

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Friendly Environment

Communication Accessibility Criteria

Effective communication access depends on the circumstances and on the severity of the person's hearing loss.

Hard of Hearing	Deaf
Microphones	Written Communication
Loudspeakers	ASL Interpreter
Induction Loops	SEE Interpreter
FM Systems	Oral Interpreter
Infrared Systems	
Computer Assisted Notetaking	
Real Time Captioning	
Telecommunications Devices for the Deaf (TDD)*	
"State Agencies who use telephones to communicate must provide for the use of TDDs, or equally effective telecommunications systems such as the Telecommunications Relay System (TRS).	

*The Department of Justice (DOJ) indicates that using the relay may not be appropriate in cases of crisis lines pertaining to rape, domestic violence, child abuse, and drugs or to organizations where people need confidentiality. The DOJ also encourages agencies that have extensive contact with the public such as public welfare, social service, or vocational rehabilitation to have TDDs to ensure more immediate access to its services.

Meetings Accessibility Criteria

The coordination and provision of accommodations (for accessibility) is the responsibility of the agency announcing and conducting the meeting. When an auxiliary aid or service is needed, primary consideration shall be given to the request of the person with a disability, unless it can be proven that its provision would result in an alteration of service or undue financial or administrative burden.

The sponsoring agents should consider:

- Communication needs of participants need to be identified in advance.
- Availability of assistive listening systems and assistive technological devices
- Interpreter services should be requested as soon as the meeting date is determined because the availability of interpreters is limited.
- Seating and room requirements, and brightness of meeting rooms.

Source: Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing