





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	Assistive Listening Systems	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 receivers via headsets, earbuds, neck loops, or telecoil-enabled hearing aids and Cochlear implants.	Audio induction loop that transmits sound to T-coil equipped hearing aids and devices.	Microphone/PA system; reserved seating; and good lighting.
Who uses it?	Deaf	Deaf-Blind	Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened (who cannot read ASL)	Hard of Hearing and those with auditory processing disorders.	Hard of Hearing and those with auditory processing disorders.	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 in looped zone or grid, connected to sound system	Hearing loss and acoustics 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 rely on a combination of line of sight, speech reading, assistive listening, and CART captioning.
More Info*	bit.ly/2yaGfyL	bit.ly/2yaGfyL	bit.ly/2yi7MOI	bit.ly/2g3SLFN	hearingloop.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).

*Several URLs are specific to Washington state. A good national resource is www.hearingloss.org. For interpreter referrals, contact your organization’s ADA coordinator.