLP offers:

- Counseling regarding acceptance, adaptation, and decision making

- Assessing communication, speech, language, and swallowing disorders
- Developing and implementing treatment to address the concerns of a communication or related functional issue. Treatment establishes a new skill or ability or remediates or restores an impaired skill or ability.
- Teaching American Sign Language or another form of communication to an adult waiver participant (a participant who is 21 years of age or older) who is deaf and has been assessed as benefitting from learning American Sign Language or another form of communication.

Note: The American Speech Language and Hearing Association (ASHA) has guidelines that call for SLPs to honor the cultural and linguistic diversity of their client population. Linguistic diversity includes the use of manual languages, such as American Sign Language.

For more information on the Therapy service, see the waivers at [Waiver Information](https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/medicaid/waivers.html) (https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/medicaid/waivers.html).

To find a Speech-Language Pathologist, outside the waiver service, see [ASHA](https://find.asha.org/pro/#sort=relevancy&f:@provider=[Speech-Language%20Pathologist]) (https://find.asha.org/pro/#sort=relevancy&f:@provider=[Speech-Language%20Pathologist]).

Sign Language Dictionaries

Sign language dictionaries are helpful to look up vocabulary but do not capture grammar and should not be used solely to learn American Sign Language (ASL).

ASLCore:	ASLCore Website (https://aslcore.org)	A website with signs for advanced, discipline-related terminology for various content areas (architecture, art, biology, engineering, literature, etc.).
Bill Vicars, Lifeprint:	American Sign Language University Dictionary (http://www.lifeprint.com)	An online ASL curriculum resource center.

Described and Captioned Media Program (DCMP):	Described and Captioned Media Program Website (https://dcmp.org/)	A resource to improve skills in sign language, to learn more about Deaf Culture, and about people who are deaf or hard of hearing. It also provides some educational videos, general interest topics, classic movies, and videos in sign language and captioned.
Hand Speak:	Hand Speak Website (https://www.handspeak.com/)	ASL tutorials, Deaf Culture, dictionary, fingerspelling, and resources.
Rainone Sisters:	Rainone Sisters ASL Courses (https://www.rainonesisters.com/) 	Deaf Sisters on a mission to make the world Deaf aware & accessible to all.
Rochester Institute of Technology, National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID):	Rochester Institute of Technology ASL Video Dictionary and Inflection Guide (www.ntid.rit.edu/dictionary)	Online video dictionary, vocabulary organized by category, used in sentences, and shown at slow or normal speeds.
Sign ASL:	Sign ASL American Sign Language Dictionary (https://www.signasl.org/)	Search thousands of words and phrases in ASL.
Signed with Heart:		Teaches ASL through social media.

Signing Savvy:	Signing Savvy Website (https://www.signingsavvy.com/) 	ASL signs, fingerspelled words, and other common signs. Resources and tools to use while learning, such as custom wordlists, virtual flash cards and quizzes, print signs, build sign phrases, etc.
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Virtual ASL Courses

These courses provide vocabulary, grammar, and culture to support the acquisition of ASL.

American Society for Deaf Children:	American Society for Deaf Children Online ASL Classes (https://deafchildren.org/knowledge-center/asl-resources/online-asl-classes) 	Beginner, intermediate, and advanced ASL courses.
ASL Deafined:	ASL Deafined Website (https://www.asldeafined.com/?da=asldefined.com) 	Subscription-based ASL video lessons. All lessons are taught by Deaf experts of ASL.
Deaf Focus:	Deaf Focus Website (http://www.deaffocus.com/)	Offers sign language courses led by experienced Deaf instructors, providing an authentic, culturally rich environment that goes beyond language and into real-world connection. Courses are offered several times throughout the year. Most classes are virtual via Zoom.

Deaf-Hearing Communication Centre (DHCC):	Deaf-Hearing Communication Centre ASL Courses (https://www.dhcc.org/education-programs/asl-classes) 	Non-credit beginner ASL instruction. Teachers are native ASL users. Class size is limited, and enrollment is on a first-come, first-serve basis.
Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind (FSDB) Outreach ASL Interactive Online Classes:	Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind Website (https://www.fsdbk12.org/outreach) 	Eight-week ASL interactive, online class. This is offered several times throughout the school year at no cost. Limited space. First-come first-serve.
Gallaudet University:	Gallaudet University ASL Connect (https://www.gallaudet.edu/asl-connect/asl-for-free)	Free online ASL lessons, basic ASL vocabulary, and information on an ASL summer residency program.
Life Print.com: ASL University (ASLU):	ASL University ASL Lessons (https://lifeprint.com/asl101/lessons/lessons.htm)	An online ASL curriculum resource center. Many free self-study materials, lessons, and information, as well as fee-based instructor-guided courses.
Oklahoma School for the Deaf:	Oklahoma School for the Deaf ASL Classes (https://courses.osd.k12.ok.us/)	Free, eight-week pre-recorded ASL1 and ASL2 classes.
POWER Library:	POWER Library Website (https://powerlibrary.org/eresource/transparent-language-online/?ID=PL7321)	POWER Library is Pennsylvania's free online library. PA residents can sign up for a free e-card. The library includes a Transparent Language Online subscription that offers interactive language learning in over 120 languages, including ASL.

Sign It! ASL Made Easy:	Sign It! ASL Made Easy ASL Courses (https://signitasl.com/)	An online, self-paced ASL course. The curriculum has a total of 10 units (50 lessons) that teach conversational ASL (vocabulary, sentences, grammar, and syntax) and Deaf Culture.
Sign Language 101:	Sign Language 101 Website (https://www.SignLanguage101.com/)	Learn ASL with a guided course and free videos.
Signing Online ASL Instruction:	Signing Online ASL Instruction Website (https://signingonline.com/)	Offers web-based curriculum developed by Dr. David Stewart. These courses focus on conversational ASL and demonstrate the visual nature of signing.
Start ASL:	Start ASL Website (https://www.startasl.com/learn-sign-language-asl_html) 	A 3-Level ASL course curriculum. Also provides free basic ASL lessons.
Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf:	Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf Website (https://www.wpsd.org/)	ASL classes and promotion of an understanding of Deaf Culture. New sessions begin in the fall, winter, and spring.

College Level ASL Courses

Below is a list of Pennsylvania colleges that offer American Sign Language courses to consider.

Allegheny College:	Allegheny College World Languages and Cultures/ASL Programs (https://sites.allegheny.edu/world-languages-cultures/asl/) 	ASL 1 and 2.
Bloomsburg University:	Bloomsburg University ASL and English Interpreting Programs (https://www.bloomu.edu/academics/programs/american-sign-language-and-english-interpreting-bs)	ASL 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, linguistics of ASL, Visual Gestural Communication, Deaf Culture.
Community College of Philadelphia:	Community College of Philadelphia ASL and English Interpreting (https://live-ccp-2024.pantheonsite.io/degree-programs/american-sign-languageenglish-interpreting) 	Intermediate ASL 1 and 2, structure of ASL, advanced ASL 1 and 2, introduction to American Deaf community, ASL fingerspelling.
Mount Aloysius:	Mount Aloysius College ASL and English Interpreting Program (https://www.mtaloy.edu/academics/majors-programs/american-sign-language-english-interpreting/)	ASL 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, Linguistics of ASL, Diversity in the Deaf Community, Deaf Culture.
Penn State University:	Penn State University ASL Program (https://hhd.psu.edu/csd/undergraduate/american-sign-language) 	ASL1, 2, 3, and 4, Deaf Culture.

Saint Joseph's University:	<u>Saint Joseph's University ASL Courses</u> (https://academiccatalog.sju.edu/courses/asl/)	ASL 1 and 2, Special Topics in ASL, Intermediate ASL 1 and 2.
Swarthmore College:	<u>Swarthmore College ASL Courses</u> (https://catalog.swarthmore.edu/preview_course_nopop.php?catoid=7&coid=8375) 	American Sign Language 1 and 2, ASL Literature.
Temple University:	<u>Temple University ASL Certificate</u> (https://www.temple.edu/academics/degree-programs/american-sign-language-certificate-undergraduate-hp-asl-cert) 	American Sign Language 1, 2, 3, and 4, American Deaf Culture.
University of Pennsylvania:	<u>University of Pennsylvania ASL Program</u> (https://plc.sas.upenn.edu/languages/american-sign-language-asl) 	Intro to ASL, intermediate ASL, Advanced ASL, Deaf Culture, ASL for medical professionals, academically based community service in ASL, and Deaf literature. They also hold a student-run group, Penn-In-Hand, that hosts ASL activities.

Apps

A variety of apps related to ASL and captioning.

ASL Bloom:	ASL Bloom App (https://www.aslbloom.com/)	Learn ASL at your own pace. It is available for both iPhones and androids. Quizzes are fun and engaging and allow you to earn points as you learn.
Ava: Live Captions for all Conversations:	Ava App (https://apps.apple.com/us/app/ava-transcribe-voice-to-text/id1030067058)	Has 24/7 real-time captioning (with up to 95% accuracy, based on artificial intelligence), on your smartphone for individuals who are Deaf or hard of hearing.
CaptionMate:	CaptionMate App (https://www.captionmate.com)	App that uses automated speech recognition technology to instantly transcribe both sides of a phone call in real time. Funded by an FCC-administered program, free for people with hearing loss. Available in 100+ languages.
InnoCaption:	InnoCaption App (https://innocaption.com) 	App that uses automated speech recognition technology or human captioning to transcribe both sides of a phone call in real time. Funded by an FCC-administered program, free for people with hearing loss.

Lingvano:	<u>Lingvano App</u> (https://www.lingvano.com/asl/)	Interactive lessons to help you develop the skills you need for real-life communication. Offers interactive practice, an ASL dictionary, sign mirror, and vocabulary trainer. All lessons are crafted and taught by native signers, ensuring authentic instruction from experienced educators.
Marlee Signs:	<u>Marlee Signs App</u> (https://apps.apple.com/us/app/marlee-signs/id566054855)	Marlee Matlin is a Deaf actress. This is her app where you can learn ASL at your own pace. Free with in-app purchases.
Otter.ai:	<u>Otter.ai App</u> (https://otter.ai) 	AI transcription app.
Play with ASL:	<u>Play with ASL App</u> (https://www.playwithasl.com/)	Learn ASL through Play. Interactive games that make American Sign Language fun, engaging, and accessible — for classrooms, families, and everyone in between.
Rylo:	<u>Rylo Website</u> (https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.talknagish.app&hl=en-US)	Real-time, AI-powered call captions on every phone call for anyone who is Deaf or has hearing loss.
Sign Language Blitz:	<u>Sign Language Blitz Website</u> (https://sign-language-blitz.com)	Learn ASL by utilizing phrases and cultural knowledge.
SignUp:	<u>SignUp Website</u> (https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/signup-sign-language-for/gblbjbhbfagdcolenjhdoadbjbjoom)	A Google Chrome Extension that overlays American Sign Language (ASL), British Sign Language (BSL), and Indian Sign Language (ISL) interpretation on streaming platforms including Disney+ and Netflix.

Small Talk ASL:	Small Talk ASL Website (https://apps.microsoft.com/detail/9nr559s563vk?hl=en-US&gl=US)	With world-class animation and truly interactive gameplay, this app helps people learn the ASL language.
The ASL App:	The ASL App (https://theaslapp.com/)	Has 2,500+ signs and phrases, easy navigation and features, with different signers. The ASL App is designed to make learning easy, accessible, and fun.
Tive:	Tive App (https://tivetechology.com/about/)	Trusted, Inclusive, Versatile, Elevate. TiveHub, TiveMix, TiveChat, and TiveConnect.
Wavello:	Wavello App (https://sorenson.com/vrs/wavello/)	This app allows the users to have interpreted video chats where the hearing person, Deaf person, and interpreter can see each other on screen through the Video Phone system.

Books

ASL is a visual, moving language, therefore 2D images found in books may be insufficient and would be best paired with video to support the learning of ASL.

Deaf Culture: Exploring Deaf Communities in the United States:	Deaf Culture: Exploring Deaf Communities in the United States Book (https://www.amazon.com/Deaf-Culture-Exploring-Communities-United/dp/1635501733)	Written by Deaf and hearing authors with extensive teaching experience and immersion in Deaf Cultures and signed languages. An introductory textbook that is more inclusive, accessible, and straightforward for those beginning their studies of the Deaf-World.
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Learn American Sign Language:	Learn American Sign Language Book (https://smile.amazon.com/Learn-American-Language-James-Guido/dp/1577151070/ref=smi_www_rco2_go_smi_4368549507?_encoding=UTF8&dchild=1&ie=UTF8&keywords=learn%20american%20sign%20language&qid=1615564569&s=books&sr=1-1)	Learn more than 800 signs. Unlock the storytelling possibilities of ASL with classifiers and find out how to make sentences with signs, use the proper facial expressions with your signs, and other vital tips.
Signs For Me: Basic Sign Vocabulary for Children:	Signs for Me: Basic Sign Vocabulary for Children Book (https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/943258.Signs_for_Me)	Behan & Dannis (1990). Teaches ASL to children with more than 300 essential signs, their English equivalents, and a picture “translation.” Provides a multidimensional sign language vocabulary for preschool and elementary school children.

Accessible Spaces

Below is a list of accessibility adaptations to consider.

Adapted Alarm Clock/Bed Shaker:	Wake-up alarms either vibrate or flash a light and can attach to an existing clock or be part of a clock. They can go under a pillow or mattress or be set up near the bed. For hard of hearing people, the alarms are very loud. There are also clocks with braille features that can be used by DeafBlind people.
High Contrasting Colors:	- Contrasting colors can help someone with low vision better tell objects apart by sight. There are many ways in which contrast is helpful: - Use high-contrast colors on stair edges, so each step is more distinguishable.

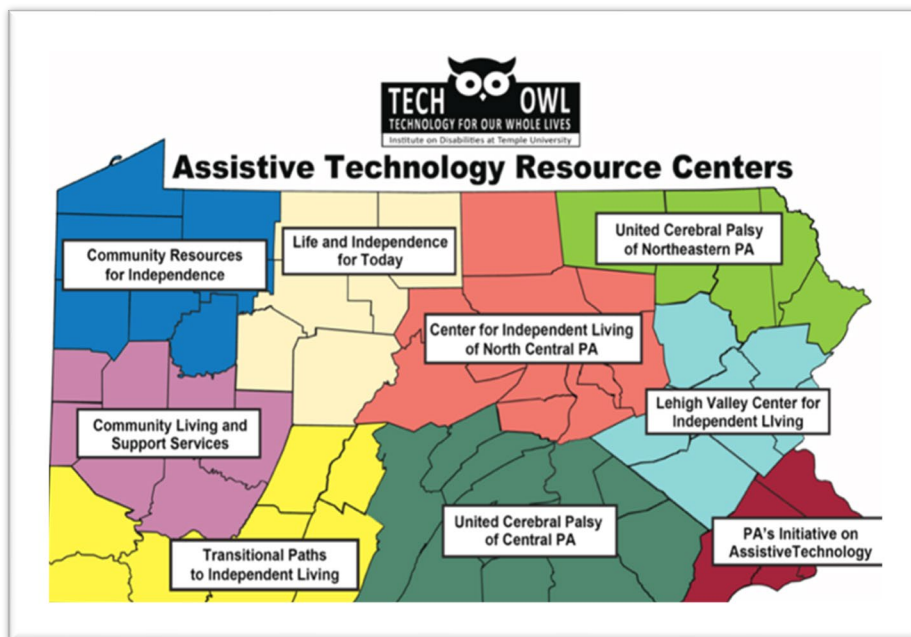
	• Pair light-colored plates with dark-colored placemats, so plates are easily seen. • Use light switches in a color that contrasts with the wall. • Mark sliding glass doors clearly. It can otherwise be difficult to tell whether they're open or closed; a contrasting decal or strip at eye level solves this. • Use dark door handles on light doors or vice versa. • Choose matte finishes over glossy ones for paint, tile, and flooring. Gloss causes glare, which works against contrast rather than adding to it.
Doorbell Flashers, Alerting Door Device:	Door signalers let Deaf or hard of hearing individuals know when someone is at the door, usually by flashing a light. Some hang on the back of a door and sense vibrations, others connect to regular lamps, and some work by remote signaling, picking up a signal from a push-button on the door. There are also wireless pagers that can pick up transmissions from pressed door transmitters. You can modify the bedroom and bathroom lights so there is a switch outside the room, as well as in the room, that can be switched on and off to alert the Deaf individual that someone is at the door (or needs to use the bathroom).
Lighting:	People who are blind or have low vision may need lighting a little differently throughout the home. Some helpful tips include: • Use bright but not harsh lighting, such as LED bulbs. • Install task lighting, such as under-cabinet lighting in the kitchen, aimed at the task rather than the eyes. • Use adjustable lighting. Dimmer switches or smart bulbs let each person adjust brightness to their own needs.
Mirrors:	Mirrors can be placed in strategic locations to extend visual fields, such as seeing someone coming around a corner.
Tactile Bumps or Indicators:	Tactile bumps or indicators create tactile reference points and are useful regardless of how much usable vision someone has. They can be used on stair edges to mark each step by feel, on appliance controls to mark a specific button, on remote controls, etc.

Television Related Equipment:	This may include activating the Closed Captioning features or using amplification devices. An FM signal or loop can also be used to send the television sound directly to the individual's hearing aids.
Telephone Related Equipment:	There are many options: • Amplified telephones • A T-Coil will allow individuals to hear directly over the phone or via a loop or FM through their hearing aid. • Phone signalers. These work by flashing a light or making a very loud sound. They work by being plugged directly into the telephone line and having a lamp connected to the signaler. They can be put on a desktop next to a telephone or mounted on a wall. Remote receivers can transmit a phone signal to other rooms, and there are also standalone models. For those who have video phones, video phone signalers are also available. • Captioned Call telephones (CapTel) allow you to speak into the telephone, hear what the other caller is saying, and read the other person's response via captioned relay service. • Video Phones or WebCam based phones (see Accessible Phones below). • Webcam based phones, such as Skype, Zoom, Facetime. Please note that some popular web-based communication systems such as Skype, ooVoo, and Facetime do not provide a direct contact to 9-1-1 systems. Note: Some form of text-based telephonic equipment should be available for those with some text literacy for times when videophones and internet are out (such as power outages or network outages).
Three-Way Light Switches:	Allow a single light to be controlled by more than one switch. Example: One switch in the bedroom and one switch in the hall outside the bedroom.

These adaptations can typically be found in the following locations:

- Fire departments
- Local civic organizations (Lion's Club, Rotary, Knights)
- Businesses that offer home modification services
- County/city housing office
- Local Area Agency on Aging
- Assistive Technology Resource Centers (listed below)
- Vendors of Deaf and hard of hearing products
- Vendors of Blind or Low Vision products
- Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services

Assistive Technology (AT) Resource Centers



Contact Information:

Website: [TechOWL](https://techowlpa.org/atrc/)
(<https://techowlpa.org/atrc/>)

Telecommunication Device Distribution Program (PA TDDP)

The program has free equipment to help people with disabilities make phone calls. Equipment includes: TTY's, TTY with Braille display, Amplified Phone, CapTel Phone, Hands-Free Speaker Phone, Voice Carry Over and Hearing Carry Over phones, Cordless Phone, Cordless Headset Phone, Talking Telephone, Voice Activated Dialer, Photo Phone, Big Button Phone and the Link Talking Keyboard Communication Device. Along with a phone product, you can select from various ring signaler devices to alert you to when the phone is ringing.

To qualify for the program, a person must be a Pennsylvania resident, have a disability, be six years of age or older, have access to a telephone service, and have an individual gross income of 200% of Federal Poverty level or less.

Contact Information:

Website: [Telecommunication Device Distribution Program \(TDDP\)](http://www.trcil.org/TDDP.htm)
(<http://www.trcil.org/TDDP.htm>)

TechOWL Lending Library

The AT Library is a statewide library for Pennsylvanians with disabilities. People can borrow tools and technology to find solutions that work for them. Items are directly shipped to the person and then picked up at the end of the loan period.

Contact Information:

Website: [TechOWL Lending Library](https://myatprogram.org/home/42)
(<https://myatprogram.org/home/42>)

Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation (PATF)

Provides financing opportunities for people with disabilities and older Pennsylvanians, helping them to acquire the assistive technology devices and services that improve the quality of their lives.

Contact Information:

Website: [Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation](http://www.patf.us/)
(<http://www.patf.us/>)

Social Media:  

iCanConnect

iCanConnect is a free program to help people who have combined hearing and vision loss access to telephone, advanced communications, and information services.

There are income requirements. iCanConnect gets people equipment to help them make a phone call, send an email, access the internet, or use other communication tools to talk with family, friends, and other people.

Contact Information:

Website: [iCanConnect](https://techowlpa.org/deafblind-services/)
(<https://techowlpa.org/deafblind-services/>)

Accessible Phones

Video phones allow the user to communicate using ASL. Captioned telephones allow spoken language and captioned relay service. Video phones and amplified and captioned telephones are available to any individual who is Deaf or hard of hearing, at no charge. The individual must provide documentation to confirm their hearing loss and have a location that provides electricity and internet access. The captioned telephone also requires that the location has a standard telephone line. The individual is responsible for the cost of electricity, and telephone and internet service. Video phone and captioned telephone providers typically provide free installation, training, and technical support. Use of the video relay telephone and captioned telephone relay services are free to both callers on a conversation.

The Federal Communication Commission oversees the use of these devices.

For more information, see [Consumer Guide - Video Relay Services](http://www.fcc.gov/guides/video-relay-services)
(<http://www.fcc.gov/guides/video-relay-services>).

CapTel Captioned Telephone Services:	CapTel Captioned Telephone Services Website (http://www.captel.com/)
CaptionCall Telephone Services:	CaptionCall Telephone Services Website (https://sorenson.com/captioned-calls/captioning/)
Convo Video Relay Services:	Convo Video Relay Services Website (https://convorelay.com/)

Pixel 11 Phone, Sign-to-Text Translation Feature:	<u>Pixel 11 SL2T Website</u> (https://blog.google/products-and-platforms/devices/pixel/american-sign-language-sign-to-text-pixel-11/)
Purple ZP Better Together Video Relay Services:	<u>Purple ZP Better Together Accessibility for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Website</u> (http://www.purple.us/)
Sorenson Video Relay Services: - Sorenson for Zoom app. Download it from the Zoom Marketplace, if you have a Sorenson account and a paid Zoom account. - Then the meeting host can invite an interpreter to join the meeting directly from the Zoom window: <u>Link for more information</u> (https://sorenson.com/my-news/sorenson-for-zoom/)	<u>Sorenson Video Relay Services Website</u> (www.sorensonvrs.com)

Hearing Assistive Technology

Hearing technology can include hearing aids, over-the-counter hearing aids, cochlear implants & other implantable devices, hearing loop technology, etc.

Simulations:

- What it sounds like to listen to speech through a hearing aid and frequency-modulated (FM) system, close up and far away, and in quiet and in noise.
[Hearing Aid FM Simulation](https://youtu.be/JNzxOJKCUug) (<https://youtu.be/JNzxOJKCUug>)
- What it's like to hear through a cochlear implant. **[What do Cochlear Implants and Hearing Aids Sound Like?](https://www.sciencefriday.com/educational-resources/cochlear-implants-hearing-aids-sound-like/)** (<https://www.sciencefriday.com/educational-resources/cochlear-implants-hearing-aids-sound-like/>)

Below is a list of resources related to hearing technology.

Hearing Aid Know

The mission is to offer easy to understand advice on buying hearing aids and accessing quality hearing care. This website offers information on hearing aids, hearing loss, hearing health, and a free Audiogram Creator to plot hearing test results.

Contact Information:

Website: [Hearing Aid Know](https://www.hearingaidknow.com/)
(<https://www.hearingaidknow.com/>)

Social Media: 

Help America Hear

Provides new high-quality hearing aids nationwide to men, women, and children with limited financial resources (should be used as a last resort).

Contact Information:

Website: [Help America Hear](https://helpamericahear.org/)
(<https://helpamericahear.org/>)

Social Media:  

Over the Counter (OTC) Hearing Aids

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) created a category of over the counter (OTC) hearing aids. OTC hearing aids may be a less expensive and more accessible choice than prescription devices for some people. Who they are for and how to identify them: [Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f3jCxzJaa-A) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f3jCxzJaa-A>).

These aids are:

- Available without a prescription
- Designed for adults (age 18 or over) with mild to moderate hearing loss only
- Not for people who have trouble hearing conversations in quiet environments or have trouble hearing loud sounds like power tools
- Must adhere to Food and Drug Administration (FDA) standards
- May be purchased in-person, by mail, or online without the involvement of a licensed hearing healthcare professional

- The FDA database of listed devices and registered companies can be found at [FDA Establishment Registration and Device Listing](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfRL/rl.cfm) (<https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfRL/rl.cfm>).
- More information from the FDA on OTC hearing aids can be found at [OTC Hearing Aids: What you Should Know](https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/hearing-aids/otc-hearing-aids-what-you-should-know) (<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/hearing-aids/otc-hearing-aids-what-you-should-know>).

To show the differences between OTC hearing aids, prescription hearing aids, and personal amplification products, see below.

	Over the Counter (OTC) Hearing Aids	Prescription Hearing Aids	Personal Sound Amplification Products
Type of Product	Medical device Electronic product	Medical device Electronic product	Electronic product
Intended Users	• People 18 years and older • For those with perceived mild to moderate hearing loss	• People of any age • For people with any degree of hearing loss, including severe	• People of any age with normal hearing to amplify sounds in certain environments
Conditions for Sale	• Purchaser must be 18 years or older • No medical exam • No prescription • No fitting by an audiologist • No need for licensed seller	• Prescription needed • Must purchase from licensed sellers in some states	• No applicable FDA requirements regarding conditions for sale

Source: US. Food & Drug Administration, 2023, Hearing Aids and Personal Sound Amplification Products: What to Know, [Hearing Aids and Personal Sound Amplification Products: What to Know](https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/hearing-aids-and-personal-sound-amplification-products-what-know) (<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/hearing-aids-and-personal-sound-amplification-products-what-know>).

Vision Resources

Below is a list of resources related to vision.

American Council for the Blind (ACB)

The ACB offers a wide variety of programs, services, and resources to help people who are blind or have a visual impairment and those who support them.

Contact Information:

Website: [American Council for the Blind](https://www.acb.org/)
(<https://www.acb.org/>)

Social Media: 

Be My Eyes

Be My Eyes connects blind and low-vision users who want sighted assistance with volunteers and companies anywhere in the world, through live video and artificial intelligence.

Contact Information:

Website: [Be My Eyes](https://www.bemyeyes.com/)
(<https://www.bemyeyes.com/>)

Social Media: 

EasyReader App

Gives free access to over 40 libraries and book collections around the world. It enables readers who are visually impaired, dyslexic, or otherwise print impaired, to enjoy books and read the way they prefer, on a wide range of devices.

Contact Information:

Website: [EasyReader App](https://yourdolphin.com/EasyReader-App)
(<https://yourdolphin.com/EasyReader-App>)

Eye2Eye Peer Support Program

A free, phone-based, peer support program, designed to help adults and their families adjust to the challenges of vision loss. Callers are paired with trained peer support specialists who are also living their lives with low or no vision.

Peer support specialists connect with clients on a regular basis to provide social and emotional support, practical information, mentorship, and community resources.

Contact Information:

Website: [Eye2Eye Peer Support Program](https://shp.rutgers.edu/psychiatric-rehabilitation/eye2eye/)
(<https://shp.rutgers.edu/psychiatric-rehabilitation/eye2eye/>)

Social Media: 

Library of Accessible Media for Pennsylvanians (LAMP)

LAMP is a program funded through the Pennsylvania Office of Commonwealth Libraries. The Library offers people who cannot access the printed word, a way to restore their love of reading by shipping free materials in accessible formats like braille, audio, described movies, and large print directly to patrons across Pennsylvania. In addition to physical content, LAMP also provides digital access to downloadable audio or braille to hundreds of thousands of titles.

Contact Information:

Website: [Library of Accessible Media for Pennsylvanians](https://mylamp.org/)
(<https://mylamp.org/>)

Social Media: 

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh: 4724 Baum Blvd
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Free Library of Philadelphia: 1500 Spring Garden St, Suite 230
Philadelphia, PA 19130

National Federation of the Blind

The Federation coordinates many programs, services, and resources such as a free white cane program, an independence market, braille certification courses, career mentoring, blind parent mentoring, and free slate and stylus program.

Contact Information:

Website:	<u>National Federation of the Blind</u> (https://nfb.org/)
Social Media:	
PA Website:	<u>National Federation of the Blind Pennsylvania</u> (https://nfbp.org/)
Social Media:	

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) Vision Resource

This resource provides basic information on vision, common eye disorders and how they impact a person's vision, and strategies for effective communication.

Contact Information:

Website:	<u>Communicating with Individuals who are Blind or Have a Vision Impairment Resource</u> (https://home.myodp.org/2026/07/09/communicating-with-individuals-who-are-blind-or-have-a-visual-impairment/)
Email:	<u>RA-PWSpecialPopUnit@pa.gov</u>

PA Association for the Blind (PAB)

PAB brings innovative programs and resources across Pennsylvania. Their services include training, preschool vision screenings, and eye safety education.

Contact Information:

Website:	<u>Pennsylvania Association for the Blind</u> (https://www.pablind.org/)
Social Media:	

Children

This section has specific resources geared towards children; however, some material may be a resource to anyone.

American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC)

Embraces full access to language-rich environments through mentoring, advocacy, resources, and collaborative networks. Some of their resources include free ASL posters, deaf* mentors, ASL classes and webinars, ASL story time, deaf peers, and ASL stories dictionary. *ASDC uses the term “deaf” to be inclusive of various hearing levels, including those who are seen as, or identify as Deaf, deaf, or hard of hearing.

Contact Information:

Website: [American Society for Deaf Children](https://deafchildren.org)
(<https://deafchildren.org>)

Social Media: 

Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHP) Hearing Center

The Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHP) Hearing Center offers free downloadable resources for Deaf, hard of hearing, and DeafBlind individuals and their families, as well as for caregivers and educators. This includes information about hearing loss, technology, advocacy, etc. CHP also has a free and downloadable book catalog that has various resources for librarians, educators, and D/HH/DB families. The catalog contains books featured by D/HH/DB characters with over 1,200 books and filter by age, book type, equipment, representation, and more!

Contact Information:

Website: [CHP Hearing Center](https://sites.google.com/view/chphearingcenterhlresource/home)
(<https://sites.google.com/view/chphearingcenterhlresource/home>)

Social Media: 

Decision Guide to Communication Choices Pamphlet

This [Decision Guide to Communication Choices Pamphlet](https://www.cdc.gov/hearing-loss-children/media/pdfs/CommDecisionGUIDE3508.pdf) (<https://www.cdc.gov/hearing-loss-children/media/pdfs/CommDecisionGUIDE3508.pdf>) from the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Division of Human Development and Disability helps guide the user through the steps in deciding on an appropriate communication method.

The pamphlet can help find the starting point in the decision-making process, identify and explore needs, and plan next steps. Further free materials about hearing loss in children can be found at [Hearing Loss in Children Resources](https://www.cdc.gov/hearing-loss-children/communication-resources/index.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/hearing-loss-children/communication-resources/index.html>).

Early Intervention Technical Assistance (EITA) Portal

The EITA, Hearing and Deafness section was designed to support families and professionals to increase their knowledge and understanding about hearing, hearing loss, and supports that are available in Pennsylvania.

Contact Information:

Website: [Early Intervention Technical Assistance Portal](https://www.eita-pa.org/low-incidence/hearing-deafness/)
(<https://www.eita-pa.org/low-incidence/hearing-deafness/>)

Family Connections for Language and Learning (FCLL)

Serves families of children who are Deaf/hard of hearing and is made up of a team of experienced parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing and deaf or hard of hearing adults. The program mentors:

- Connect with families by text, email, phone, or virtual meetings
- Connect to resources
- Help families understand hearing loss and the unique needs
- Discuss the many language and communication options
- Help parents advocate
- Share strategies for collaboration with the professionals who serve the child
- Provide unbiased information to help families make informed decisions

Contact Information:

Website: [Family Connections for Language and Learning](https://www.parenttoparent.org/family-connections-for-language-and-learning/)
(<https://www.parenttoparent.org/family-connections-for-language-and-learning/>)

Name: Anne Gaspich, Director/Parent Mentor

Voice/Text: (717) 580-0839

Email: FamilyConnections@tiu11.org

Family Resource Group

A PaTTAN resource. The group sends out resources, event information, and contacts that can benefit children and families.

Contact Information:

Website: [Family Resource Group](https://www.pattan.net/Family-Resource-Group)
(<https://www.pattan.net/Family-Resource-Group>)
Name: Erin Campion
Email: ecampion@pattan.net

Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center

A Gallaudet University federally funded center with exemplary elementary and secondary education programs for deaf and hard of hearing students. The Center develops and disseminates curricula, instructional techniques, and products nationwide while providing information, training, and technical assistance for parents and professionals.

Contact Information:

Website: [Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center](https://clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/)
(<https://clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/>)

LEAD-K

LEAD-K aims to end language deprivation through information to families about language milestones, assessments that measure language milestones, and data collection that holds our current education system accountable.

Contact Information:

Website: [LEAD-K Family Services](https://www.leadkfamilyservices.org/)
(<https://www.leadkfamilyservices.org/>)

Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN)

PaTTAN is a project of the Bureau of Special Education in Pennsylvania. PaTTAN provides a full array of professional development and technical assistance targeted at improving student results. Some of the resources are:

- PA Expanded Core Competency for Students who are Deaf or hard of hearing
- Toolkits to support students who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind

- Deaf, hard of hearing profession repository
- PA Communication Plan for students who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind
- Educational Audiology
- Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) and resources

PaTTAN also has consultants available to assist. PaTTAN has three regional offices. These offices develop training courses, offer technical assistance, and provide resources to build the skills of intermediate unit and school personnel, to improve student achievement. Each regional office serves specific intermediate units.

Contact Information:

Website	Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network Deaf/Hard of Hearing (https://www.pattan.net/Evidence-Based-Practices/DeafHard-of-hearing)		
	West	Central	East
Intermediate Units Served	1 - 7, 27, and 28	8 - 17 and 29	18 - 26
Phone	(412) 826-2336	(717) 541-4960	(610) 265-7321

Emergency Resources

Crisis Text Line

Crisis Text Line is available for any crisis (any painful emotion that you may be experiencing and need support to handle). A live, trained Crisis Counselor receives the text and responds, all from a secure online platform.

The volunteer Crisis Counselor will help you move from a hot moment to a cool moment.

Contact Information:

Website:	Crisis Text Line (https://www.crisistextline.org/)
Text:	741741

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

The Lifeline provides 24/7 free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention, crisis resources, and best practices for professionals in the United States. Contact centers offer many services for people who are Deaf and hard of hearing, including veterans.

Contact Information:

Website: [988 Lifeline](https://988lifeline.org/help-yourself/for-deaf-hard-of-hearing/)
(<https://988lifeline.org/help-yourself/for-deaf-hard-of-hearing/>)

Voice: TTY users can use a preferred relay service or dial 711 then 988.

Text: Text 988 to chat with a counselor

Videophone: Call 988 from a videophone

National Domestic Violence Hotline, Deaf Services

Through the National Deaf Domestic Violence Hotline (NDDVH), a partnership with the Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services (ADWAS), advocates are available 24/7 to help people affected by domestic violence who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

Contact Information:

Website: [National Deaf Domestic Violence Hotline](https://www.thehotline.org/get-help/domestic-violence-deaf-services/)
(<https://www.thehotline.org/get-help/domestic-violence-deaf-services/>)

Videophone: (855) 812-1001

Email: Nationaldeafhotline@adwas.org

Disaster Distress Helpline

The Disaster Distress Helpline provides year-round disaster crisis counseling. The helpline is open to anyone experiencing emotional distress related to disasters in over 100 languages.

Contact Information:

Website: [Disaster Distress Helpline](https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline)
(<https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline>)

Videophone or Text: 1-800-985-5990

National Deaf Domestic Violence Hotline

The National Deaf Domestic Violence Hotline (NDDVH) is available to Deaf individuals anywhere in the United States. NDDVH provides Deaf emergency therapy and counseling services. In partnership with the Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services (ADWAS), advocates answer videophone calls and emails 24/7. Talk with a Deaf advocate for mental health information and referrals, or Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault education. Advocates can also assist Deaf callers in identifying different ways to stay safe and develop a formal safety plan.

Contact Information:

Website: [National Deaf Domestic Violence Hotline](https://www.thehotline.org/get-help/domestic-violence-deaf-services/)
(<https://www.thehotline.org/get-help/domestic-violence-deaf-services/>)

Videophone: (855) 812-1001

Email: Nationaldeafhotline@adwas.org

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Resources

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

The Lifeline provides 24/7 free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention, crisis resources, and best practices for professionals in the United States. Contact centers offer many services for people who are Deaf and hard of hearing, including veterans.

Contact Information:

Website: [988 Lifeline](https://988lifeline.org/help-yourself/for-deaf-hard-of-hearing/)
(<https://988lifeline.org/help-yourself/for-deaf-hard-of-hearing/>)

Voice: TTY users can use a preferred relay service or dial 711 then 988.

Text: Text 988 to chat with a counselor

Videophone: Call 988 from a videophone

Deaf AA Support Line

Deaf Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Support Line is an alcoholism recovery community for Deaf/hard of hearing individuals who struggle with alcoholism and have the desire to stop drinking. Provides a safe, supportive environment where members can share their experiences in a way that respects their Deaf identity.

They provide AA resources and both open and closed AA meetings conducted in ASL or with interpreters.

Contact Information:

Website: [DeafAA.org - Deaf AA Support Line](https://www.deafaa.org/deaf-aa-support-line)
(<https://www.deafaa.org/deaf-aa-support-line>)

Videophone: (503) 714-3331

Email: DeafAASupLine@gmail.com

Deaf Al-Anon

Deaf Al-Anon is a recovery community for Deaf/hard of hearing individuals who support someone struggling with alcoholism. Deaf Al-Anon is based on the AA 12-steps, with meetings and information accessible to Deaf individuals. Meetings are conducted in ASL or with interpreters.

Contact Information:

Website: [Deaf Al-Anon](https://sites.google.com/view/deafaa/deaf-al-anon)
(<https://sites.google.com/view/deafaa/deaf-al-anon>)

Deaf Counseling Center

Deaf Counseling Center is a Deaf-owned and operated counseling and consulting practice staffed by Deaf licensed professional therapists. They specialize in working with Deaf individuals and their families and provide Deaf-centered mental health therapy in ASL across the United States.

Contact Information:

Website: [Deaf Counseling Center](https://deafcounseling.com/)
(<https://deafcounseling.com/>)

Text: (240) 701-5155

Videophone: (240) 380-2577

Email: frontdesk@deafcounseling.com

Deaf Multicultural Counseling

Deaf Multicultural Counseling provides ASL-centered online therapy for Deaf, DeafBlind, hard of hearing, DeafDisabled, and late-deafened individuals in various states, including Pennsylvania.

They provide individual, couples, family, and group therapy that incorporates lived Deaf experience and trauma-informed practice.

Contact Information:

Website: [Deaf Multicultural Counseling](https://deafmulticulturalcounseling.com/)
(<https://deafmulticulturalcounseling.com/>)

Phone or Text: (470) 944-8185

Videophone: (470) 763-5282

Email: info@deafmulticulturalcounseling.com

Disaster Distress Helpline

The Disaster Distress Helpline provides year-round disaster crisis counseling. The helpline is open to anyone experiencing emotional distress related to disasters in over 100 languages.

Contact Information:

Website: [Disaster Distress Helpline](https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline)
(<https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline>)

Videophone or Text: 1-800-985-5990

HealthBridges

HealthBridges is a website for information about mental health, behavioral health, and social services for people who are Deaf, DeafBlind, or hard of hearing, and for providers who serve them. Based out of Pittsburgh, PA, HealthBridges is managed by a coalition of people who are Deaf, DeafBlind, hard of hearing, and hearing. A team of volunteer consultants, including providers, consumers, advocates, and payors, write and organize material for the website. Information on the website is made available in ASL, oral English, and English. A Mental Health and Behavioral Health Services Resource Directory is available.

Contact Information:

Website: [HealthBridges](http://www.healthbridges.info)
(www.healthbridges.info)

Social Media: 

Resource Directory: [Health Bridges Resource Directory](http://healthbridges.info/directory)
(http://healthbridges.info/directory)

DEAFinitely CAN Counseling & Services, LLC

Services include individual therapy, family/couple's therapy, training on a variety of topics, and clinical assessments.

Contact Information:

Website: [DEAFinitely CAN Counseling & Services](https://deafinitelycan.com/)
(https://deafinitelycan.com/)

Videophone: (215) 728-9655

My Deaf Therapy

My Deaf Therapy provides experienced clinicians who are ASL fluent, linguistically accessible, and culturally affirmative. Services include supporting individuals, couples, families, and children with a wide range of mental health concerns such as anxiety, addiction, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), anger management, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), behavior therapy, etc.

Contact Information:

Website: [My Deaf Therapy](https://www.mydeaftherapy.com/)
(https://www.mydeaftherapy.com/)

National Deaf Domestic Violence Hotline

The National Deaf Domestic Violence Hotline (NDDVH) is available to Deaf individuals anywhere in the United States. NDDVH provides Deaf emergency therapy and counseling services. In partnership with the Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services (ADWAS), advocates answer videophone calls and emails 24/7. Talk with a Deaf advocate for mental health information and referrals, or Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault education. Advocates can also assist Deaf callers in identifying different ways to stay safe and develop a formal safety plan.

Contact Information:

Website: [National Deaf Domestic Violence Hotline](https://www.thehotline.org/get-help/domestic-violence-deaf-services/)
(<https://www.thehotline.org/get-help/domestic-violence-deaf-services/>)

Videophone: (855) 812-1001

Email: Nationaldeafhotline@adwas.org

National Deaf Therapy

A Deaf-owned company that offers video-based therapy options designed for individuals, couples, families or groups, support circles, and workshops/training sessions for community members, wellness providers, organizations, mental health interpreters, and more.

Contact Information:

Website: [National Deaf Therapy](https://www.nationaldeaftherapy.com/)
(<https://www.nationaldeaftherapy.com/>)

[Find a Deaf Therapist](https://nationaldeaftherapy.com/therapists/)
(<https://nationaldeaftherapy.com/therapists/>)

Social Media: 

Pittsburgh Mercy Behavioral Health, Specialized Service Coordination

A Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) and an Integrated Care & Wellness Clinic (ICWC). Services are community based, and their programs include recovery, housing, supported employment, recovery-oriented behavioral health (mental health and addictions), crisis intervention and stabilization, psychiatric rehabilitation, and many more.

Contact Information:

Website: [Pittsburgh Mercy Behavioral Health, Specialized Service Coordination](https://www.pittsburghmercy.org/)
(<https://www.pittsburghmercy.org/>)

Sage's Army – ASL All Recovery Meeting

Sage's Army is a non-profit Recovery Community Organization with locations in Greensburg and Irwin, Pennsylvania. Services offered are ASL All Recovery 12-step meetings (in-person and over Zoom) for anyone who is struggling with an addiction or mental health disorder, and individuals in recovery.

Meetings are Deaf run and in ASL only.

Contact Information:

Website: [Sage's Army](https://sagesarmy.com/)

(<https://sagesarmy.com/>)

Email: Admin Mailbox: admin@sagesarmy.com

Jenn M (Social Worker): jenn.macioce@gmail.com

Jenn C (Certified Recovery Specialist (CRS):
jlcochran18@gmail.com

Foundational Organizations Directory

These organizations are great starting points when looking for resources to support Deaf, hard of hearing, and DeafBlind individuals. **For more information on each organization, click their name below.**

- [Art-Reach](#)
- [Atomic Hands](#)
- [Deaf Professional Arts Network \(DPAN.TV\)](#)
- [Deaf Queer](#)
- [Department of Human Services, Office of Developmental Programs, Special Populations Unit](#)
- [Department of Labor and Industry, Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services \(BBVS\)](#)
- [Department of Labor and Industry, Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing \(ODHH\)](#)
- [Department of Labor and Industry, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation \(OVR\)](#)
- [Gallaudet University](#)
- [Hands UP Productions](#)
- [HealthBridges](#)
- [Hearing Loss Association of American \(HLAA\)](#)
- [Helen Keller National Center \(HKNC\) for DeafBlind Youth and Adults](#)
- [Institute for Disabilities Research and Training, Inc.](#)
- [Language First](#)
- [National Association of the Deaf \(NAD\)](#)
- [National Black Deaf Advocates \(NBDA\)](#)
- [National Center on Deafblindness \(NCDB\)](#)
- [National Deaf Center \(NDC\)](#)
- [National Family Association for DeafBlind \(NFADB\)](#)
- [National Hispanic Latino Association of the Deaf \(NHLAD\)](#)
- [Pennsylvania Partnership for the DeafBlind](#)
- [Pennsylvania School for the Deaf \(PSD\)](#)

- [Pennsylvania State Association of the Deaf \(PSAD\)](#)
- [People's Light](#)
- [Pittsburgh Deaf Connection](#)
- [Pressley Ridge School for the Deaf](#)
- [Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc \(RID\)](#)
- [Scranton School for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing Children](#)
- [State DeafBlind Projects](#)
- [Step Up Services](#)
- [TechOWL- Technology for Our Whole Lives](#)
- [Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf](#)

Art-Reach

Art-Reach is an organization, based in Philadelphia, PA that creates, advocates for, and expands accessible opportunities in arts and culture. Art-Reach removes the financial barrier to arts engagement for the disability community and people with low-income through the [ACCESS Philly](#), [STAMP](#), and [Membership](#) program. Art-Reach partners with museums, theatres, gardens, historic homes, and other performing arts organizations to build audiences, enhance accessible services, and design inclusively. Art-Reach also provides training, resources, and professional development opportunities.

Contact Information:

Website: [Art-Reach](https://www.art-reach.org)
(<https://www.art-reach.org>)

Social Media:  

Atomic Hands

Atomic Hands is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to foster curiosity in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) by producing and sharing educational ASL-centric resources. They offer ASL-focused STEM resources and services: videos and storybooks, dictionaries, a Deaf STEMist community network, custom translation, consultation for STEM topics in ASL, workshops, and resource development for deaf-friendly STEM education.

Contact Information:

Website: [Atomic Hands](https://atomichands.com/about/)
(<https://atomichands.com/about/>)

Social Media: 

Deaf Professional Arts Network (DPAN.TV)

The Deaf Professional Arts Network (D-PAN) creates high-quality American Sign Language (ASL) music videos, translating the lyrics of popular songs through ASL.

D-PAN.tv [The Sign Language Channel](https://dpan.tv/videos/) (<https://dpan.tv/videos/>) was formed to make quality news and information accessible to both the Deaf and hard of hearing community and its supporters.

Contact Information:

Website: [Deaf Professional Arts Network](https://d-pan.org/)
(<https://d-pan.org/>)

Deaf Queer

The Deaf Queer Resource Center (DQRC) is a national nonprofit organization for, by, and about the Deaf Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer communities. DQRC provides information and resources, and advocates.

Contact Information:

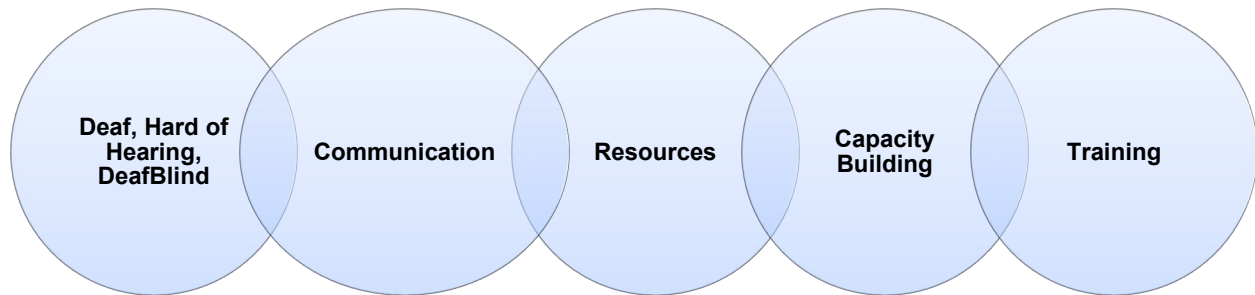
Website: [Deaf Queer Resource Center](http://www.deafqueer.org/)
(<http://www.deafqueer.org/>)

Social Media: 

**Department of Human Services, Office of Developmental Programs,
Special Populations Unit**

The goal of the Special Populations Unit is to assure that every person has an effective way to communicate to express choice and ensure his or her health and safety. All forms of communication should consider and include the individual's language preferences, both expressive and receptive, and use of current technology.

The Unit is responsible for:



Resources and trainings created or shared by the Special Populations Unit can be found at [The Office of Developmental Programs](https://www.myodp.org/) (<https://www.myodp.org/>) under Topics > Communication & Connection.

To receive emails on pertinent information and resources specific to Deaf, hard of hearing, and DeafBlind populations, email the RA account listed below to sign up for the listserv.

Contact Information:

Website: [The Office of Developmental Programs](https://www.myodp.org/)
(<https://www.myodp.org/>)

Email: RA-ODPDeafServices@pa.gov
or
RA-PWSpecialPopUnit@pa.gov

Department of Labor and Industry, Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH)

The Office for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing (ODHH) serves all 67 counties in Pennsylvania. ODHH provides three primary services, represented by the acronym AIR.

- We **ADVOCATE** for people with hearing loss who are not receiving proper services from government or private agencies.
- We distribute **INFORMATION** and answer questions on issues relevant to people with hearing loss.
- We **REFER** people to appropriate organizations. ODHH is ready to serve as liaison, opening doors, explaining procedures, and making referrals. No request is too small.

ODHH provides administrative support to the Advisory Council for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing established by Act 1997-37.

ODHH also provides resources and manages the statewide database for sign language interpreters who meet the Pennsylvania registration requirements defined in Act 57.

The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf can be found at the [Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing \(ODHH\) Interpreter Registration](https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dli/programs-services/disability-and-vocational-rehabilitation/odhh/interpreter-services)

(<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dli/programs-services/disability-and-vocational-rehabilitation/odhh/interpreter-services>). Additionally, ODHH oversees the state-funded Support Service Provider (SSP) for DeafBlind.

Contact Information:

Website:	Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dli/programs-services/disability-and-vocational-rehabilitation/odhh)
Social Media:	
V/TTY:	(717) 783-4912
Video Phone:	(717) 831-1928
Email:	odhh@pa.gov

Department of Labor and Industry, Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services (BBVS)

The BBVS assists Pennsylvanians who are blind or visually impaired gain the skills necessary to live and work independently in their communities. BBVS can assist people with visual impairments in several different ways:

- Finding employment
- Setting up a business
- Independent living skills
- Specialized children's services
- Resources

Contact Information:

Website:	Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services (https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dli/departments-offices/health-and-disabilities/bureau-of-blindness-and-visual-services.html)
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Department of Labor and Industry, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)

The OVR provides vocational rehabilitation services to help persons with disabilities prepare for, obtain, or maintain employment.

Statewide there are 21 District Offices staffed with trained, professional Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors which serve Pennsylvania in all 67 counties. OVR's office directory can be found at the [Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Office Directory](https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dli/departments-offices/health-and-disabilities/ovr-office-directory.html) (<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dli/departments-offices/health-and-disabilities/ovr-office-directory.html>).

Contact Information:

Website: [Office of Vocational Rehabilitation](https://www.dli.pa.gov/Individuals/Disability-Services/ovr/Pages/default.aspx)
(<https://www.dli.pa.gov/Individuals/Disability-Services/ovr/Pages/default.aspx>)

Gallaudet University

Gallaudet University is a private university for the education of the deaf and hard of hearing located in Washington, D.C.

Contact Information:

Website: [Gallaudet University](https://www.gallaudet.edu)
(<https://www.gallaudet.edu>)

Social Media:   

Hands UP Productions

Hands UP Productions provides sign language interpreting services for theatrical events. A list of events they will be interpreting can be found at the link below.

Contact Information:

Website: [Hands UP Productions](https://www.handsupproductions.com/calendar)
(<https://www.handsupproductions.com/calendar>)

HealthBridges

A website for information about mental health, behavioral health, and social services for people who are Deaf, DeafBlind, and hard of hearing, and for providers who support them.

HealthBridges is managed by a coalition of people who are Deaf, DeafBlind, hard of hearing, and hearing out of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Contact Information:

Website:	HealthBridges (www.healthbridges.info)
Social Media:	
Resource Directory:	Health Bridges Resource Directory (http://healthbridges.info/directory)

Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA)

Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) advocates for equal access for all Americans with hearing loss in areas such as telecommunications, employment, health care, education, and community life. The programs and services offered are designed to focus on the person with hearing loss.

The HLAA advocates for equal access for Americans with hearing loss in telecommunications, employment, health care, education, and community life. HLAA Chapters are a place where individuals with hearing loss share stories, hear guest speakers, get information on technology, and develop lifelong friendships. See [Hearing Loss Association of America \(HLAA\) Map Locations](https://www.hearingloss.org/chapters-state-orgs/find-a-chapter/) (https://www.hearingloss.org/chapters-state-orgs/find-a-chapter/).

Contact Information:

Website:	Hearing Loss Association of America (https://www.hearingloss.org)
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Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) for DeafBlind Youth and Adults

HKNC provides comprehensive vocational rehabilitation services to youth, working-age adults and seniors with combined hearing and vision loss. HKNC provides:

- Peer collaborative virtual learning opportunities
- DeafBlind immersion experience
- Online training modules
- Equipment distribution program
- On-site assessment, consultation, and training

- Peer learning groups (PLG) are offered through ZOOM video conferencing
- Information, support, and advocacy

Contact Information: Region 3: East Central DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV

Website:	<u>Helen Keller National Center</u> (https://www.helenkeller.org/hknc)
Social Media:	
TTY:	(240) 786-6847
Video Phone:	(240) 667-7295
Email:	<u>Cynthia.Ingraham@hknc.org</u> (Cynthia Ingraham – East Central Regional Representative)

Institute for Disabilities Research and Training, Inc.

Institute for Disabilities Research and Training (IDRT) specializes in research and development efforts on behalf of children and adults who are deaf and hard of hearing. IDRT has expertise in American Sign Language (ASL) software and services, and gesture recognition technology.

- MyASLTech is an on-line portal that hosts IDRT's comprehensive suite of ASL tools, the mySign Generator, myASL Publisher, and myASL Quizmaker.
- MyASLServices provides translation services. They offer English-to-ASL translation of hardcopy documents, softcopy documents, transcriptions, games, websites, software, and oral transcripts.
- MyASLStore offers memberships, instructional tools and training, ASL games, 911 products, ASL Stories, other languages and cultures, and products on vision.

Contact Information:

Website:	<u>Institute for Disabilities Research and Training, Inc.</u> (https://www.idrt.com/)
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Language First

Language First aims to educate and raise awareness about American Sign Language (ASL)/English bilingualism and the importance of a strong first language foundation for Deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) children. Browse resources, handouts, events, and intervention activities to make your work as evidence-based as it can be.

Contact Information:

Website: [Language First](https://language1st.org/)
(<https://language1st.org/>)

National Association of the Deaf (NAD)

NAD is a civil rights organization by and for deaf and hard of hearing individuals with American Sign Language as a core value. The advocacy scope of the NAD is broad, covering early intervention, education, employment, health care, technology, telecommunications, youth leadership, and more.

Contact Information:

Website: [National Association of the Deaf](https://www.nad.org/)
(<https://www.nad.org/>)

Social Media:  

TTY: (301) 587-1789

Video Phone: (301) 587-1788 ZVRS
(301) 328-1443 Sorenson
(301) 338-6380 Convo
(301) 453-2390 Purple

National Black Deaf Advocates (NBDA)

National Black Deaf Advocates (NBDA) is an advocacy organization for Black Deaf and hard of hearing Americans. The Mission of the National Black Deaf Advocates is to promote the leadership development, economic and educational opportunities, social equality, and to safeguard the general health and welfare of Black Deaf and hard of hearing people.

Contact Information:

Website: [National Black Deaf Advocates](https://www.nbda.org/)
(<https://www.nbda.org/>)

The Philadelphia Chapter:
[National Black Deaf Advocates Philadelphia Chapter](https://www.nbda.org/local_chapters/philadelphia-chapter-of-black-deaf-advocates)
(https://www.nbda.org/local_chapters/philadelphia-chapter-of-black-deaf-advocates)

Social Media: 

National Center on Deafblindness (NCDB)

The National Center on DeafBlindness (NCDB) works with state DeafBlind projects and other partners to improve educational results and quality of life for children who are DeafBlind and their families. They provide lots of opportunities to learn about deafblindness and instructional practices —online courses, webinars, and self-study modules.

Contact Information:

Website: [National Center on DeafBlindness](https://www.nationaldb.org/)
(<https://www.nationaldb.org/>)

National Deaf Center (NDC)

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), NDC provides products and services that are deaf-centered, evidence-based, and developed in response to community needs. They offer online courses, online gaming tools for youth, data reports, research summaries, evidence-based resources, webinars, and more.

Contact Information:

Website: [National Deaf Center](https://nationaldeafcenter.org/)
(<https://nationaldeafcenter.org/>)

Social Media: 

National Family Association for DeafBlind (NFADB)

The NFADB is a lifeline for families navigating the complex journey of dual sensory loss. NFADB brings families together into a community that understands, provides trusted resources, and champions advocacy. NFADB, in collaboration with the CHARGE Syndrome Foundation and Jennifer Arnott from the Perkins Research Library, created DeafBlind resource guides. They include an overview of programs, services, and information about specific topics relevant to adults who are DeafBlind. The Overview Guide and Topics Guide can be viewed at the links below.

Overview guide:

[National Family Association for DeafBlind \(NFADB\) Overview Guide](https://bit.ly/dbadults-overview)

(<https://bit.ly/dbadults-overview>)

Topics guide:

[National Family Association for DeafBlind \(NFADB\) Topics Guide](https://bit.ly/dbadults-topics)

(<https://bit.ly/dbadults-topics>)

Contact Information:

Website: **[National Family Association for DeafBlind](https://www.nfadb.org)**
(<https://www.nfadb.org>)

National Hispanic Latino Association of the Deaf (NHLAD)

The mission for NHLAD is to build an alliance between Deaf Latino and the Hispanic community through the preservation of language, culture, and customs.

Contact Information:

Website: **[National Hispanic Latino Association of the Deaf](http://www.nhlad.org)**
(<http://www.nhlad.org>)

Pennsylvania Partnership for the DeafBlind

The Pennsylvania Partnership for the DeafBlind (PPDB) connects families with similar needs throughout the lifespan and connects them with accurate and timely resources and organizations specific to their needs. PPDB collaborates with other organizations and groups to ensure that the needs and concerns of persons who are DeafBlind are addressed and assists families in attending advocacy events.

Contact Information:

Website: [Pennsylvania Partnership for the DeafBlind](https://www.papdb.org/)
(<https://www.papdb.org/>)

Social Media: 

Email: papartnershipdeafblind@gmail.com

Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (PSD)

The PSD is the third oldest school for Deaf and hard of hearing students in the United States. PSD is a pre-k to 12th grade school located in Philadelphia PA.

Contact Information:

Website: [Pennsylvania School for the Deaf](http://www.psd.org/)
(<http://www.psd.org/>)

Social Media: 

Email: info@psd.org

Pennsylvania State Association of the Deaf (PSAD)

PSAD is one of the oldest state associations for deaf people in the US. It is an advocacy organization of Deaf Pennsylvanians. It also has a rich tradition for social gatherings of Deaf, hard of hearing, and DeafBlind people and their families throughout the state of Pennsylvania and during their annual conferences.

To receive email notices of social gatherings, workshops, and changes in laws that affect deaf people – sign up for PSAD’s E-Zine by scrolling to the bottom of the above webpage and enter your email address after “Sign up for our PSAD News E-Zine.”

Contact Information:

Website: [Pennsylvania State Association of the Deaf](http://www.psad.org/)
(<http://www.psad.org/>)

Social Media: 

Email: President@psad.org

People's Light

People's Light is a cultural and civic center with theatre at its core. They aim to make their campus and programming accessible and enjoyable to everyone through a range of accommodations and resources. The theatre has a range of devices and support freely available to patrons, including Audio Devices & T-Coil Loops, Fidgets & noise-canceling headphones, ASL interpreters, and Open Captions at some performances, and Audio Descriptions. People's Light is currently the only theatre in the US to offer Smart Caption Glasses for people who are Deaf or experience hearing loss. People's Light also offers relaxed performances which invite individuals with autism, Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), dementia, and sensory sensitivities to enjoy the performance in their "shush-free" zone.

Contact Information:

Website: [People's Light](https://www.peopleslight.org/visit/accessibility/)
(<https://www.peopleslight.org/visit/accessibility/>)

Social Media: 

Pittsburgh Deaf Connection

For the signing community (Deaf and hearing) to post and share information, discussions, socials, events, ASL, businesses, etc.

Contact Information:

Social Media: 

Pressley Ridge School for the Deaf

Pressley Ridge School for the Deaf is a year-round private school with a residential component that serves students who are Deaf or hard of hearing and also identified as having a behavioral or emotional need or have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder. They use a developmental, trauma-informed approach to behavioral supports and emphasize access to language and communication.

Contact Information:

Website: [Pressley Ridge School for the Deaf](https://www.pressleyridge.org/services/private-academic-schools/pressley-ridge-school-for-the-deaf/)
(<https://www.pressleyridge.org/services/private-academic-schools/pressley-ridge-school-for-the-deaf/>)

Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc (RID)

The national certifying body of ASL Interpreters fostering the professional growth of interpreting. In collaboration with the Deaf community, RID supports members and encourages the growth of the profession through the establishment of a national standard for qualified sign language interpreters and transliterators, ongoing professional development, and adherence to a code of professional conduct.

Contact Information:

Website:	Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc (https://rid.org/)
Social Media:	
Phone:	(703) 838-0030
Video Phone:	(571) 257-3957
Email:	RIDinfo@rid.org

The Scranton School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

The School provides academic and extracurricular programs to deaf and hard of hearing children from birth through eighth grade.

Contact Information:

Website:	The Scranton School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children (https://thescrantonschool.org/)
Social Media:	

State DeafBlind Projects

The National Center on Deafblindness has organized each state's DeafBlind project, which provide a wide range of services to improve results for individuals with deafblindness and their families. Each state offers trainings as well.

Contact Information:

Website:	State DeafBlind Projects (https://www.nationaldb.org/state-deaf-blind-projects/)
	Pennsylvania DeafBlind Project (https://www.pattan.net/Evidence-Based-Practices/Deaf-Blind)

Step Up Services

Step Up Services provides support services for DeafBlind individuals. They are trained Support Service Providers (SSP) who have a variety of experiences in the community with DeafBlind individuals. A Support Service Provider is a specially trained individual who provides access to the community for people who are DeafBlind.

This allows the person who is DeafBlind to make decisions for themselves based on the visual, environmental, and social information communicated by the SSP.

To learn more about SSP services go to the [Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing](https://www.pa.gov/services/dli/apply-for-a-deafblind-support-service-provider) (<https://www.pa.gov/services/dli/apply-for-a-deafblind-support-service-provider>).

Contact Information:

Website: [Step Up Services](https://stepupservicesllc.com/)
(<https://stepupservicesllc.com/>)

TechOWL - Technology for Our Whole Lives

TechOWL serves people of all ages with any disability and is Pennsylvania's Assistive Technology (AT) Act Program. TechOWL is part of the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University and helps people to discover and explore AT devices, gadgets, and tools, consult with a local TechOWL specialist, borrow devices from the lending library, and get AT that they need. If an individual meets the requirements, TechOWL has a program where individuals may be able to get an iPhone (or other type of phone) as well.

Contact Information:

Website: [TechOWL](https://techowlpa.org/)
(<https://techowlpa.org/>)

Social Media:  

Email: TechOWL@temple.edu

The Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (WPSD)

The Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (WPSD) provides academic and extracurricular programs to deaf and hard of hearing children from birth through 12th grade. WPSD offers ASL classes that teach not only sign language skills but also promote an understanding of Deaf Culture.

Contact Information:

Website: [The Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf](https://www.wpsd.org/)
(<https://www.wpsd.org/>)

Social Media: 