

## DHHS state-wide offices



A program of the  
Minnesota Department of  
**Human Services**

**Our Vision:**  
Excellence in all we do.  
Equality for all we serve.  
Empowerment for our customers.

**For more information about our services,  
please contact us at:**

**[mn.gov/dhs/deaf-hard-of-hearing/](http://mn.gov/dhs/deaf-hard-of-hearing/)**

Check our website for contact information  
on all DHHS sites or call the number listed  
above for a referral to the office nearest to you.

ADA2 (12-12)

This information is available in accessible formats for  
individuals with disabilities by calling 651-431-5940  
or by using your preferred relay service. For other  
information on disability rights and protections,  
contact the agency's ADA coordinator.

651-431-5940

Attention. If you need free help interpreting this document, call the above number.

ملاحظة: إذا أردت مساعدة مجانية لترجمة هذه الوثيقة، اتصل على الرقم أعلاه.

កំណត់សំគាល់ ៖ បើអ្នកត្រូវការជំនួយក្នុងការបកប្រែឯកសារនេះ ដោយឥតគិតថ្លៃ សូមហៅទូរស័ព្ទតាមលេខខាងលើ ។

Pažnja. Ako vam treba besplatna pomoć za tumačenje ovog dokumenta, nazovite gore naveden broj.

Thov ua twb zoo nyeem. Yog hais tias koj xav tau kev pab txhais lus rau tsab ntaub ntawv no pub dawb, ces hu rau tus najnpawb xov tooj saum toj no.

ໂປຣດຊາບ. ຖ້າຫາກ ທ່ານຕ້ອງການ ການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອໃນການແປເອກະສານນີ້ຟຣີ, ຈົ່ງໂທໄປທີ່ໝາຍເລກຂ້າງເທິງນີ້.

Hubachiisa. Dokumentiin kun bilisa akka siif hiikamu gargaarsa hoo feete, lakkoobsa gubbatti kenname bibili.

Внимание: если вам нужна бесплатная помощь в устном переводе данного документа, позвоните по указанному выше телефону.

Digniin. Haddii aad u baahantahay caawimaad lacag-la'aan ah ee tarjumaadda qoraalkan, lambarka kore wac.

Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para interpretar este documento, llame al número indicado arriba.

Chú ý. Nếu quý vị cần được giúp đỡ dịch tài liệu này miễn phí, xin gọi số bên trên.

LB3-0023 (3-13)

**1 out of 5  
Minnesotans  
has a hearing loss.**

**Do you or does  
someone in your family?**



**Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division  
(DHHS)**  
**Proudly serving Minnesotans  
since 1980.**

## Just the facts

- Hearing loss is not just experienced by older people; 60 percent of people with hearing loss either work or are in an educational setting.
- Hearing loss is the most prevalent injury among returning veterans.
- Twenty percent of Americans over the age of 12 have some degree of hearing loss.
- One out of three people over age 65 and one out of two people over age 75 have a hearing loss.
- Impressive improvements in hearing assistive technology and telecommunication services help individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing live fulfilling and independent lives.
- Deaf culture has its own set of values, norms, traditions, literature and art forms.
- American Sign Language is the third-most widely used language in the U.S.
- Most people who are deaf view themselves as a cultural and linguistic minority and not as a disability group.
- DeafBlindness is a combination of hearing and vision loss that affects a person's ability to communicate with others, get information about the environment, participate in the community and maintain independence.



## Services offered

- **Direct consumer assistance**  
Help to improve communication access for individuals who are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing in their homes and communities. Provide communication tips and coping skills, guidance, problem solving and referrals related to independent living.
- **Services to persons with combined hearing and vision loss**  
Money is available for a limited number of consumers to receive support and technology to address their independent living needs.
- **Training and consultation**  
Interactive training on hearing loss trends, Deaf culture, assistive technology and other topics; on-line training modules and assistance offered to agencies to make their services more accessible to individuals with hearing loss. Training related to empowerment and self-advocacy is offered to consumers.
- **Assistive technology demonstration labs**  
Some offices have labs to demonstrate different types of assistive listening devices, amplified and captioned telephones, visual and tactile signaling devices, and information on apps that may benefit people with hearing loss.
- **Employment technology loans**  
Employers and businesses who employ individuals with hearing loss may borrow, on a short-term loan basis, assistive technology for their employees who have a hearing loss to help improve communication in the workplace.

- **Mental Health**  
Qualified counselors who are fluent in sign language provide culturally affirmative counseling, case coordination, aftercare planning and community placement assistance to individuals and families. A certified peer-support specialist program is also offered to interested individuals seeking assistance.
- **Telephone Equipment Distribution Program (TED)**  
Assistive telephone equipment is available at no cost to eligible Minnesotans who have a hearing loss, speech impairment or physical disability. Oversight of the Minnesota Relay Outreach offering information on various kinds of relay services.
- **Community-based grants**  
Grants to serve individuals who are deafblind, interpreter referral, mental health services, live real-time TV news captioning, and a mentor program for families who have a child who is deaf or hard of hearing are available and awarded to qualifying vendors.



## Who we serve

- Deaf
- DeafBlind
- Hard of hearing
- Late deafened
- Parents and family members of those with a hearing loss
- Human service providers
- Employers and businesses
- Schools
- Interested individuals



**For additional information, visit:**  
[mn.gov/dhs/deaf-hard-of-hearing/](http://mn.gov/dhs/deaf-hard-of-hearing/)  
[mn.gov/dhs/interpreter-referral/](http://mn.gov/dhs/interpreter-referral/)  
[mn.gov/dhs/ted-program/](http://mn.gov/dhs/ted-program/)



### **Our mission:**

Promote equal access and opportunities for Minnesotans with hearing loss through effective communication, collaboration, and direct services.