

## **Public Venues that should have Assistive Listening Systems**

- Senior centers, community rooms at 55+ communities
- Library meeting rooms
- College and school auditoriums/theaters
- Public rooms at Y's
- Hospital public meeting rooms
- Council/legislative chambers/meetings - town/county/state levels
- Courtrooms (currently have wide area ALDs that are ineffective)
- Theaters - most generally have ALDs
- Museums – exhibits and auditoriums
- Town Hall meetings by the governor
- [Places of worship can't be included, handled by private requests]

## **Background and history on the issues and technologies, different kinds of hearing disabilities, potential remedies and solutions - looping and other accessibility technologies**

Hearing Loss Spectrum – normal, mild, moderate, severe, profound

Communication modes:

Deaf (capital D) – use ASL (sign language)

All others – deaf/hard of hearing - use hearing aids/cochlear implants and rely on assistive listening devices, captioning

Gallaudet figures – 98% with hearing loss DO NOT use sign language

Nationally, about 500,000 use sign language. About 40 million with hearing loss do not.

NJ population – currently about one million with hearing loss

ADA requires assistive listening systems in public venues –

Three types:

Infrared, FM – require receivers for all users

Loop systems – require no receivers for people who have t-coils in their hearing aids and cochlear implant processors – many benefits, ease of use, no extra equipment, can serve large numbers, discreet

Behavioral traits of people with hearing loss – don't usually know what they are entitled to, what accommodations exist, and even when they do know, rarely ask for them. Looping addresses these traits.

**Open captioning (OC)** is universal access for all people with hearing loss.