





Communication Access for Individuals Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

No “one-size-fits-all” accommodation at events and meetings

Accommodation	American Sign Language (ASL) Interpretation	Tactile Interpretation	CART Captioning	Assisted Listening Devices	Hearing Loop	Other Considerations
What is it?	Manual communication (visual)	Manual communication (touch)	Communication Access Realtime Translation (speech-to-text interpreting service)	System that transmits sound from a PA system to headset, earbuds, or neck loop receivers.	Audio induction loop that transmits sound to T-coil equipped hearing aids and devices	Microphone/PA system Reserved seating Good lighting
Who uses it?	Deaf	Deaf-Blind	Hard of Hearing, and Late Deafened (who cannot read ASL)	Hard of Hearing	Hard of Hearing	Beneficial for all but insufficient to accommodate hearing loss alone
Where?	Via an interpreter, in person or remote using webcam & Internet	Via an interpreter, in person	Onsite or remote caption writer, text appears on screen	Onsite, where there is a sound system	Wire installed along perimeter of meeting space, connected to sound system	Should be considered everywhere
Other	ASL is a “native language” for many people who are deaf. There is no substitute.	Several variations—often arranged via ASL interpreter service agencies	Also aids English language learners, those with comprehension difficulties, and anyone in a noisy environment	Personal amplification devices usually not suitable for large meetings	Permanent or temporary installations. Also works with T-coil equipped Assisted Listening Devices.	Many people who are hard of hearing depend on multiple inputs (e.g., CART captioning and lip reading).
More Info*	bit.ly/2vaGfyL	bit.ly/2vaGfyL	bit.ly/2yi7MOI	bit.ly/2g3SLFN	loopwashington.org	hearingloss-wa.org
Symbol (variations available online)			 (Use any screen image with CART at center, not a closed captioning symbol.)			

Always include an accommodation statement on event and meeting notices. Here’s one example: “For accessibility information or to request an accommodation, contact NAME at E-MAIL or PHONE#.” Promote your event or meeting early enough to make necessary arrangements (i.e., a minimum of two weeks in advance and longer is much better).

*These URLs are intended for general information in Washington state. For interpreter referrals, contact your organization’s ADA coordinator.