

# 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 available through online searching. 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 social media 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 will be 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. Everyday Lives will guide everyone toward the possibility of an everyday life.

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If you are aware of additional resources for future publications or come across a current resource that is no longer active or up to date, please contact us at [RA-ODPDeafServices@pa.gov](mailto:RA-ODPDeafServices@pa.gov).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](mailto:RA-ODPDeafServices@pa.gov).

<p><b>American Sign Language (ASL)</b></p>	<p>ASL is the recognized sign language of the Deaf Community in the United States of America. As is the case with standardized spoken, written, and signed languages worldwide, ASL conforms to linguistic principles (e.g., semantics, syntax, morphology, phonology, and pragmatics). The complex visual-spatial linguistic structure of ASL is distinct from English, a linear, sequential language based on auditory processes. <i>(National Association of the Deaf)</i></p>
<p><b>ASL Interpreter</b></p>	<p>A person trained in facilitating communication between a spoken language and American Sign Language (ASL). <i>(National Association of the Deaf)</i></p>
<p><b>Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)</b></p>	<p>Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) refers to any type of communication that is not spoken language. These modes of communication are broken into two systems: unaided and aided. Unaided Communication refers to any type of communication that can be produced by an individual without the assistance of a tool. Aided Communication often overlaps with assistive technology because it refers to any communication that requires a tool to produce the communication. <i>(American Speech-Language-Hearing Association)</i></p>
<p><b>Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI)</b></p>	<p>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. This <a href="#">infographic</a> explains it further!</p> <p>CDIs are particularly useful when the communication mode used by the deaf consumer is unique, when they have minimal or limited communication skills, or when they use signs that a hearing interpreter may not be familiar with such as non-standard signs, “home” signs, international sign language, visual gestural communication, regional signs, etc.</p> <p>Holders of this certification are deaf or hard of hearing and have demonstrated knowledge and understanding of interpreting, deafness, the Deaf community, and Deaf culture. Holders have specialized training and/or experience in the use of gesture, mime, props, drawings and other tools to enhance communication. Holders possess native or near-native fluency in American Sign Language and are recommended for a broad range of assignments where</p>

	<p>an interpreter who is deaf or hard-of-hearing would be beneficial.</p> <p><i>(Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.)</i></p>
<b>Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART)</b>	<p>Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) offers immediate, verbatim, streaming of voice-to-text translation at events, conferences, classes, public hearings and other events. The text produced by the CART service can then be displayed on an individual’s computer, projected, or appear as captions for a video presentation (example: meetings in Zoom).</p> <p><i>(Hearing Loss Association of America)</i></p>
<b>Deaf</b>	<p>Referring to a particular group of deaf people who share a language – American Sign Language (ASL) – and a culture.</p> <p><i>(National Association of the Deaf)</i></p>
<b>deaf</b>	<p>Referring to the audiological condition of not hearing.</p> <p><i>(National Association of the Deaf)</i></p>
<b>DeafBlind</b>	<p>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), it creates one different from either one alone.</p> <p><i>(National Center on Deaf-Blindness and Open Hands Open Access)</i></p> <p><b>Note:</b> You may see Deaf-Blind, Deafblind, deaf-blind, deafblind, Deaf-blind, etc. in various writings.</p>
<b>Dysfluency</b>	<p>The state of not being fluent in one’s own native, or best, language manifesting in abnormal language patterns (vocabulary deficits, absence of key grammar features, mixing of languages. and/or difficulty with time sequencing). It could refer to the expressive mechanics of producing the language or the receptive understanding of the language.</p> <p><i>(Journal of the American Deafness and Rehabilitation Association)</i></p>
<b>Hard of Hearing</b>	<p>A person with a mild-to-moderate hearing loss.</p> <p><i>(National Association of the Deaf)</i></p>
<b>Hearing Impaired</b>	<p>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. To declare oneself or another person as deaf or blind, for example, was considered somewhat bold, rude, or impolite. At that time, it was thought better to use the word “impaired” along with “visually,” “hearing,” “mobility,” and so on. “Hearing-impaired” was a well-meaning term that is not accepted or used by many deaf and hard of hearing people.</p> <p>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 as “impaired,” or substandard, hindered, or damaged. It</p>

	<p>implies that something is not as it should be and ought to be fixed if possible. <i>(National Association of the Deaf)</i></p>
<b>Intervener</b>	<p>An <b>intervener provides consistent one-to-one support</b> to a student who is DeafBlind and has training and specialized skills in DeafBlindness. An intervener provides a bridge to the world for the student who is DeafBlind. The intervener helps the person gather information, learn concepts and skills, develop communication and language, and establish relationships that lead to greater independence. <i>(Open Hands Open Access, a DeafBlind training)</i></p>
<b>Signed Exact English</b>	<p>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. <i>(SignedExactEnglish.com)</i></p>
<b>Support Service Provider (SSP)</b>	<p>A 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. 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. An important aspect of SSPs that is different from interpreters is that the SSP role can be more fluid based on the established relationship between the two parties. <i>(Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing)</i></p>
<b>Pidgin Signed English (PSE)</b>	<p>Pidgin Signed English (PSE) is a mode of communication arising from contact between American Sign Language (ASL) and spoken or signed English. With PSE, vocabulary is borrowed from ASL, while grammar typically follows English word order. <i>(Gallaudet University Press)</i></p>
<b>ProTactile</b>	<p>ProTactile is a socio-cultural philosophy that reflects the DeafBlind world, which includes language (ProTactile American Sign Language), the DeafBlind culture, and our community. It is a tactile representation of visual information (heads nodding, yawning, laughing, agreeing, etc.). <i>(Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired)</i></p>
<b>Tactile Interpretation</b>	<p>A method of interpreting used by individuals who are DeafBlind. In this mode, an interpreter creates signs in the person's hand, while using other tactile cues to describe affect and the environment. <i>(Connections for Independent Living)</i></p>

**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 impairments” is still accepted and appropriate.

**Video Phone**

A video phone is a video telecommunication device connected to the regular telephone system that allows Deaf and hard-of-hearing people to communicate in real-time using a visual language, like American Sign Language. 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

Every individual is unique and so is their communication! This section includes professionals that may be a good addition to the individual's multidisciplinary support team. To access a list of providers within ODP, follow the steps below.



\*There will often be several pages of results. To view all results on one page, change the dropdown on the right of the screen to "all" and clicked "go". This will list ALL the services on one screen.

### Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP)

Speech Therapy is available through most insurances. In the ODP waivers, a 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:** Historically, when deafness is treated through a medical model, the focus becomes one of “fixing” what are seen as deficits or problems. This model was applied to the treatment of deafness and hearing loss for much of the twentieth century. Schools for the deaf focused on Oralism. This approach targeted residual hearing (remaining natural hearing, despite a hearing loss) and lip-reading skills. Sign language was banned from classrooms. This had the impact of denying children access to American Sign Language (ASL). Today, families with deaf children must make decisions, such as whether to teach their child ASL or pursue cochlear implantation. For families who are culturally Deaf, speech therapy may be perceived as biased in favor of oral speech; in essence, seeing deafness through the lens of the medical model.

The American Speech Language and Hearing Association (ASHA) has adopted 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 ASL. SLPs should respect the culture and communication modality of their Deaf clients and should use sign language interpreters as necessary. In essence, SLPs should see deafness through a social model of disability. The “problem” is not the hearing loss, but rather the barriers placed by society preventing equitable participation and access for the person with a disability. (ASHA, NCBI)

For more information on the Therapy service, see the waivers at [www.dhs.pa.gov](http://www.dhs.pa.gov)

## Communication Specialist

In the ODP waivers, the Communication Specialist offers:

- A thorough review of the communication needs and skills (expressive and receptive)
- An action plan that includes barriers and measurable steps to eliminate barriers
- Assistance to establish an environment that emphasizes the use of visual cues
- Educating the team on communication access, legal responsibilities, and cultural and linguistic needs

**Note:** There may be cases where a team includes a Speech and Language Pathologist, Behavioral Specialist, and a Communication Specialist. These specialists should collaborate to ensure consistency.

For more information on the Communication Specialist service, see the waivers at [www.dhs.pa.gov](http://www.dhs.pa.gov)

## 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;

**Note:** There may be cases where a team includes a Behavioral Specialist and a Communication Specialist. These two specialists should collaborate to ensure consistency.

For more information on the Behavioral Support service, see the waivers at [www.dhs.pa.gov](http://www.dhs.pa.gov)

## Occupational Therapist

Hearing loss can cause sensory processing challenges. This can lead to challenges 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 [www.dhs.pa.gov](http://www.dhs.pa.gov)

## Orientation, Mobility, and Vision Therapist

Orientation and mobility can help develop the individual's orientation in space and can teach them to travel safely, efficiently, and independently in their environment. Orientation is the process of mentally organizing the environment and determining one's location within that environment. Mobility is the act of moving through the environment in a safe manner and move and react to various stimuli. Severely affected orientation and mobility causes further limits. By walking independently, an individual with low vision will have more opportunities to achieve their social integration and become independent individuals.

For more information on the Therapy service, see the waivers at [www.dhs.pa.gov](http://www.dhs.pa.gov)

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

Although this is not an ODP offered waiver service, this is a professional that may be a good addition to a DeafBlind individual’s multidisciplinary support team.

A 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. 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. An important aspect of SSPs that is different from interpreters is that the SSP role can be more fluid based on the established relationship between the two parties. A comprehensive publication about SSPs can be found [here](#) and below under **DeafStone**.

## Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI)

According to [the National Technical Institute for the Deaf](#), the SLPI was adapted by Bill Newell and Frank Caccamise from the Language/Oral Proficiency Interview (L/OPI), an interview technique for assessing spoken language communication skills. Just as the L/OPI may be used to assess a variety of spoken languages the SLPI may be used to assess a variety of sign languages.

The SLPI involves a one-to-one conversation in sign language between an interviewer and candidate/interviewee. SLPI interviews are recorded and rated on the SLPI Rating Scale, a standard scale based on the sign language communication skills of highly skilled, knowledgeable native/native-like signers.

### SLPI Rating Scale:

Superior Plus	Able to have a fully shared and natural conversation, with in-depth elaboration for both social and work topics. All aspects of signing are native-like.
Superior	Able to have a fully shared conversation, with in-depth elaboration for both social and work topics. Very broad sign language vocabulary, near native-like production and fluency, excellent use of sign language grammatical features, and excellent comprehension for normal signing rate.
Advanced Plus	Exhibits some superior level skills, but not all and not consistently.
Advanced	Able to have a generally shared conversation with good, spontaneous elaboration for both social and work topics. Broad sign language vocabulary knowledge and clear, accurate production of signs and fingerspelling at a normal/near-normal rate; occasional misproductions do not detract from conversational flow. Good use of many sign language grammatical features and comprehension good for normal signing rate.
Intermediate Plus	Exhibits some advanced level skills, but not all and not consistently.
Intermediate	Able to discuss with some confidence routine social and work topics within a conversational format with some elaboration; generally, 3-to-5 sentences. Good knowledge and control of everyday/basic sign language vocabulary with some sign vocabulary errors. Fairly clear signing at a moderate signing rate with some sign misproductions. Fair use of some sign language grammatical features and good comprehension for a moderate-to-normal signing rate; a few repetitions and

	rephrasing of questions may be needed.
Survival Plus	Exhibits some intermediate level skills, but not all and not consistently.
Survival	Able to discuss basic social and work topics with responses generally 1-to-3 sentences in length. Some knowledge of basic sign language vocabulary with many sign vocabulary and/or sign production errors. Slow-to-moderate signing rate. Basic use of a few sign language grammatical features. Fair comprehension for signing produced at a slow-to-moderate rate with some repetition and rephrasing.
Novice Plus	Exhibits some survival level skills, but not all and not consistently.
Novice	Able to provide single sign and some short phrase/sentence responses to basic questions signed at a slow-to-moderate rate with frequent repetition and rephrasing. Vocabulary primarily related to everyday work and/or social areas such as basic work-related signs, family members, basic objects, colors, numbers, names of weekdays, and time. Production and fluency characterized by many sign production errors and by a slow rate with frequent inappropriate pauses/hesitations.
No Functional Skills	(May be) Able to provide short single sign and 'primarily' finger-spelled responses to some basic questions signed at a slow rate with extensive repetition and rephrasing.

## Sign Language Dictionaries

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

<b>ASL Pro.com</b>	<a href="http://www.ASLPRO.com">www.ASLPRO.com</a>	Free website. Scroll to the bottom of the main page and click on “ASL for Babies Dictionary” or “Conversation Dictionary” or “Main Dictionary”
<b>ASLCore</b>	<a href="https://ascore.org">https://ascore.org</a>	An ASL website with signs for advanced, disciplined related terminology for various content areas (architecture, art, biology, engineering, literature, etc).
<b>Bill Vicars</b>	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/billvicars">https://www.youtube.com/user/billvicars</a>	ASL - American Sign Language University ( <a href="http://lifeprint.com">http://lifeprint.com</a> ) Resource site for ASL students, teachers, interpreters, and parents of Deaf children.
<b>Described and Captioned Media Program (DCMP)</b>	<a href="https://dcmp.org/">https://dcmp.org/</a>	A resource to improve the receptive (understanding of) and expressive skills in sign language, to learn more about Deaf culture, and about people who are deaf or hard of hearing.  Also provides a limited number of educational videos, general interest topics, classic movies, videos in sign language and captioned.
<b>Hand Speak</b>	<a href="https://www.handspeak.com/">https://www.handspeak.com/</a>	ASL tutorials, Deaf culture, dictionary, fingerspelling, and resources.
<b>Rainone Sisters</b>	<a href="https://www.rainonesisters.com/">https://www.rainonesisters.com/</a> 	Deaf Sisters on a mission to make the world Deaf aware & accessible for all. They specialize in everything American Sign Language.
<b>Rochester Institute of Technology, National Technical Institute for the Deaf</b>	<a href="http://www.ntid.rit.edu/dictionary">www.ntid.rit.edu/dictionary</a>	Online video dictionary from NTID, which consists of vocabulary organized by category, used in sentences, and shown at slow or normal speeds.

<p><b>Signed with Heart</b></p>		<p>Signed With Heart, an endeavor to teach American Sign Language through social media.</p>
<p><b>Signing Savvy</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.signingsavvy.com/">https://www.signingsavvy.com/</a></p> 	<p>A sign language dictionary that contains videos of ASL signs, fingerspelled words, and other common signs used within the United States and Canada. It also includes resources and tools to use while learning, such as the ability to build custom wordlists and share them with others, create virtual flash cards and quizzes, print signs, build sign phrases, and much more. Additional information is included with each sign videos to help provide a better understanding of what the sign is, when to use it, and how to remember it.</p>

## Virtual ASL Courses

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

<p><b>American Society for Deaf Children</b></p>	<p><a href="https://deafchildren.org/knowledge-center/asl-resources/online-asl-classes/">https://deafchildren.org/knowledge-center/asl-resources/online-asl-classes/</a></p> 	<p>Beginner, intermediate, and advanced ASL 4-week courses available for \$100/each.</p>
<p><b>ASL Deafined</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.asldeafined.com/?da=asldefined.com">https://www.asldeafined.com/?da=asldefined.com</a></p> 	<p>A subscription-based website for ASL video lessons. The content is for anyone who wishes to learn ASL. It has been designed to instruct Deaf students, parents, and the community-at-large. All lessons are taught by Deaf experts of ASL.</p>
<p><b>Deaf-Hearing Communication Centre</b></p>	<p><a href="https://dhcc.org/resources/asl-classes/">https://dhcc.org/resources/asl-classes/</a></p> 	<p>Community-level, non-credit beginner ASL instruction. Teachers are native ASL users, they promote a relaxed learning environment with both structured and spontaneous dialogue. Give students the opportunity to develop appropriate conversational strategies that are unique to Deaf culture. Class size is limited and enrollment is on a first come, first serve basis. DHCC requires a minimum of 8 students per class. Locations include Swarthmore, Philadelphia, Montgomeryville, King of Prussia, Center City Philadelphia, and Media, PA</p>
<p><b>Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind (FSDB) Outreach ASL Interactive Online Classes</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.fsbk12.org/outreach">https://www.fsbk12.org/outreach</a></p>	<p>Eight-week ASL interactive online class. This is offered several times throughout the school year at no cost. Limited space. First come first serve. Participants must have high-speed internet access.</p>
<p><b>Gallaudet University</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.gallaudet.edu/asl-connect/asl-for-free">https://www.gallaudet.edu/asl-connect/asl-for-free</a></p> 	<p>Free online ASL lessons, basic ASL vocabulary, and information on an ASL summer residency program.</p>
<p><b>Hearing and Deaf Services</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.hdscenter.org/asl-classes/">https://www.hdscenter.org/asl-classes/</a></p> 	<p>Sign Language classes</p>

<b>Life Print.com: ASL University</b>	<a href="http://www.lifeprint.com">www.lifeprint.com</a>	ASLU is an online ASL curriculum resource center. ASLU provides many free self-study materials, lessons, and information, as well as fee-based instructor-guided courses.
<b>Deaf Focus</b>	<a href="http://www.deaffocus.com/">http://www.deaffocus.com/</a>	Offers sign language courses
<b>Oklahoma School for the Deaf</b>	<a href="https://www.osd.k12.ok.us/index.php?pageID=483600_3">https://www.osd.k12.ok.us/index.php?pageID=483600_3</a>	Free, 8-week pre-recorded ASL1 and ASL2 classes
<b>Sign It! ASL Made Easy</b>	<a href="https://signitasl.com/">https://signitasl.com/</a>	An online, self-paced ASL course. The complete curriculum will have a total of 10 units (50 lessons) that teach conversational ASL (vocabulary, sentences, grammar, and syntax) and Deaf culture.
<b>Sign Language 101</b>	<a href="https://www.SignLanguage101.com/">https://www.SignLanguage101.com/</a> 	Learn ASL with a guided course and free videos.
<b>Signing Online ASL Instruction</b>	<a href="https://signingonline.com/">https://signingonline.com/</a>	Offers web-based courses, designed with nationally and internationally recognized curriculum developed by Dr. David Stewart. These online ASL courses focus on conversational ASL and use videos to demonstrate the visual nature of signing designed to help you learn sign language. For anyone wanting to learn ASL online, whether just starting out or at a more advanced level.
<b>Start ASL</b>	<a href="https://www.startasl.com/learn-sign-language-asl.html">https://www.startasl.com/learn-sign-language-asl.html</a> 	A complete 3-Level ASL course curriculum
<b>Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf</b>	<a href="http://www.wpsd.org/asl-classes/">http://www.wpsd.org/asl-classes/</a>	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.

<b>University of Pennsylvania</b>	<a href="https://plc.sas.upenn.edu/asl">https://plc.sas.upenn.edu/asl</a>	Intro to ASL part 1 and 2, intermediate ASL part 1 and 2, 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 any ASL activities.
<b>Community College of Philadelphia</b>	<a href="https://www.ccp.edu/catalog-course-offerings-groupings/asl">https://www.ccp.edu/catalog-course-offerings-groupings/asl</a>	Intermediate ASL 1 and 2, structure of ASL, advanced ASL 1 and 2, introduction to American Deaf community, ASL fingerspelling,
<b>Swarthmore College</b>	<a href="https://catalog.swarthmore.edu/previous_course_nopop.php?catoid=7&amp;catoid=8375">https://catalog.swarthmore.edu/previous_course_nopop.php?catoid=7&amp;catoid=8375</a>	American Sign Language 1 and 2, ASL literature
<b>Temple University</b>	<a href="https://www.temple.edu/academics/degree-programs/american-sign-language-certificate-undergraduate-hp-asl-cert">https://www.temple.edu/academics/degree-programs/american-sign-language-certificate-undergraduate-hp-asl-cert</a>	American Sign Language 1, 2, 3, and 4, American Deaf culture
<b>Bloomsburg University</b>	<a href="https://www.bloomu.edu/academics/programs/american-sign-language-and-english-interpreting-bs">https://www.bloomu.edu/academics/programs/american-sign-language-and-english-interpreting-bs</a>	ASL 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, linguistics of ASL, Visual Gestural Communication, Deaf culture
<b>Mount Aloysius</b>	<a href="https://www.mtaloy.edu/academics/majors-programs/american-sign-language-english-interpreting/">https://www.mtaloy.edu/academics/majors-programs/american-sign-language-english-interpreting/</a>	ASL 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, Linguistics of ASL
<b>Community College of Allegheny</b>	<a href="https://www.ccac.edu/programs/social-sciences/asl-interpreting.php">https://www.ccac.edu/programs/social-sciences/asl-interpreting.php</a>	Elementary American Sign Language 1 and 2, Deaf culture, Intermediate ASL 1 and 2, Visual Gestural Communication
<b>Saint Joseph's University</b>	<a href="https://academiccatalog.sju.edu/courses/asl/">https://academiccatalog.sju.edu/courses/asl/</a>	ASL 1 and 2, Special topics in ASL, Intermediate ASL 1 and 2,
<b>Allegheny College</b>	<a href="https://sites.allegheny.edu/modlang/asl/">https://sites.allegheny.edu/modlang/asl/</a>	ASL 1 and 2

## Apps

A variety of apps related to ASL and captioning.

<p><b>Ava: Live Captions for all Conversations</b></p>	<p><a href="https://apps.apple.com/us/app/ava-best-live-transcription/id1030067058">https://apps.apple.com/us/app/ava-best-live-transcription/id1030067058</a></p>	<p>Ava is an app designed to empower people who are Deaf or hard-of-hearing by allowing to follow conversations in real time. The app provides 24/7 real-time captioning (with up to 95% accuracy, based on artificial intelligence), on your smartphone. Free for &lt;5 hours a month.</p>
<p><b>CaptionMate</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.captionmate.com">https://www.captionmate.com</a></p>	<p>CaptionMate is a free service for individuals with hearing loss. It allows you to read both sides of the phone conversation instantaneously. CaptionMate works on smartphones, tablets and all other phones, even your landline.</p>
<p><b>Innocaption</b></p>	<p><a href="https://innocaption.com">https://innocaption.com</a></p>	<p>InnoCaption is free and available for both iPhone and androids. It offers real-time captioning of phone calls through live stenographers and automated speech recognition software.</p>
<p><b>Marlee Signs</b></p>	<p><a href="https://apps.apple.com/us/app/marlee-signs/id566054855">https://apps.apple.com/us/app/marlee-signs/id566054855</a></p>	<p>Free with in-app purchases</p>
<p><b>Otter.ai</b></p>	<p><a href="https://otter.ai">https://otter.ai</a></p>	<p>Transcribes what people are saying in meetings as they're speaking. Within a second or two, the words someone has spoken appear on screen, effectively providing live subtitles of what's being said by all participants. Free for 600 minutes (max 40 mins/recording)</p>
<p><b>Sign Language Blitz</b></p>	<p><a href="https://sign-language-blitz.com">https://sign-language-blitz.com</a></p>	<p>Learn ASL by utilizing phrases and cultural knowledge.</p>
<p><b>The ASL App</b></p>	<p><a href="https://theaslapp.com/">https://theaslapp.com/</a></p> 	<p>Low monthly fee with a free buddy account. Free with in-app purchases. Learn conversational ASL on the go, with all phrases and signs organized to make it easy to learn.</p>

## 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.

<p><b>Learn American Sign Language</b></p>	<p><a href="https://smile.amazon.com/Learn-American-Language-James-Guido/dp/1577151070/ref=smi_www_rco2_go_smi_4368549_507?_encoding=UTF8&amp;dchild=1&amp;ie=UTF8&amp;keywords=learn%20american%20sign%20language&amp;qid=1615564569&amp;s=b_ooks&amp;sr=1-1">https://smile.amazon.com/Learn-American-Language-James-Guido/dp/1577151070/ref=smi_www_rco2_go_smi_4368549_507?_encoding=UTF8&amp;dchild=1&amp;ie=UTF8&amp;keywords=learn%20american%20sign%20language&amp;qid=1615564569&amp;s=b_ooks&amp;sr=1-1</a></p>	<p>Learn more than 800 signs, including signs for school, the workplace, around the house, out and about, food and drink, nature, emotions, small talk, and more. 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.</p>
<p><b>Signs For Me: Basic Sign Vocabulary for Children</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/943258.Signs_for_Me">https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/943258.Signs_for_Me</a></p>	<p>Behan, Ben, &amp; Dannis, Joe (1990). 111 pages, excellent book to learn sign language and written English. Book organized into categories. Includes pictures of a child expressing the sign, of the concept, and word in English. Includes translations in 8 other languages. \$12.95</p>
<p><b>Signing Naturally</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.dawnsign.com/series/details/signing-naturally">https://www.dawnsign.com/series/details/signing-naturally</a></p>	<p>ASL curriculum</p>
<p><b>Deaf Culture: Exploring Deaf Communities in the United States</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.amazon.com/Deaf-Culture-Exploring-Communities-United/dp/1635501733">https://www.amazon.com/Deaf-Culture-Exploring-Communities-United/dp/1635501733</a></p>	<p>Written by Deaf and hearing authors with extensive teaching experience and immersion in Deaf cultures and signed languages, Deaf Culture fills a niche as an introductory textbook that is more inclusive, accessible, and straightforward for those beginning their studies of the Deaf-World.</p>

## Accessibility

Below is a list of accessibility adaptations to consider.

<p><b>Fire Alarm, Smoke Detector, Carbon Monoxide Detector</b></p>	<p>These devices come in two formats: hard-wired, meaning that a professional electrician needs to install it, or ready to be plugged in. The alarms either flash bright strobe lights or emit an extremely loud sound. A single transmitter can be connected to multiple receivers to provide alerting throughout a home or building. Vibration systems are also available.</p>
<p><b>Doorbell Flashers, Alerting Door Device</b></p>	<p>Door signalers let Deaf individuals or individuals who are hard of hearing 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.</p> <p>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 someone is at the door (or needs to use the restroom).</p>
<p><b>Adapted Alarm Clock/Bed Shaker</b></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>Mirrors</b></p>	<p>Mirrors can be placed in strategic locations to extend visual fields, such as seeing someone coming around a corner.</p>
<p><b>Three-Way Light Switches</b></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>Television Related Equipment</b></p>	<p>This may include activating the Closed Captioning features or using amplification devices. A FM signal or loop can also be used to send the television sound directly to the individual's hearing aids.</p>

## Telephone Related Equipment

### There are many options:

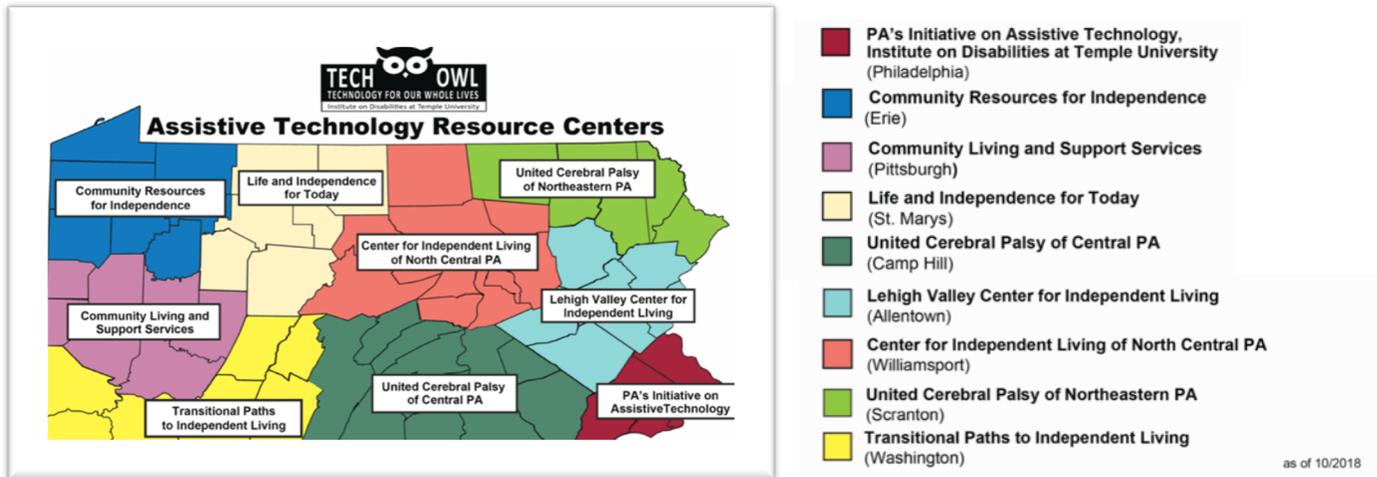
- Amplified telephones
- A T-Coil, this will allow individuals to hear directly over the phone or via a loop or FM through their hearing aid
- Phone signalers. These work by flashing a light or making a very loud sound. They work by being plugged directly into the telephone line and having a lamp connected 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, 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.)

### 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

## Assistive Technology Resource Centers



**Website** <https://techowipa.org/atrc/>

### Telecommunication Device Distribution Program (PA TDDP)

The program has free equipment to help people with disabilities make phone calls. 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 telephone service and have an individual gross income of 200% of Federal Poverty level or less.

**Website** <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 in order to find solutions that work for them. Someone picks the items they want to borrow from our catalog. We ship the items directly to the person. Then we pick the items up at the end of the loan period. If necessary, we support the person during the time of the loan.

**Website** <https://techowipa.org/news/our-lending-library-today/>

### Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation (PATF)

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

**Website** <http://www.patf.us/>

**Social Media**



## iCanConnect

iCanConnect is a special free program to help people who have combined hearing and vision loss to access telephone, advanced communications and information services. There are income requirements for this program. iCanConnect gets people equipment to help them make a phone call, send an email, access the internet, or use other communications tools to talk with family, friends and other people. To be eligible for iCanConnect, you must have *both significant vision and hearing loss*, and meet the program's income guidelines.

**Website**                      <https://techowlpa.org/form/icanconnect/>

## Accessible Phones

Video phones allow the user to communicate with ASL. Captioned telephones 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 and amplified and captioned telephones are available to any individual who is Deaf or hard of hearing frequently at no charge to the individual. The individual has to provide documentation to confirm his/her hearing loss, have a location that provides electricity, and internet access. The captioned telephone also requires that the location have a standard telephone line. The individual is responsible for the cost of electricity, telephone and internet service. The video phone and captioned telephone providers will typically provide free installation, training, onsite and remote 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, click [here](#).

<b>CapTel Captioned Telephone Services</b>	<a href="http://www.captel.com/">http://www.captel.com/</a>
<b>CaptionCall Telephone Services</b>	<a href="https://www.captioncall.com/captioncall">https://www.captioncall.com/captioncall</a>
<b>Convo Video Relay Services</b>	<a href="https://www.convorelay.com/company.html">https://www.convorelay.com/company.html</a>
<b>Purple Video Relay Services</b>	<a href="http://www.purple.us">www.purple.us</a>
<b>Sorenson Video Relay Services</b>	<a href="http://www.sorensonvrs.com">www.sorensonvrs.com</a>
<b>Z Video Relay Services</b>	<a href="https://www.zvrs.com/services/services/vrs">https://www.zvrs.com/services/services/vrs</a>

## Video Conferencing Platform Features Matrix

This [Matrix](#) developed by the Hearing Loss Association of America with a consensus by Deaf, hard of hearing, and DeafBlind consumer advocacy organizations and subject matter experts looks at different applications and their different features and approaches to accessibility.

## Children

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

### Early Intervention Technical Assistance (EITA) Portal

The EITA, Hearing-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. Explore the various resources within this interaction to learn more.

**Website** <https://www.eita-pa.org/low-incidence/hearing-deafness/>

### Family Connections for Language and Learning (FCLL)

The Family Connections for Language and Learning Program serves families of children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing. The program is made up of a team of experienced parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing and deaf/hard of hearing adults. The program mentors:

- Connect with families by text, email, phone, virtual meetings or the family home/ community
- Help families understand hearing loss and the unique needs of children who are deaf and hard of hearing
- Discuss the many language and communication opportunities available
- Provide unbiased information to help families make informed decisions for the child
- Connect to resources, including Early Intervention
- Help parents become an advocate for the child's needs
- Share strategies for collaboration with the professionals who serve the child, including a Care Coordination Plan

**Website** <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](mailto:FamilyConnections@tiu11.org)

### Decision Guide to Communication Choices pamphlet

This [pamphlet](#) from the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Division of Human Development and Disability will help guide the user through the steps in deciding about communication. Deciding which communication method(s) will be best for each child can be stressful. The right choices are up to each family. Discovering what works for the child is truly a work in progress. The child's needs, and those of the family, along with long-term goals for the child, may change with time and families will want to review choices regularly. The communication method chosen at first may not be the last or only choice. The pamphlet will 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 [here](#).

## Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN)

Students who are deaf or hard of hearing have unique linguistic, environmental, and cultural needs. Each student with a hearing loss is an individual with different strengths, talents and communication preferences that must be considered when designing educational programs to facilitate growth and to prepare the student for adult life.

PaTTAN is a project of the Bureau of Special Education in Pennsylvania. PaTTAN provides a full array of professional development and technical assistance targeted to improving student results. This professional development and technical assistance takes many forms in order to meet the varied needs of PaTTAN’s constituents. Some of the resources on the website are:

- Communication considerations for children who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind
- Educational resources for children with hearing loss
- Students who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind: Safety checklist for Individual Education Program (IEP) teams
- Hearing accessibility: Event planning checklist
- Considerations for students who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind: Questions to discuss with your school team
- Technology resources for students who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind

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, in order to improve student achievement. Each regional office serves specific intermediate units.

<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.pattan.net/Disabilities/Deaf-and-Hard-of-Hearing">https://www.pattan.net/Disabilities/Deaf-and-Hard-of-Hearing</a>
<b>West</b>	
<b>Intermediate Units Served</b>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 27, and 28
<b>Phone</b>	(412) 826-2336
<b>Video Phone</b>	Not available
<b>Central</b>	
<b>Intermediate Units Served</b>	8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 29
<b>Phone</b>	(717) 541-4960
<b>Video Phone</b>	(717) 255-0869

East	
<b>Intermediate Units Served</b>	18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26
<b>Phone</b>	(610) 265-7321
<b>Video Phone</b>	(610) 572-3430

### American Society for Deaf Children

The American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC) is committed to empowering diverse families with deaf\* children and youth by embracing full access to language-rich environments through mentoring, advocacy, resources, and collaborative networks.

\*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.

Some of their resources include free ASL posters, deaf mentors, ASL classes and webinars, ASL story time, deaf peers, and ASL stories dictionary.

<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://deafchildren.org">https://deafchildren.org</a>
<b>Social Media</b>	 
<b>Address</b>	PO Box 23, Woodbine, MD 21797
<b>Phone</b>	1-800-942-2732 (ASDC)
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:info@deafchildren.org">info@deafchildren.org</a>

## Foundational Organizations Directory

These agencies, state offices, and organizations are great starting points when looking for resources to support Deaf, hard of hearing, and DeafBlind individuals. They are full of information, infographics, trainings, and contacts to reach out to where there is a wealth of knowledge for these populations.

**For more information on each organization, click their name below.**

[Art-Reach](#)

[Deaf Professional Arts Network](#)

[Deaf Queer](#)

[DeafStone](#)

[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 for DeafBlind Youths and Adults](#)

[My Deaf Therapy](#)

[National Association of the Deaf \(NAD\)](#)

[National Black Deaf Advocates \(NBDA\)](#)

[National Center on DeafBlindness \(NCDB\)](#)

[National Deaf Therapy](#)

National Family Association for DeafBlind and Hearing Loss Association of America

National Hispanic Latino Association of the Deaf

Pennsylvania School for the Deaf

PA Society for the Advancement of the Deaf (PSAD)

People's Light

Pittsburgh Deaf Connection

Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc (RID)

Rochester School for the Deaf

Scranton School for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

State DeafBlind Projects

TechOWL- Technology for Our Whole Lives

Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf

## Art-Reach

Art-Reach is an art service organization, based in Philadelphia, PA that creates, advocates for and expands accessible opportunities in arts and culture so the full spectrum of society is served. 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 to empower the arts and cultural sector and increase cultural accessibility throughout the United States.

**Website** <https://www.art-reach.org>

**Social Media**  

## Deaf Professional Arts Network (DPAN.TV)

The Deaf Professional Arts Network (D-PAN) a nonprofit 501 (c) 3 organization was originally founded to make music and music culture – the predominant shared language and experience of people worldwide – universally accessible by extending its reach to the Deaf and hard of hearing. Since 2006, D-PAN has pioneered the art form of creating high quality American Sign Language (ASL) music videos, translating the lyrics of popular songs through ASL.

D-PAN.tv ([The Sign Language Channel](#)) was formed for a singular, essential purpose: To make quality news and information accessible to both the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community and it's supporters.

**Website** <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, collects and preserves Deaf LGBTQ history, advocates for communication access, and works to support, empower, and bring more visibility to and awareness about marginalized Deaf LGBTQ communities.

**Website** [www.deafqueer.org](http://www.deafqueer.org)

**Social Media** 

## DeafStone

DeafStone is a nonprofit organization within the Deaf, DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing, and Hearing communities. DeafStone provides supports and services for those whose primary language is sign-language. DeafStone is currently the grantee to provide Support Service Provider (SSP) services through the Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. For more information on SSP services, see the [Professionals to Consider Adding to Your Team](#) section.

**Website** <https://deafstone.org/>

### West

**Counties** Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Bedford, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Fayette, Forest, Fulton, Greene, Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Potter, Somerset, Venango, Warren, Washington, Westmoreland

**Email** [SSPWest@DeafStone.org](mailto:SSPWest@DeafStone.org)

**Voice/Text** (412) 616-0061

**Video Phone** (412) 314-4576

### East

**Counties** Adams, Berks, Bradford, Bucks, Carbon, Centre, Chester, Clinton, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Franklin, Juniata, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Lycoming, Mifflin, Monroe, Montgomery, Montour, Northampton, Northumberland, Perry, Philadelphia, Pike, Schuylkill, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Wayne, Wyoming, York

**Email** [SSPEast@DeafStone.org](mailto:SSPEast@DeafStone.org)

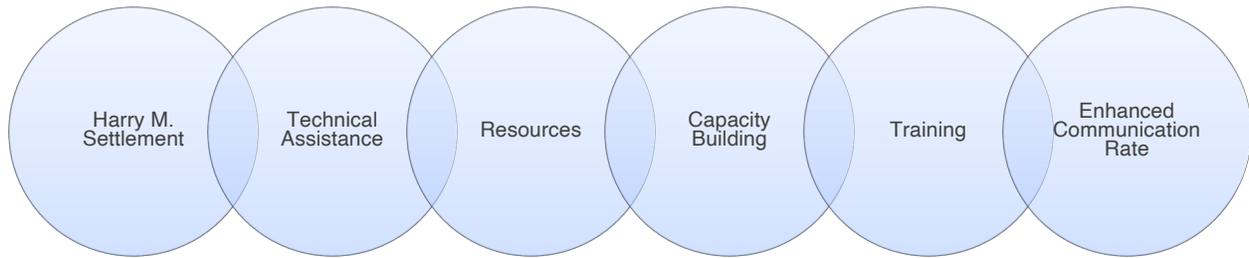
**Voice/Text** (412) 616-0400

**Video Phone** (412) 314-4365

## 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 in order 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 on [MyODP.org](http://www.myodp.org) under Trainings > Special Populations.

To receive emails on pertinent information, resources, Virtual Targeted Trainings (VTT), and Virtual Office Hours (VOH) specific to Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind populations, click the following link to sign up for the listserv: <http://listserv.dpw.state.pa.us/Scripts/wa.exe?SUBED1=odp-deaf-hard-of-hearing-db&A=1>

**Website** [www.myodp.org](http://www.myodp.org)

**Email** [RA-ODPDeafServices@pa.gov](mailto:RA-ODPDeafServices@pa.gov) or [RA-PWSpecialPopUnit@pa.gov](mailto:RA-PWSpecialPopUnit@pa.gov)

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

The mission of the Bureau is to assist 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 services
- Resources

**Website** <https://www.dli.pa.gov/Individuals/Disability-Services/bbvs/Pages/default.aspx>

**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, open doors, explain procedures and make 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 [here](#). Additionally, ODHH oversees the state-funded Support Service Provider (SSP) for DeafBlind.

**Website** <https://www.dli.pa.gov/Individuals/Disability-Services/odhh/Pages/default.aspx>

**Social Media** 

**V/TTY** (717) 783-4912

**Video Phone** (717) 831-1928

**Email** [Ra-li-ovr-odhh@pa.gov](mailto:Ra-li-ovr-odhh@pa.gov)

### Department of Labor and Industry, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)

The Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (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 serves individuals with any disability or disabilities, including specialized services for the blind and visually impaired through OVR's Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services (BBVS) and specialized services for the deaf and hard of hearing through OVR's Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (BVRS). OVR's office directy can be found [here](#).

**Website** <https://www.dli.pa.gov/Individuals/Disability-Services/ovr/Pages/default.aspx>

### Gallaudet University

Gallaudet University is a federally chartered private university for the education of the deaf and hard of hearing located in Washington, D.C. Through Gallaudet University, Deaf ASL-fluent scholars have created ASL Connect and all its content, a central resource for learning ASL and about Deaf Studies online. They offer ways to learn some basic ASL online to get you started, and then offer highly engaging and interactive ASL and Deaf Studies courses online.

**Website** <https://www.gallaudet.edu/asl-connect/asl-for-free/>

**Social Media**  

### Hands UP Productions

Hands UP Productions is committed to providing customer focused, high quality sign language interpreting services for theatrical events. A list of events they will be interpreting can be found at the link above.

**Website** <https://www.handsupproductions.com/calendar>

## HealthBridges

HealthBridges is a website for information about mental health, behavioral health, and social services supports for people who are Deaf, DeafBlind, and 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 American Sign Language, oral English and English.

Mental Health and Behavioral Health Services Resource Directory available.

<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.healthbridges.info">www.healthbridges.info</a>
<b>Social Media</b>	
<b>Email</b>	Complete contact form at: <a href="http://healthbridges.info/?page_id=137">http://healthbridges.info/?page_id=137</a>
<b>Resource Directory</b>	<a href="http://healthbridges.info/directory">http://healthbridges.info/directory</a>

## 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.

HLAA Chapters are a place where individuals with hearing loss will meet others going through the same thing—right in their own community. In these chapters, people share stories, hear guest speakers, get information on technology, and develop lifelong friendships. For more information or to meet others with hearing loss, please reach out to a local chapter. To see if there is an HLAA Chapter, State Organization, State Chapter Coordinator, or Support Group in your area, check out the [map locations](#).

<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.hearingloss.org">https://www.hearingloss.org</a>
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## Helen Keller National Center for DeafBlind Youths and Adults

HKNC's leadership team is committed to fostering self-advocacy and community development, giving people who are deaf-blind the tools to be change agents for themselves and others.

- Peer collaborative virtual learning opportunities
- Deaf-Blind 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

<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.helenkeller.org/hknc">https://www.helenkeller.org/hknc</a>
<b>TTY</b>	(240) 786-6847
<b>Video Phone</b>	(240) 667-7295
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:Cynthia.ingraham@hknc.org">Cynthia.ingraham@hknc.org</a> or <a href="mailto:Carrie.benson@hknc.org">Carrie.benson@hknc.org</a>

### My Deaf Therapy

My Deaf Therapy are experienced clinicians who are ASL fluent, linguistically accessible, and culturally affirmative. They emphasize the importance of inclusivity and embrace diversity and fluidity of various identities on a number of spectrums (e.g., hearing, BIPOC, LGBTQ+, neurodiverse). My Deaf Therapy welcomes D/deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled, late-deafened, and hard of hearing individuals and their families. They also serve hearing clients who know sign language such as KODA/CODAs and interpreters.

<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.mydeaftherapy.com">https://www.mydeaftherapy.com</a>
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### National Association of the Deaf (NAD)

NAD is a civil rights organization by and for deaf and hard of hearing individuals in the USA. Established in 1880, the NAD was shaped by deaf leaders who believed in the right of the American deaf community to use sign language, to congregate on issues important to them, and to have its interests represented at the national level. These beliefs remain true to this day, with American Sign Language as a core value. The advocacy scope of the NAD is broad, covering a lifetime and impacting future generations in the areas of early intervention, education, employment, health care, technology, telecommunications, youth leadership, and more – improving the lives of millions of deaf and hard of hearing Americans.

<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.nad.org/">https://www.nad.org/</a>
<b>Social Media</b>	  
<b>TTY</b>	(301) 587-1789
<b>Video Phone</b>	(301) 587-1788 ZVRS (301) 328-1443 Sorenson (301) 338-6380 Convo (301) 453-2390 Purple
<b>Email</b>	Complete contact form at <a href="https://www.nad.org/contact-nad/">https://www.nad.org/contact-nad/</a>

## National Black Deaf Advcoates

National Black Deaf Advocates (NBDA) is the official advocacy organization for thousands of Black Deaf and Hard of Hearing Americans. NBDA is a growing organization with more than 30 chapters across the country. 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.

**Website** <https://www.nbda.org/>

The 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 deaf-blind projects and other partners to improve educational results and quality of life for children who are deaf-blind and their families. They provide lots of opportunities to learn about deafblindness and instructional practices —online courses, webinars, and self-study modules.

**Website** <https://www.nationaldb.org/>

## National Deaf Therapy

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

**Website** <https://www.nationaldeaftherapy.com>

**Social Media**



## National Family Association for Deaf-Blind (NFABD)

Originally started by and for families, NFADB has expanded to include any interested individuals, professionals, organizations, and agencies that wish to empower the voices of families with individuals who are deaf-blind. The term “deaf-blind” means any combination of hearing and vision loss, occurring at any age, for any number of reasons.

NFADB, in collaboration with the CHARGE Syndrome Foundation and Jennifer Arnott from the Perkins Research Library created deaf-blind resource guides. They are the result of ongoing conversations about the need for resources for adults with deaf-blindness and their families and include an overview of programs, services, and information about specific topics relevant to adults who are deaf-blind. The Overview Guide and Topics Guide can be viewed at the links below.

**Overview guide**     <https://bit.ly/dbadults-overview>

**Topics guide**        <https://bit.ly/dbadults-topics>

**Website**              <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 & customs.

**Website**              <http://www.nhlad.org>

## PA School for the Deaf

The Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (PSD) the third oldest school for Deaf and hard of hearing students in the United States. PSD strives to make the larger community around campus DEAF AWARE! The Community Outreach office does this daily by answering telephone, email, or letter requests for information about deafness, Deaf Culture, and sign language.

**Website**              <http://www.psd.org>

**Social Media**     

**Email**                [info@psd.org](mailto:info@psd.org)

## PA Society for the Advancement of the Deaf (PSAD)

PSAD is one of the oldest state associations for deaf people in the US. It was established in 1881 by Deaf Pennsylvanians. It is an advocacy organization of Deaf Pennsylvanians with a long proud history of advocating for effective access to education, community, work, and government. 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.” Archived announcements can also be viewed from this website by clicking on “View our PSAD News E-Zine.”

### Contact Information:

**Website**              <http://www.psad.org>

**Social Media****Email**[President@psad.org](mailto:President@psad.org)

## People's Light

People's Light aims to make its campus and programming accessible and enjoyable to everyone through a range of accommodations and resources. Every venue and facility at People's Light is wheelchair-accessible. 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. Developed by the National Theatre of Great Britain, Smart Caption Glasses integrate Augmented Reality technology with a new voice-following algorithm that provides real-time captioning for performances.

People's Light also offers relaxed performances which invite and encourage individuals with autism, ADD, ADHD, dementia, and sensory sensitivities to enjoy the performance in their "shush-free" zone.

**Website**<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.

**Social Media**

## Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc (RID)

A national membership organization, plays a leading role in advocating for excellence in the delivery of interpretation and transliteration services between people who use sign language and people who use spoken language. In collaboration with the Deaf community, RID supports our 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.

**Website**<https://rid.org/>

**Social Media**



**Phone** (703) 838-0030

**Video Phone** (571) 257-3957

**Email** [RIDinfo@rid.org](mailto:RIDinfo@rid.org)

### Rochester School for the Deaf

The Rochester School is one of eleven Section 4201 schools created by legislation to educate New York State’s deaf, blind, and severely physically disabled students. They offer ASL classes for the community, and for businesses and organizations.

**Website** <https://www.rsdeaf.org/>

**Social Media**



### The Scranton School for the Deaf

The Scranton School for the Deaf provides academic and extracurricular programs to deaf and hard of hearing children from birth through eighth grade. They offer ASL classes and other services to educate and serve as a resource for individuals with hearing loss.

**Website** <https://thescrantonschool.org/>

**Social Media**



### State DeafBlind Projects

The National Center on Deaf-Blindness has organized each state’s Deaf-Blindness program, which provide a wide range of services to improve results for individuals with deaf-blindness and their families. Each state offers trainings as well.

<https://www.nationaldb.org/state-deaf-blind-projects/>

**Website** Pennsylvania DeafBlind Project:

<https://www.pattan.net/disabilities/deaf-blind>

## TechOWL- Technology for Our Whole Lives

TechOWL serves people of all ages with any disability. We are Pennsylvania's Assistive Technology (AT) Act Program. TechOWL is part of the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University. TechOWL helps people: (1) discover and explore AT devices, gadgets, and tools - (2) consult with a local TechOWL specialist - (3) borrow devices from our lending library and (4) 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.

<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://techowlpa.org/">https://techowlpa.org/</a>
<b>Social Media</b>	  
<b>Address</b>	1301 Cecil B. Moore Ave, Ritter Annex 4, Room 430 Philadelphia, PA 19122
<b>Phone</b>	(800) 204-7428
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:TechOWL@temple.edu">TechOWL@temple.edu</a>

## The Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf

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

<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.wpsd.org/">https://www.wpsd.org/</a>
<b>Social Media</b>	