# DHHSD state-wide offices





## **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/

Check our website for contact information on all DHHSD 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 أر دت مساعدة مجانبة لتر جمة هذه الوثيقة، اتصل على الرقم أعلاه

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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.

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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 vi cần được giúp đỡ dịch tài liệu này miễn phí, xin gọi số bên trên.

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Do you or does someone in your family?



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division (DHHSD)

> 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 selfadvocacy 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

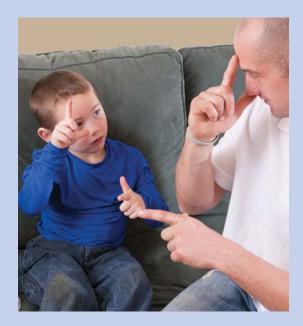
Qualified counselors who are fluent in sign language provide culturally affirmative counseling, case coordination, aftercare planning and community placement assistance to individuals and families. A certified peer-support specialist program is also offered to interested individuals seeking assistance.

#### 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/ mn.gov/dhs/interpreter-referral/ mn.gov/dhs/ted-program/



## **Our mission:**

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