



Making Your Community Accessible to People with HEARING LOSS



Like other caring communities, you probably offer wheelchair ramps, automatic doors and other accommodations to help people with disabilities enjoy equal access to community services and events.

But what are you doing to meet your ADA requirement to ensure inclusion for people with hearing loss?

FACT: Almost one million New Jersey residents* struggle with hearing loss.

- Many rely on hearing aids or cochlear implants for help with communication.
- A *small* percentage - around 2%* - use American Sign Language (ASL) to communicate.

FACT: Hearing loss affects people of all ages.

- 25% of people over 60 suffer hearing loss. *
- It is the major medical problem affecting young combat veterans. *
- Increasingly, young people experience permanent hearing problems from over-exposure to loud noise.




FACT: Participation in community events/Interaction with municipal staff can be challenging.

- Large meeting areas
- Background noise
- People speaking softly
- Several people speaking at once

Courtrooms, Municipal Offices, Libraries, Public Meetings, Outdoor Events, Emergency Preparedness -

How are you making these accessible for citizens with hearing loss?

Solutions include:

- **Hearing/Induction Loops** - assistive listening system recommended for public venues 
- **Captioning** - various types for different situations 
- **American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreters** 

FYI: Now internationally recognized as the “access ramp” to community inclusion for most people with hearing loss, **Hearing Loops** are easily installed and deliver a speaker’s voice directly to a listener’s hearing aids or cochlear implant. For full information - <https://www.hearingloss.org/programs-events/get-hearing-loop/>

If your municipality needs help selecting short- or long-term solutions to meet its ADA hearing-assistance requirements, the **NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing** can refer you to resources.

They can also do trainings for your staff members. <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddhh/>

One of those resources is the **Hearing Loss Association of America - NJ State Assn (HLAA-NJ)**

HLAA-NJ can be reached at info@hearingloss-nj.org

*For fact sources/documentation, visit www.hearingloss-nj.org