

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.