

Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Serving the Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened Community

Why We Are Here

The Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing encompasses several statewide programs that provide a wide range of services for Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled, Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened and Speech Disabled individuals, their families, and service providers in Washington State. ODHH reviews and advocates for policy reform within Washington State to ensure that the state's public policies are accessible, appropriate, inclusive and ADA compliant. Program services range from various technologies, trainings, consultations, contract management, information, referrals, and resources with the mission of promoting communication equity. ODHH collaborates with federal, state, and local governments, as well as with stakeholders and community members to ensure that all state services and resources are accessible to and inclusive of this diverse community.

Our History

In 1979, DSHS established the "Deaf Services Coordinator" position with the intention of serving the Deaf population of Washington State. Over the past forty years, this single position has evolved into the Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, a division with its own staff of 15 people and a budget of over \$5 million, serving all individuals with hearing loss in Washington State.

Who We Are

ODHH serves as a multifaceted program that provides accessibility, resources, and services to community members throughout Washington State, in collaboration with Aging and Long-Term Support Administration (AL TSA) within the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS).

Who We Serve

ODHH services are available to people of any age who are Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled, Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened and Speech Disabled individuals to ensure equal communication access promoting self-sufficiency. ODHH also serves in a consultation and advisory role to all state agencies that support community members with hearing loss.

What We Do

Since 1979, ODHH has expanded to include these services: interpreter contracts, information and resources, assistive communication technology, telecommunication relay services, telecommunication equipment distribution, trainings and presentations for community members, social and health services (including seven regional service centers), and communication access modalities and education trainings for service providers.

Learn more about ODHH and our work at

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/odhh>

ODHH General Contact Information

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Transforming lives

Where We Are Located

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ODHH Contacts

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ODHH Programs and Services

Hard of Hearing Consultation and Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trainings for Service Providers - Consultation and resources for individuals with hearing loss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential Care Services • Nursing Homes • Senior Centers • DSHS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Agencies on Aging • Hearing Loss Resources • Home and Community Services
Communication Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assistive Technology and Equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistive Communication Technology • Telecommunication Relay Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telecommunication Equipment Distribution
Community Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsorships • Information and Referral • Teens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribal Liaison • E-news • Senior Citizens
Sign Language Interpreter Contracts and Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contracts - Trainings - Resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign Language Interpreters • Court Certifications • Qualified Deaf Interpreters • DeafBlind Interpreting • Interpreter knowledge and skills training • Certified Deaf Interpreters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health Interpreting • American Sign Language Proficiently Interview for Dual Language • Interpreter Resources • Interpreter Rates • Video Remote Interpreting
Social and Human Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocacy and Case Management Services - DeafBlind Support Services - Family Resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Service Centers • DeafBlind Service Center • Support Service Providers • Facilitation Service • Family Mentor Service • Family Mentors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSDC – Bellingham • HSDC – Seattle • HSDC – Tacoma • WADHH – Spokane • WADHH – TriCities • WADHH - Vancouver
Trainings and Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training and presentation opportunities for community members and stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Justice • Anti-Racism • Skill Building • Leadership Development • Community Empowerment • Consumer Advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative Education and Training • Communication Facilitators • Family Mentors