2008-2009

Resource Directory

For *MINNESOTA* Families of Children
Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

MINNESOTA
HANDS & VOICES™

Lifetrack
Resources

Resource Directory

For *MINNESOTA* Families of Children
Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Table of Contents

Welcome 3

Note to Parents Whose Children
Have Been Recently Diagnosed 4

Minnesota Organizations .....5 - 25

National Organizations.....26 - 40

Welcome!

This list of organizations has been created by MN Hands & Voices at Lifetrack Resources to let parents know about some of the most important resources available to them. Information is current as of September 2008. Our directory is updated annually. This list is not exhaustive, and details about organizations can quickly become outdated. We encourage you to contact the organizations directly for the most current and comprehensive information. Organizations located in Minnesota are listed first, followed by a list of national organizations. Specific staff contacts are given for Minnesota-based organizations where available and appropriate.

If you are the parent of a child who has recently been diagnosed with a hearing loss, please see our special note to you on the next page.

You may note that when the word "deaf" is used, sometimes the "d" is capitalized, sometimes it is not. For the most part, we are simply using whatever capitalization practice is used by the organization that submitted the directory entry. "Deaf" is sometimes used to denote a Deaf cultural perspective, whereas "deaf" is more often used as a term referring to the individual's hearing status.

Three other directories may also be helpful to parents who are looking for additional resources:

For more on Minnesota-based organizations: See, The Professional and Consumer Resource Guide for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People published by Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services – Metro of the Minnesota Department of Human Services. This directory includes information on churches, synagogues, housing, senior services and many other services offered by organizations in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

To obtain a copy, call 651-297-1316 (V) or 651-297-1313 (TTY) or download at:
http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/disabilities/documents/pub/DHS_id_018937.pdf

There is also a statewide resource guide available at:
http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/disabilities/documents/pub/DHS_id_018938.pdf

For a directory of Twin City schools serving deaf or hard of hearing students, see the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Fact sheet:
http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/disabilities/documents/pub/DHS_id_018478.pdf

For more on national organizations: The Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center has compiled an extensive list of national and nonprofit organizations relevant to people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. For a copy, visit:
http://clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/InfoToGo/184.html
For people without computer access, call (202) 651-5051.

We welcome your comments and questions. Please contact us at:

MN Hands & Voices
Lifetrack Resources
709 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55104-4804
(651) 265-2435 (V)
(651) 265-2379 (TTY)
(866) 261-0857 (VP)

Toll-Free 1-866-DHOHKID
Toll- Free TTY 866-857-2379
mnhv@lifetrackresources.org
Website: www.mnhandsandvoices.org

Note to Parents Whose Children Have Been Recently Diagnosed With A Hearing Loss

Has your child recently been diagnosed with a hearing loss? If so, this resource directory may seem a bit overwhelming. There are so many issues and services under the general umbrella of "deaf and hard of hearing" that it is sometimes confusing to know what is relevant for your particular child and family.

We have some good ideas about where you might want to start. Specifically, these four organizations can be especially helpful to parents who have just found out that their child is deaf or hard or hearing.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS): page 9
Help Me Grow Infant and Toddler Intervention Services and Preschool Education: page 12
MN Hands & Voices at Lifetrack Resources: page 14
PACER Center: page 22

These organizations have relevant information and services for you and your family whether your child:

- Has a hearing loss that is mild, moderate, severe, or profound;
- Has a hearing loss that is in one ear (unilateral) or both (bilateral).

These groups are also useful to your family whether you:

- Are already knowledgeable about deaf and hard of hearing issues, or have never met a deaf or hard of hearing person;
- Are considering oral communication, sign language, cueing, and/or any other communication systems; and/or
- Want more information, just want to talk with someone about your child, and/or want referrals for places to get additional information.

For information and links to information on specific topics, please see our website at www.mnhandsandvoices.org. Topics covered there include:

- Understanding hearing loss
- Communication options
- Education resources
- American Deaf culture
- Medical alternatives
- Hard of hearing children
- Fact Sheets
- Family Stories/Parent Welcome Letters
- Newsletter
- Resource Directory

MINNESOTA ORGANIZATIONS

Organization	**Page #**
Alexander Graham Bell Association – MN Chapter	6
Bridge to Benefits	6
Charles Thompson Memorial Hall	6
College of St. Catherine	7
Courage Center	7
CSD of Minnesota	8
Cued Speech Association of Minnesota, Inc.	8
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS), MN Department of Human Services	9
DeafBlindInfo.org	9
Deaf Blind Services of Minnesota	10
Dynamic Communications, Inc.	10
Greater Minnesota Assessment Service at Lifetrack Resources	11
Harris Communications	11, 31
Health and Wellness Program Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, Regions Hospital	11
Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota	12
Hearing Loss Association of America: Twin Cities Chapter (HLAA)	12
Help Me Grow Infant and Toddler Intervention Services (includes Preschool Special Education)	12
InterpreterReferral.org (website only)	13
Merriam Park Branch Library	13
Midwest Center on Law and the Deaf	13, 33
MN Hands & Voices at Lifetrack Resources	14, 30
Minnesota Academy of Audiology (MAA)	14
Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens, Inc.	15
Minnesota Chemical Dependency Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals	15
Minnesota Commission Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People	15
Minnesota Deaf Blind Technical Assistance Project	16
Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)	16-17
Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)	18
Minnesota Department of Health/Children With Special Health Needs (MCSHN)	18
Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Newborn Hearing Screening Program	19
Minnesota Department of Human Services	19
Minnesota Disability Law Center	20
Minnesota Regional Low Incidence Facilitators	20
Minnesota Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf	21
Minnesota Relay	21
Minnesota Resource Center: Deaf/Hard of Hearing	21
Minnesota Special Education Mediation Service (MNSEMS)	22
Minnesota Speech Language Hearing Association (MSHA)	22
PACER Center (Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights)	22
St. Paul/Mpls Black Deaf Advocates (BDA) #25	23
St. Paul College	23
TCDeaf.com (website only)	23
Telephone Equipment Distribution (TED) Program	24
University of Minnesota Department of Speech Language-Hearing Sciences	24
Volunteers of America – Mental Health Clinics	25

Alexander Graham Bell Association – MN Chapter

(Minnesota Chapter of the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing)

Website: www.agbell.org/mn/
Email: agbellmn@yahoo.com

The Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (AG Bell) is a lifelong resource, support network and advocate for listening, learning, talking and living independently with hearing loss. Through publications, advocacy, training, scholarships and financial aid, AG Bell promotes the use of spoken language and hearing technology. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., with chapters located in the United States and a network of international affiliates, AG Bell's global presence provides its members and the public with the support they need – close to home.

Bridge to Benefits

Children's Defense Fund Minnesota
555 Park Street, Suite 410
St. Paul, MN 55103
Phone: 651-227-6121
Fax: 651-227-2553

Website: www.bridgetobenefits.org
Contact: Ryan Johnson, Outreach Specialist
Email: johnson@cdf-mn.org or call 651-855-1175

Children's Defense Fund Minnesota maintains a free eligibility screening website called Bridge to Benefits. The website screens for eligibility in seven public programs and two tax credits. By answering a few easy questions, you can see which programs you are eligible for and learn how to apply.

You can use the website to:

- Find public programs that help pay for health care, child care, food, school meals and energy bills - plus tax credits that could give you cash back or reduce how much you pay at tax time
- Print out applications to apply for seven public programs
- Find out where you can get help with completing applications
- Find out where to turn in applications in your community
- Learn about other resources to help you or your family

Charles Thompson Memorial Hall

1824 Marshall Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104
(651) 644-3455 (TTY)

Thompson Memorial Hall has served as a social and cultural meeting house for the Deaf community for over 80 years.

Services include: meeting rooms, game rooms, a bar/snack area, large dining room, and upper-story assembly hall.

College of St. Catherine*

ASL/Interpreting Program

Website:http://minerva.stkate.edu/offices/academic/bainterpreting.nsf
Email: plgajewski-mickelson@stkate.edu

Contact the Department:
Call (651) 690-6035
Email: plgajewski-mickelson@stkate.edu

For admissions and financial aid information you may also call:
(651) 690-8649 or (800) 945-4599
Email: admissions@stkate.edu

The College of St. Catherine is a liberal arts college. ASL and interpreting classes are offered as part of the ASL and Interpreting major programs, although many non-majors take ASL to fulfill their foreign language requirement. The college has a unique focus on health care interpreting, and also provides resources related to Deaf/Blind and educational interpreting.

Services include: ASL classes and information about health care interpreting.

* College of St. Catherine will become St. Catherine University starting June 1, 2009.

Courage Center

3915 Golden Valley Road
Minneapolis, MN 55422
763-588-0811
Programs and services: 763-520-0312
Fax: 763-520-0577

Website: www.couragecenter.org
Email: courageinfo@couragecenter.org

Courage Center is a nonprofit rehabilitation and resource center that advances the lives of children and adults experiencing barriers to health and independence. At Courage Center, we specialize in treating brain injury, spinal cord injury, stroke, chronic pain, autism, and disabilities experienced since birth. Founded in 1928, Minneapolis-based Courage Center offers advanced technologies and innovation provided in part through the effort of thousands of volunteers and donors.

Services include: speech, hearing and language therapy, and camp programs for deaf/hard of hearing children.

CSD of Minnesota

2055 Rice St.
Saint Paul, MN 55113
(651) 297-6700 (V/TTY)
(877) 456-7589 (Toll Free)
(651) 487-8880 (FAX)

Website: www.c-s-d.org

Interpreter Referral Service: (651) 224-6548

CSD of Minnesota is a branch office of CSD, formerly known as Communication Service for the Deaf, Inc., a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to providing broad-based services, ensuring public accessibility and increasing public awareness of issues affecting deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

Services include: adult education (ages 18 and older), high school diploma, citizenship training, refugee community services, health education, domestic violence case management, interpreting on-line (IO), recreational programs, and statewide interpreter referral services.

Cued Speech Association of Minnesota, Inc.

6017 Kellogg Avenue
Edina, MN 55424

Website: www.cuedspeechminnesota.org
Contact: Katherine Burns-Christenson
Email: kbc29@aol.com
Phone: (952) 929-3965

The Cued Speech Association of Minnesota provides information and support regarding the use of Cued Speech for deaf and hard-of hearing children in educational and social settings. Services include: information and research sheets about Cued Speech; family, professional, national, and educational contacts; social events; Cued Speech transliterator certification information; Cued Speech workshops; quarterly newsletter; and Cued Speech camp.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS)

Minnesota Department of Human Services
DHHS Metro:
Site address:
130 East Seventh Street
St. Paul, MN
(651) 297-1316 (V / VP) Metro Area
(888) 206-6513 (TTY) Metro Area

Website: www.dhhsd.org
Email: dhhs.metro@state.mn.us

Mailing address:
Human Services Bldg.
444 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-3814

For the phone and addresses of DHHS Offices in other areas of the state, call the metro office or visit the website for the location of the DHHS Office nearest you.

DHHS provides information, resources, and empowerment opportunities to assist deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing Minnesotans and their families effectively access services in their communities. Eight regional DHHS offices serve Minnesotans of any age who are deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened, or deaf/blind, as well as parents and family members, public and private service providers, employers and businesses, and other interested individuals and the community at large. DHHS is part of the Minnesota Department of Human Services (see separate listing).

Services include: information and referral, direct client assistance, consultation, trainings, a technology lab, videotape/DVD lab, and interpreter referral information. DHHS also operates a Telephone Equipment Distribution (TED) Program that provides special telephone equipment at no cost to people who have a hearing loss, speech impairment, or physical disability that limits one's ability to dial or hold a standard phone. See separate listing for TED in this directory.

DeafBlindInfo.org (Website only)

Website: www.deafblindinfo.org

DeafBlindInfo.org is an online directory of worldwide resources for and about people with combined vision and hearing loss. The website was developed with a grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division. Its goal is to inform and empower adults, youth, families and senior citizens with dual sensory impairment.

Services include: information about Minnesota resources for people who are deafblind; consumer guides targeted to adults, transition-age youth, parents and families and senior citizens; links to Minnesota's human services; a "Frequently Asked Questions" section about deafblindness; a vast collection of information on topics ranging from identification of a dual sensory impairment, language development for deafblind children, disability laws and advocacy resources, technology aids for vision and hearing loss, as well as links to resources in other states around the nation and across the world.

DeafBlind Services of Minnesota

1936 Lyndale Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 362-8454 (V)
(612) 362-8422 (TTY)

Website: www.dbsm.org
Contact: John Filek, Children, Youth, & Family Serv
Email: filekj@dbsm.org

DeafBlind Services of Minnesota aims to assist Deaf/Blind children and adults in reaching their highest level of independence. The Children, Youth and Family Services (CYFS) program serves Deaf/Blind children from birth through early childhood.

Services include: development of an Individual Goal Activity plan that is implemented with the help of Interveners who meet with children and youth on a weekly basis. Programs and services are tailored to meet each individual's goals and needs.

Dynamic Communications, Inc./ASL Interpreting Services

6517 Hunter Road
Corcoran, MN 55340-9632
(763) 478-8963 (V)
(763) 478-3093 (TTY)
Toll Free: (866) ASL-DEAF

Website: www.aslis.com
Email: melissa@aslis.com

Dynamic Communications, Inc. provides "energetic seminars that enhance communications between Deaf and hearing employees." They also provide consultations on Deafness, cultural issues, and the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), and operate ASL Interpreting Services. ASL Interpreting Services, an interpreter referral agency, is a sister company of Dynamic Communications.

Services include: in-house training programs, sign language instruction, public seminars, consulting, job coaching, and ADA consulting and equipment. ASL Interpreting Services locates interpreters for a wide range of settings, such as business events, medical appointments, school meetings, funerals, and musical/theatrical events.

Greater MN Assessment Services at Lifetrack Resources

Lifetrack Resources
709 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55104-4804
Toll Free Voice: (866) 840-0749
Toll Free TTY: (866) 857-2379
Contact: Kim Opat

Website: www.lifetrackresources.org
Email: GMAS@lifetrackresources.org

The Greater Minnesota Assessment Service provides psychological assessments to Deaf, Hard of Hearing or DeafBlind individual's age's birth to 21 residing in Greater Minnesota. This service is funded through a grant under the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service Division.

Services include: in addition of providing psychological assessments, the GMAS also provides support services such as large or small group presentations and resource development to families, professionals and agencies. Contact the Greater Minnesota Assessment Service for additional information or to refer for services.

Harris Communications

(See listing under "National Organizations")

Health and Wellness Program Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People

Regions Hospital Mail stop: 11302C
640 Jackson Street
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 254-4786 (V/TTY)
(651) 254-1888 TTY answering machine
Toll Free: (888) 322-2354 (V/TTY)

Website: www.RegionsHospital.com
Click on "specialty services" and then click on "Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services"
Email: Kristen.L.Swan@healthpartners.com

The Health and Wellness Program is part of the Behavioral Health Department at Regions Hospital. The staff is fluent in American Sign Language and interpreters are available to help patients access the full range of medical care.

Services include: a full range of outpatient mental health services for children and adults who are either deaf, deafblind, or hard-of-hearing; community education and training, and consultation with other providers. Psychologists are available to work with hearing parents of deaf and hard of hearing children regarding a range of issues, including issues related to the child's hearing loss.

Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota

2537 25th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55406
(612) 729-5986 (V)
(612) 729-5914 (FAX/TTY)

Website: www.hsdm.org
Email: info@hsdm.org

Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota is dedicated to "helping Minnesotans who are deaf, hard of hearing or disabled to become more independent and self confident by pairing them with specially trained dogs that alert the person to important sounds or assist them in living more independently."

Services include: provision of the dog, training, medical treatment during training, supplies, food and ongoing support to each client, free of charge. The hearing dog alerts a deaf person to sounds by making physical contact with the person and then leading them to the source of sound (e.g., doorbell, alarm clock, smoke detector, intruder).

Hearing Loss Association of America: Twin Cities Chapter (HLAA TC)

PO Box 8037
Minneapolis, MN 55408-0037
(763) 537-7558 (V, TTY, CapTel)

Website: www.hlaatc.org
Contact: Merrilee Knoll
Email: rknoll5200@aol.com

Meetings: HLAA TC holds meetings each month (except June, July and Aug.) on the 3rd Sat. of the month. Our meetings run from 9:30 AM to Noon on the first floor of the Courage Center. See signs on the wall for directions to the meeting room. The Courage Center is located at 3915 Golden Valley Road in Golden Valley, MN 55422.

Help Me Grow Infant and Toddler Intervention Services (Birth – 3 years) and Preschool Special Education (3 – 5 years)

Toll Free: 1-866-693-GROW (4769)

Website: http://MNParentsKnow.info
(The Help Me Grow section is in the process of being developed)

Early intervention programs are the first call parents should make upon learning that their child has special needs. The programs help children ages birth through five and their families obtain a range of services such as developmental screening, special education, physical therapy, speech therapy, family support, and education.

InterpreterReferral.org (website only)

Website: www.InterpreterReferral.org
Email: DHHS.Interpreter@state.mn.us
(651) 431-3253

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division (DHHS) at the Minnesota Department of Human Services operates this website. It is a valuable source of information about sign language interpreters, how to use them and how to find them.

Services include: locating a sign language interpreter in Minnesota, locating an interpreter for an emergency, information about how to work with a sign language interpreter, information about services for deaf, hard of hearing and deaf/blind individuals, and information about federal and state laws related to communication access and interpreters.

Merriam Park Branch Library

1831 Marshall Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55104
(across the street from Charles Thompson Hall)
(651) 642-0385 (V)
(651) 298-4184 (TTY)

Website: www.stpaul.lib.mn.us
Contact: Linda Valen
Email: Linda.Valen@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Merriam Park Branch Library maintains a Deaf and Hard of Hearing Collection of books, magazines, DVD's and videotapes for children and adults related to such issues as American Sign Language, hearing loss, and Deaf heritage. The library also collaborates with several organizations to improve library access for deaf and hard of hearing people.

Services include: library materials are available to anyone with a current library card from a public library in Minnesota, and may also be requested through interlibrary loan through your local library. An online catalog lists the materials in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Collection by title, author, and subject. In addition, the library offers "Children's Storytimes" with a deaf storyteller and other special events.

Midwest Center on Law and the Deaf

(See listing under "National Organizations")

MN Hands & Voices at Lifetrack Resources

709 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55104-4804
(651) 265-2435 (V)
(651) 265-2379 (TTY)
Toll Free: (866) DHOHKID (346-4543)
Toll Free TTY: (866) 857-2379
Video Phone: (866) 261-0857

Website: www.mnhandsandvoices.org
Email: mnhv@lifetrackresources.org

MN Hands & Voices mission is to build better lives for children who are deaf and hard of hearing by providing parent-to-parent support to families throughout Minnesota. There are nine Parent Guides in the state, and six located outside the metro, to assist families. Parents contacting MN Hands & Voices can obtain information about a wide variety of topics such as American Sign Language, educational options, cued speech, parenting, cochlear implants and auditory training.

Services include: information and referral, lending library, newsletter, educational and social programs, fact sheets, a resource directory, and connections to other parents with hard of hearing or deaf children. The program's website has many sections that can assist families in better understanding key issues and options. Parents can view an online copy of the resource directory and lending library at www.mnhandsandvoices.org. MN Hands & Voices is a chapter of the National Hands & Voices organization. Their website can be viewed at www.handsandvoices.org.

Minnesota Academy of Audiology

P.O. Box 20103
Bloomington, MN 55420
(612) 250-0305

Website: www.minnesotaaudiology.org

The Minnesota Academy of Audiology (MAA) is organized for the purpose of promoting the public good by fostering the growth, development, recognition, and status of the profession of Audiology and its members.

MAA is dedicated to providing quality hearing and balance care to our patients by enhancing our members to achieve practice objectives through education, legislation, and increased public awareness of hearing and balance disorders.

Services include: MAA provides referral information for individuals and their families who need assistance with hearing and balance issues. Our outreach efforts include low cost hearing screenings at area health fairs, such as the MN State Fair. We also provide continuing education opportunities for Audiologists.

Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens, Inc. (MADC)

532 Snelling Ave S
St Paul, MN 55116

Website: www.minndeaf.org
Contact: Emory K. Dively, President
Email: president@minndeaf.org

MADC is a non-profit organization serving and representing Minnesotans who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Services include: advocating for the social, cultural and economic status of people in Minnesota with hearing loss, and protecting their rights as citizens.

Minnesota Chemical Dependency Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals

2450 Riverside Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55454
(612) 273-4402 (V/TTY/VP)
(866) 928-5713 (VP)
Toll Free: (800) 282-3323 (V/TTY)

Website: www.fairview.org/mncddeaf
Email: deafhoh1@fairview.org

The Minnesota Chemical Dependency Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals is a specialized program designed to meet the communication and cultural needs of deaf and hard of hearing persons.

Services include: individual and group therapy, lectures, spirituality group, recreational therapy, grief group, vocational rehabilitation education sessions, participation in Twelve Step groups, comprehensive assessment services and aftercare planning.

Minnesota Commission Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People

130 East 7th St.
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 297-7305 (V/TTY)

Website: www.mncdhh.com
Contact: Mary Hartnett, Executive Director
Email: Mary.Hartnett@state.mn.us

Mailing Address: 444 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-3814

The Minnesota Commission Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People is an independent governor-appointed commission that advises the governor, the legislature, and state agencies on public policy issues pertaining to deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind children, youth and adults.

Services include: The Commission provides advocacy when there is evidence of a pattern of discrimination or noncompliance with the ADA, the Human Rights Act, or IDEA. It also works with deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing people to recommend changes in public policy that result in improved education, accessibility and employment. It recommends and lobbies for legislation on behalf of and with deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind individuals and groups. The Commission does not provide direct services or information and referral.

Minnesota DeafBlind Technical Assistance Project

Metro ECSU
3055 Old Highway 8
Suite 302
St. Anthony, MN 55418
(612) 638-1525 (V)
(612) 706-0808 (TTY)
Toll Free: (800) 848-4905

Website: www.dbproject.mn.org

Contact: Sally Prouty, Family Support
Email: mndb@skypoint.com
(612) 638-1525

Cathy Lyle, Education Consultant
Email: Cathy.Lyle@metroecsu.org
(612) 638-1526

The Minnesota DeafBlind Technical Assistance Project is a team of dedicated individuals committed to supporting services to children and youth with a combined vision and hearing loss throughout the state.

Services include: support services for families, workshops, materials resource center, technical assistance and training.

Minnesota Department of Education

Minnesota Department of Education
1500 Highway 36 West
Roseville, MN 55113-4266
(651) 582-8200 V
(651) 582-8201 TTY
Website: http://education/state/mn.us/html/mde_home.htm

Early Learning Section:
http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Learning_Support/Early_Learning_Services/index.htm
Help Me Grow Information and Referral: 1-866-693-GROW (4769)

Contacts:
Kathy Anderson, Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Coordinator
(651) 582-8244
Kathy.A.Anderson@state.mn.us

Mary Cashman-Bakken, D/HH Specialist
(800) 657-3936 (V/TTY)
(800) 575-1105 (VP)
Mary.cashman-bakken@state.mn.us

Marty Smith, Coordinator, Help Me Grow: Infant and Toddler Intervention
(651) 582-8883
Marty.Smith@state.mn.us

Lisa Backer, Coordinator, Help Me Grow: Preschool Special Education
(651) 582-8473
Lisa.Backer@state.mn.us

Minnesota Department of Education (continued)

The Minnesota Department of Education works to help communities measurable improve the well-being of children through programs that focus on education, community services, prevention, and the preparation of young people for the world of work.

Early intervention services and preschool special education are provided for eligible children ages birth to five years. For children age birth through two years of age, Help Me Grow Infant and Toddler Intervention Services are provided to eligible children and their families through Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP). Under three years of age, a child is eligible for services with a certain level of diagnosed permanent hearing loss. The child does not need to show any delays. Following an evaluation of the child's development and discussion of the family's needs and goals, each family's IFSP is developed by parents/caregivers and early intervention professionals from a variety of different agencies and support organizations as appropriate to each child. In addition to ongoing developmental assessments, early intervention may include home visits by early intervention educators, assistive technology, help with accessing county social services, parent-to-parent support, information about local, state, and national resources—and a host of other family-focused services. Children ages 3-5 years may be eligible to receive preschool special education services that vary according to the needs of the child.

Other services provided through the Minnesota Department of Education include assistance in dispute resolution to resolve conflicts between parents and schools regarding eligibility and provision of services. In addition, the Department of Education participates in an interagency effort to screen all children for hearing loss at birth and provide infants who have been diagnosed with hearing loss early intervention services by 6 months of age. (i.e. see entry for Minnesota Department of Health Newborn Hearing Screening Program)

An interactive website developed by the Minnesota Department of Education, http://MNParentsKnow.info, provides a wealth of information for parents and the public, including topics specific to parent needs and concerns related to child development, learning and health. It also provides interactive tools that parents can use to find Minnesota-specific information and resources.

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)

1st National Bank Building
332 Minnesota Street, Suite E200
Saint Paul, MN 55101-1351

Website: http://www.deed.state.mn.us/index.htm

(651) 297-1291, 800-657-3858, 888-GET-JOBS,
TTY/TDD: (651) 296-3900

Contact: Rubin Latz, Rehabilitation Program Specialist/State Coordinator for Services to Persons Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
Email: rubin.latz@state.mn.us

(651) 259-7362 (V)
(651) 296-9141 (TTY)
216.160.0.132 (VP)

Vocational Rehabilitation's mission is to assist Minnesotans with disabilities to reach their goals for working and living in the community.

Services include: parents and families of transition-age youth can find a variety of school-to-work support and services (e.g., assessment, counseling, career planning, post-secondary training, assistive technology, job placement), delivered through a team of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialist counselors at various locations. Transition, vocational rehabilitation, independent living, and extended employment services are offered through WorkForce Centers across the state. Visit www.mnwfc.org/field to see a listing of local services, hours, area links and map to the office closest to you.

Minnesota Department of Health Minnesota Children With Special Health Needs

85 E. 7th Place
PO Box 64882
St. Paul, MN 55164-0882
(651) 201-3650 (VO/IP)
Toll Free: (800) 728-5420 (V/TTY)

Website: www.health.state.mn.us
Contact: John Hurley
Email: john.hurley@health.state.mn.us

The Minnesota Department of Health's (MDH) Children With Special Health Needs program provides numerous services to families with deaf and hard of hearing children.

Services include: information and assistance and an array of services through Part C (an interagency family-centered program for infants and toddlers that includes assessment and evaluation, assistive technology and therapy). MDH resources also include the booklet "Guidelines of Care for Children with Special Health Care Needs – Deaf and Hard of Hearing" In addition, MDH participates in an interagency effort to screen all children for hearing loss at birth (see separate entry for Newborn Hearing Screening Program).

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Newborn Hearing Screening Program

Website: www.health.state.mn.us/newbornscreening

Yaoli Li, M.D., M.S., M.A., CCC-A
EHDI Program Coordinator
(651) 201-3750
Email: yaoli.li@state.mn.us

Nicole Brown, M.S., PHN, CPNP
EHDI Follow Up Coordinator
(651) 201-3737
Email: Nicole.brown@state.mn.us

P.O. Box 64882
St. Paul, MN 55164-0882

MDH's goal is to assure hearing screening before hospital discharge, audiologic assessment by 3 months of age, and intervention by 6 months of age ("1-3-6 goal").

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Legislation passed in May 2007 mandating newborn hearing screening and added hearing loss to the panel of more than 50 disorders for which every Minnesota newborn is screened. This legislation (Minnesota Statutes § 144.125 and § 144.966) requires hospitals, audiologists, and other providers to screen every infant born in Minnesota for hearing loss, diagnose if necessary and report the results to the Minnesota Department of Health unless parents request otherwise.

Newborn hearing screening is the first part of a comprehensive EHDI program at the Minnesota Department of Health. Minnesota's Newborn Screening Program will coordinate screening for all 54 disorders, including hearing loss. The Minnesota Children with Special Health Needs (MCSHN) program is responsible for ongoing follow-up services to children and their families once a diagnosis of hearing loss is confirmed. MCSHN will ensure appropriate and timely intervention and connections for families with statewide services and resources until the child transitions into adulthood. Program and outcome evaluation will allow this program to engage in continuous quality improvement to assure that children and families are well-served through this enhanced system.

Minnesota Department of Human Services

540 Cedar Street
Saint Paul, MN 55155
DHS Info desk: (651) 431-2000
Toll Free: (800) 627-3529 (MN Relay)

Website: www.dhs.state.mn.us
Email: DHSinfo@state.mn.us

Among its many other activities, the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) oversees three publicly funded programs, namely Medical Assistance (Medicaid), General Assistance Medical Care, and MinnesotaCare.

Services include: a range of health care, home, and community-based services for individuals and families meeting income guidelines.

DHS also has several other programs specifically designed for Minnesotans who are deaf or hard of hearing. See separate listings for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, the Telephone Equipment Distribution Program, and the Minnesota Commission Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People.

Minnesota Disability Law Center

430 First Avenue North
Suite 300
Minneapolis, MN 55401-1780
(612) 334-5970 (V)
(612) 332-4668 (TTY)
Toll Free: (800) 292-4150

Website: www.mndlc.org
Contact: Pam Hoopes
Email: phoopes@midmnlegal.org

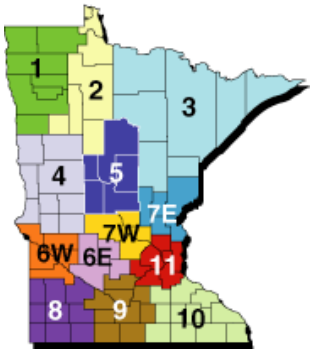
Intake: Monday - Friday 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
612-334-5970 (metro); 1-800-292-4150 (toll-free)

The Minnesota Disability Law Center addresses the unique legal needs of persons with disabilities.

Services include: free civil legal assistance to individuals with disabilities on legal issues such as abuse and neglect, right violations, habilitation services, special education, access to public services, public accommodation, case management, vocational rehabilitation services, and assistive technology.

Minnesota Regional Low Incidence Facilitators

Regional Low Incidence Projects are educational services through school districts and the directors of special education for children who have needs that are less common, such as hearing loss, vision loss, autism, etc. These projects are state-wide (Metro and Greater/Rural-MN). Families who have a child who is deaf/hard-of-hearing that has or has not been referred to their local early intervention program and have questions about children who are deaf/hard-of-hearing or educational audiological services can contact their regional low incidence facilitator to find out contact information regarding local educational consultants for deaf/hard-of-hearing children (birth-21).



Region 1& 2 Northwest
Brenda Ackerson, Warren
(218) 745-5828 Ext. 248
backers@wao.k12.mn.us

Region 3 Northeast
Phyllis Hauck, Mt. Iron
(218) 728-7606
phauck@nesc.k12.mn.us

Region 4 Westcentral
Dennis Ceminski, Fergus Falls
(218) 739-3273
dceminski@lcsc.org

Region 5 &7
Central & Southcentral
Mary Ruprecht, Staples
(320) 496-3013
Mary.Ruprecht@njpacoop.org

Region 6&8 Southwest
Bob Braun, Marshall
(507) 537-2252
bob.braun@swsc.org

Region 9 Southcentral
Linda Watson, North Mankato
(507) 389-2123
lwatson@mnscsc.org

Region 10 Southeast
Erin Widman, Rochester
(507) 287-1346
EWidman@zumbroed.org

Region 11 Metro
Ingrid Aasan-Reed, St. Anthony
(612) 638-1517
ingrid.aasan-reed@metroecsu.org

Low Incidence State-Wide
Joan Breslin-Larson, Supervisor
Roseville, MN
(651) 582-1599
TTY: (651) 582-8201
Joan.Breslin-Larson@state.mn.us

Minnesota Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (MRID)

PO Box 4414
St. Paul, MN 55104
(651) 779-5745 (V)
(651) 779-3372 (TTY)

Website: www.mrid.org
Email: webmaster@mrid.org

The Minnesota Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf is a non-profit organization of professional interpreters, consumers, and interested persons.

Services include: maintenance of a registry of American Sign Language and oral interpreters throughout the state and programs for interpreters to improve their skills.

Minnesota Relay

To place a Minnesota Relay call, dial: 7-1-1 or 1-800-627-3529 (Voice/TTY/ASCII)
Speech-to-Speech: 1-877-627-3848
Voice Carry Over Direct: 1-877-627-3024
2-Line Voice Carry Over Direct: 1-866-855-4611
Spanish Relay: 1-877-627-5448
Minnesota Relay Consumer Relations Office: 651-602-9005 / 1-800-657-3775 (Voice/TTY)
24-hour Customer Service: 1-800-676-3777 (Voice, TTY, ASCII)

Website: www.mnrelay.org
Email: mn.relay@state.mn.us

Minnesota Relay is a free service providing full telephone accessibility to persons who are deaf, deaf/blind, hard of hearing or speech disabled.

Services include: A specially trained Communication Assistant (CA) facilitates the telephone conversation between a person who has hearing loss or a speech disability and a hearing person. Either party can initiate calls through Minnesota Relay.

Minnesota Resource Center: Deaf/Hard of Hearing

PO Box 308
615 Olof Hanson Dr.
Faribault, MN 55021-0308
(800) 657-3936 (V/TTY)
(800) 575-1105 (VP)

Website: http://education.state.mn.us/html/mde_home.htm

Contact: Mary Cashman-Bakken, Director
Email: mary.cashman-bakken@state.mn.us

The Minnesota Resource Center is a “statewide technical assistance resource addressing special education and service for students who are deaf or hard of hearing.” The Center is part of the Minnesota Department of Education and is located on the campus of the Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf.

Services include: workshops, special events, and lending library covering topics such as Deaf culture, communication options, sign language, cued speech, lipreading and interpreting.

Minnesota Special Education Mediation Service (MNSEMS)

1500 Highway 36 West
Roseville, MN 55113
(651) 582-8222 (V)
Toll Free: 1-866-466-7367
(651) 582-8498 (FAX)
(800) 627-3529 (TTY/Minnesota Relay Service)

Website: www.mnsems.state.mn.us
Contact: Patricia McGinnis
Email: patricia.mcginnis@state.mn.us

The Minnesota Special Education Mediation Service assists students, parents, schools and agencies resolve conflicts regarding special education issues

Services include: facilitated Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings and mediation.

Minnesota Speech-Language-Hearing Association (MSHA)

1821 University Ave W, Ste S256
St. Paul, MN 55104
(651) 999-5350
Toll Free: (800) 344-8808

Website: www.msha.net
Email: office@msha.net

MSHA is a statewide professional organization for audiologists and speech-language pathologists. The organization promotes prevention, assessment and treatment of communication disorders and the study of normal and disordered human communication. Audiologists and speech-language pathologists have completed graduate degrees and may be licensed by the State of Minnesota. The Minnesota Speech-Language-Hearing Association is a recognized state association from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Services include: consumer referrals, legislative representation, continuing education, networking, newsletter, professional placement and membership for professionals.

PACER Center (Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights)

8161 Normandale Boulevard
Minneapolis, MN 55437-1044
(952) 838-9000 (V)
(952) 838-0190 (TTY)
(800) 53-PACER

Website: www.pacer.org
Contact: Carolyn Anderson
Email: cjanderson@pacer.org

PACER's mission is to "expand opportunities and enhance the quality of life of children and young adults with disabilities and their families, based on the concept of parents helping parents." PACER focuses on educational rights, with programs addressing special needs for all stages of childhood and all disabilities.

Services include: staff support to answer questions and offer one-on-one help, publications, workshops for parents, legislative information, and a wide variety of programs such as early childhood, multicultural services, Health and Information Advocacy Center and the Simon Technology Center.

St Paul/Mpls Black Deaf Advocates (BDA) #25

Website: Access information about Minnesota's BDA by visiting the national BDA site.

Website: www.nbda.org
Contact: Kim Wassenaar, Region Representative
Email: K7Wazza@aol.com

The National BDA is the first and largest consumer organization for deaf and hard of hearing people of color established in the United States. Minnesota BDA was founded in 1997. It has "an active and motivated membership who meets monthly in the public library across from Thompson Hall."

Services include: advocacy, membership and social activities.

Saint Paul College

Interpreter Training Program
235 Marshall Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 221-1555 (general number)

Website: http://www.saintpaul.edu/home.aspx

St. Paul Technical College offers a variety of classes for learning American Sign Language, as well as programs in American Sign Language Studies and Sign Language Interpreter/Transliterator.

Services include: American Sign Language classes, levels one through four; classes related to other more specific aspects of ASL and Deaf culture; and sign interpreter/transliterator preparation. Many classes are available in the evening as well as the daytime, offering a relatively convenient and affordable option for parents seeking ASL instruction.

TCDeaf.com (website only)

Website: http://tcdeaf.com

MADC (Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens) sponsors this free online guide to the Twin Cities Deaf community. This volunteer-run website lists current events, information on organizations/services and news items of interest to people involved in the Twin Cities signing community.

Telephone Equipment Distribution (TED) Program

444 Lafayette Road N.
St. Paul, MN 55155-3814
(800) 657-3663 (V)
(888) 206-6555 (TTY)

Website: www.tedprogram.org
Email: ted.program@state.mn.us

The Telephone Equipment Distribution (TED) program provides specialized telephone equipment to eligible deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, speech and physically disabled persons, which enables them to access the telephone. To see if you qualify for the program, call the number listed above and they will send you an application. TED Program regional specialists assist qualified individuals in getting the equipment they need. They also provide free presentations to agencies. The TED program is operated through the regional offices of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS) Division. See separate listings for more information about DHHS and the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Services include: The equipment is on long-term loan from the State of Minnesota. Telephone equipment loaned out: TTYs/TDDs, Captel phones (a telephone that uses a speech recognition software to provide captioning to the user), Voice Carry Over phones (a telephone with an amplifier and voice carry over capabilities), light flashing ring signalers, amplified telephones, loud ringers, hands-free speaker phones, large visual display TTY's and Braille phones.

University of Minnesota Department of Speech Language-Hearing Sciences

University of Minnesota
115 Shevlin Hall
164 Pillsbury Drive S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455-0279

Website: www.slhs.umn.edu
Email inquiries to: slhs@umn.edu

Telephone:
(612) 624-3322

FAX:
(612) 624-7586

Office Hours:
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Time
Monday-Friday

The Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences provides a range of hearing services for children and adults of all ages with communication impairments associated with hearing loss. A sliding fee scale is available for families with documented financial need.

Services include: hearing evaluations, hearing aid/assistive listening device evaluation and dispensing, individual speech and language assessment and therapy, auditory therapy, and parent discussion and support groups.

Volunteers of America - MN Mental Health Clinics

Website: www.voamn.org
Contact: DHH Program Assistant
Email: charnack@voamn.org

Volunteers of America (VOA) – Mental Health Clinics was established in 2000 to serve Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind children and adolescents and their families who are in need of mental health services. We provide services in the child's school/home depending on need. All mental health therapists are fluent in ASL and understand DHH Culture.

Services include: Mental Health Assessment, Individual Therapy, Group Therapy, Family Therapy, Homebased Family Therapy, School Based Therapy, Multidisciplinary Team Consultation, Parent Support Groups, Consultation to Schools and Dormitory Staff.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Organization	**Page #**
Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf	27
American Society for Deaf Children	27
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association	27
Auditory-Verbal International, Inc.	28
Beginnings for Parents of Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing	28
Better Hearing Institute	28
Boys Town National Research Hospital (National Center for Hearing Loss in Children)	29
Communication Access Information Center (website only)	29
Deafness.about.com (website only)	29
Department of Justice	30
Fetaweb.com (website only)	30
Gallaudet University	30
Hands and Voices	31
Handspeak.com (website only)	31
Harborhouselaw.com (website only)	31
Harris Communications	32
HearingExchange.com (website only)	32
Hearing Loss Association of America (formerly SHHH)	32
House Ear Institute	33
Infanthearing.org (website only)	33
John Tracy Clinic	33
Kids World Deaf Net (website only)	33
Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center	34
The Listen-Up Web (website only)	34
Midwest Center on Law and the Deaf	34
National Association of the Deaf	35
National Association of the Deaf Law Center	35
National Black Deaf Advocates (BDA)	35
National Cued Speech Association	36
National Information Center for Children and Youth With Disabilities	36
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders	37
National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID)	37
Oticon (website only)	37
Parents Helping Parents – The Family Resource Center	38
Raising Deaf Kids (website only)	38
Registry of Interpreters For the Deaf (RID)	38
The Signing Exact English (SEE) Center	39
Sorenson Communications	39
Supplemental Security Income	39
Virtual Tour of the Ear (website only)	40
Where Do We Go From Hear? (website only)	40
Wrightslaw (website only)	40
Yellow Pages for Kids with Disabilities (website only)	40

Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf

3417 Volta Place NW
Washington, DC 20007
(202) 337-5220 (V/TTY)

Website: www.agbell.org
Email: info@agbell.org

The Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (AG Bell) is a lifelong resource, support network, and advocate for listening, learning, talking and living independently with hearing loss. Through publications, outreach, training, scholarships and financial aid, AG Bell promotes the use of spoken language and hearing technology. Headquartered in Washington, DC with chapters located in the United States and Canada and a network of international affiliates, AG Bell's global presence provides its members and the public with the support they need—close to home. With over a century of service, AG Bell supports its mission: Advocating Independence through Listening and Talking!

Services include: newsletters, academic journal, financial aid and scholarship awards, “ask the experts” information service, special interest section for parents, access to the nationwide Children’s Rights Advocate network, and mentoring programs.

American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC)

3820 Hartzdale Dr
Camp Hill, PA 17011
Toll Free: (866) 895-4206

Website: www.deafchildren.org
Email: ASDC1@aol.com

ASDC is a national organization that focuses on creating opportunities for D/HH children to gain "meaningful and full communication access, particularly through the competent use of sign language."

Services include: lending library, quarterly publication, PARENTDEAF-HH List-Serve, and Parents Connected, a legislative issues email service

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)

2200 Research Blvd.
Rockville, MD 20850
Toll Free: (800) 638-8255 V/TTY

Website: www.asha.org
Email: actioncenter@asha.org

ASHA is a professional, scientific and credentialing association for audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and speech, language, and hearing scientists.

Services include: information on children and hearing aids, cochlear implants, and assistive technology; research journals; help in finding an audiologist or speech-language pathologist.

Auditory-Verbal International, Inc.®

2121 Eisenhower Avenue
Suite #402
Alexandria, VA 23314
(703) 739-1049 (V)
(703) 739-0873 (TTY)

Website: www.auditory-verbal.org
Email: audiverb@aol.com

Auditory-Verbal International, Inc.® (AVI) is a non-profit international membership organization with the principle objective of providing the choice of listening and speaking as a way of life for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Services include: information about the Auditory-Verbal approach, regional and international conferences; an international certificate program for professionals in the approach; referrals to certified Auditory-Verbal Therapists; and professional mentorship referrals.

BEGINNINGS for Parents of Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

PO Box 17646
Raleigh, NC 27619
(919) 850-2746 (V/TTY)

Website: www.ncbegin.org
Email: info@ncbegin.org

BEGINNINGS provides emotional, supportive, objective and impartial information and technical assistance to parents of children, from birth through age 21, who are deaf or hard of hearing, deaf parents with hearing children and professionals who serve them. Although direct services are for North Carolina residents, this organization has an excellent website for parents.

Services include: impartial information about all communication approaches and educational settings, information and support to parents regarding educational rights and procedures, assistive technology, and audiology.

Better Hearing Institute

515 King Street, Suite 420
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 684-3391
800-EAR-WELL – Hearing Help Line

Website: http://www.betterhearing.org/
Email: mail@betterhearing.org

The Better Hearing Institute is a national organization that provides information on hearing loss, its treatment and prevention.

Services include: Hearing Help Line which provides comprehensive information on hearing loss, sources of assistance and other available hearing help.

Boys Town National Research Hospital (National Center for Hearing Loss in Children)

555 N. 30th St.
Omaha, NE 68131
(402) 452-5000 (V/TTY)

Websites: www.boystownhospital.org
www.babyhearing.org
Email: moeller@boystown.org

The Boys Town National Research Hospital is an interdisciplinary program providing research, family and child educational/clinical programs, and information dissemination.

Services include: information about early identification of hearing loss, effective education for children and families, understanding the causes of hearing loss, sign language and cochlear implants.

Communication Access Information Center (website only)

Website: http://www.cartinfo.org/

The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) sponsors this site that provides information for consumers of Communication Access Real-time Translation (CART) services, also known as real time captioning. The website provides information regarding CART specifically for people who are hard of hearing and deaf as well as for officials who decide how access services will be provided. CART allows deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals to fully participate in activities such as conferences, religious services, appointments and school. CART providers accompany people to the appointment, class, etc. and use a stenotype machine and a laptop to instantly transcribe the spoken words into text that a person with hearing loss can read on a screen. The CART Provider Directory on the NCRA Web site allows you to find a CART provider in your area by city and state. Many of the CART providers offer remote CART services as well. This is a wonderful resource that connects consumers with providers in an easy-to-use manner. Please log onto http://cart.ncraonline.org/directory/index.shtml to find a CART provider near you.

Information includes: How to locate a CART provider, what to expect from a CART provider, where CART can be used, and resources for obtaining CART in the elementary, secondary and post secondary school settings. Additional information can be found at the NCRA Home Pate: http://www.ncraonline.org/ and also on NCRA's CART website: http://care.ncraonline.org/.

Deafness.about.com (website only)

Website: http://deafness.about.com
Email: reachus@about-inc.com

This website links the user to over 700 sites related to deafness/hard of hearing issues. Examples of topics covered are sign language, deaf culture, ear basics, deaf studies, hard of hearing, families, cochlear implants, hearing aids, parenting and accessibility.

Department of Justice (DOJ)

950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Website: www.usdoj.gov
Email: askDOJ@usdoj.gov

Disability Rights Section
(202) 307-1035 (V/TTY)

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Hotline:
Toll Free: (800) 514-0301 (V) or (800) 514-0383 (TTY)

Among other things, the US Department of Justice works to enforce laws to ensure "fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans," including persons covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Services include: ADA Mediation Program, ADA Regulations and technical assistance materials, other publications related to disabilities rights laws, and website links to many other resources, such as "children with disabilities" and "resources for parents."

Fetaweb.com (website only)

Website: www.fetaweb.com

Fetaweb is designed to teach parents effective special education advocacy skills – "Learn to recognize pitfalls and avoid mistakes that prevent parents from successfully advocating for their children." The site includes articles, checklists, sample letters, charts, and resources.

Services include: on-line access to Yellow Page for Kids with Disabilities, created so that "people who love and work with children can get reliable information, support and connect with one another." Parents can use this site to find many kinds of resources, government programs, grassroots organizations and support groups.

Gallaudet University

800 Florida Ave NE
Washington, DC 20002-3695
(202) 651-5750 (V)
(202) 651-5114 (TTY)

Website: www.gallaudet.edu
Email: admissions.office@gallaudet.edu

Gallaudet University (GU) is the only liberal arts university in the world designed exclusively for deaf and hard of hearing students. GU's Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center has a Publications and Information Dissemination Office, a good source of information for parents (see separate listing.)

Services include: In addition to their undergraduate and graduate academic programs, GU also offers national demonstration elementary and secondary education programs.

Hands & Voices

P.O. Box 445
Carthage, IL 62321
(217) 357-3647 (V/TTY)
(866) 422-0422 (Toll Free)

Website: www.handsandvoices.org
Email: parentadvocate@handsandvoices.org

Hands & Voices National is a parent-driven, non-profit organization dedicated to providing unbiased support to families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Hands & Voices strives to connect families with resources and information to make informed decisions around the issues of deafness or hearing loss. The organization does not promote one specific communication choice over others, but provides information and resources on all different methods without a slant or bias. Hands & Voices also provides information and resources to professionals working with families and individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Hands & Voices is a national organization founded in Colorado that has expanded to many other states who have chapters including Minnesota Hands & Voices. More information can be found at the national website at: www.handsandvoices.org.

Publications: "The Communicator" is a quarterly newsletter full of cutting edge information for families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing and the professionals who work with them. Annual subscriptions are available for $25/family and $40/professional. Checks payable to Hands & Voices and Attn: Subscriptions PO Box 3093, Boulder CO 80307 are tax deductible.

Services include: information and referral, outreach events, educational seminars, advocacy, lobbying efforts, parent-to-parent networking, a newsletter, on-site training, workshops and much more.

Handspeak.com (website only)

Website: www.handspeak.com

HandSpeak is an “award-winning, leading website in visual languages and visual communication, cultures and arts, including sign languages, Baby Sign, International Sign, Animal Sign, sign stories and more.”

Services include: on-line ASL Dictionary, fingerspelling, ASL grammar, ASL stories, sign language articles, information on baby sign, and international sign.

Harborhouselaw.com (website only)

Website: www.harborhouselaw.com

Harbor House Law Press publishes information about special education law and advocacy. Their publications are “designed to meet the needs of parents of children with disabilities, regular and special educators, special education service providers, health care professionals, child advocates, and attorneys who represent children with disabilities.”

Services include: on-line access to The Beacon: The Journal of Special Education Law and Practice. This publication is “a multi-disciplinary electronic journal of special education law and practice, with articles and essays for attorneys and advocates who represent children with disabilities and others who are interested in special education legal topics.”

Harris Communications

15155 Technology Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344-2277
Toll Free: (800) 825-6758 (V)
Toll Free: (800) 825-9187 (TTY)
Local: (952) 906-1180 (V)
Local: (952) 906-1198 (TTY)

Website: www.harriscomm.com
Contact: Customer Service
Email: info@harriscomm.com

Harris Communications sells a large variety of products for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, including assistive devices, books, DVDs, CDs and novelty items. Assistive products include amplified phones, clocks with loud alarm or vibration alert, notification systems, and small/large area listening systems.

Services include: Showroom/store and on-line catalogue with categories including Children's Materials, Coping with Hearing Loss, Deaf Culture, Parent's Resources, Sign Language and much more. New additions include products relating to cochlear implants, speech and low vision assistance. Free catalog available.

HearingExchange.com (website only)

Website: www.hearingexchange.com

Hearing Exchange is “an online community for the exchange of ideas and information on hearing loss and related issues.” The website home page says, “no matter what method of communication you have chosen, you’ll find interesting and supportive information.”

Services include: ability to search the site’s data base by topics of interest, “ask the expert” section, featured articles, products, sites and books, and a discussion board on topics such as parenting, deaf/hard of hearing, and cochlear implants. This site also has a special “Hear Our Kids” section where young children and their families can submit their comments about what it is like to live with a hearing loss.

Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA)

National Office:
7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200
Bethesda, Maryland 20814
(301) 657-2248 (V)
(301) 657-2249 (TTY)
(301) 913-9413 (Fax)

Website: www.hearingloss.org
Email: info@hearingloss.org

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) is a national consumer organization representing people with hearing loss. HLAA impacts accessibility, public policy, research, public awareness, and service delivery related to hearing loss on a national and global level. HLAA’s national support network includes an office in the Washington D.C. area, 14 state organizations, and 200 local chapters. The HLAA mission is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, advocacy, and support.

Services include: a bimonthly magazine, chapter/group meetings, publications, annual conventions, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) implementation guidelines, support for parents of children with hearing loss, in addition to programs, workshops and materials for professionals in education, rehabilitation, and health service agencies.

House Ear Institute

2100 W. 3rd. St
Los Angeles, CA 90057
(213) 483-4431 (V)
(213) 484-2642 (TTY)

Website: www.hei.org
Email: webmaster@hei.org

The House Ear Institute (HEI) is dedicated to advancing hearing science through research and education to improve the quality of life for people who have hearing and related disorders.

Services include: information about hearing health and hearing loss, research, and new technologies. HEI also has a Children's Auditory Research and Evaluation (CARE) Center that provides a wide range of clinical services.

InfantHearing.org (website only)

Website: www.infanthearing.org

This website provides a wealth of information to parents of children with hearing loss. Sections include the "early detection and intervention information and resource center," "culturally competent family support," and links to Minnesota's early hearing detection and intervention program. There are also links to many parent-friendly organizations and resources in the US.

John Tracy Clinic

806 West Adams Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90007
Toll Free for parents: (800) 522-4582 (V/TTY)

Website: www.jtc.org
Email: pals@jtc.org

John Tracy Clinic provides "worldwide and without charge, parent-centered services to young children with a hearing loss, offering families hope, guidance and encouragement."

Services include: answers to frequently asked questions about hearing loss and its implications, publications, links to resources and organizations, and parent distance learning. In the Distance Learning courses, "families of children age 5 and under can receive lessons and ongoing personalized letters providing information on language, listening, and learning."

Kids World Deaf Net (website only)

Website: http://clerccenter2.gallaudet.edu/KidsWorldDeafNet/index.html

The site has a Discussion Forum area that includes live chats with the E-Document authors and a forum for continued dialogue. KidsWorld Deaf Net is sponsored by the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center with support from the AT&T Foundation.

Services include:
KidsWorld Deaf Net is a national communication network with information for professionals and parents of deaf and hard of hearing children. Parents can use this site to "locate concise, important information on literacy, transition, and family involvement." The site includes a Virtual Library with E-Documents and useful links. The library focuses on the students with special needs (e.g., students who come from non-English speaking homes, have secondary disabilities, or live in rural areas).

Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center

Gallaudet University
Publications and Information Dissemination Office

800 Florida Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002-3695
(202) 651-5051 (V/TTY)
Website: http://clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/clearinghouse/index.html

The Publications and Information Dissemination (PID) Office collaborates with authors from within the Gallaudet community and around the nation to design, produce, and disseminate books, videotapes, periodicals, and other information related to deaf and hard of hearing children, their families, and the professionals who serve them.

Services include: an information specialist who can respond to parent questions in a wide range of areas and over 70 information products covering such topics as literacy, Deaf culture, communication, and family involvement.

The PID website has a section called “info to go” that can connect site visitors to information about many topics such as assistive devices, hearing aids, and education. An “especially for parents” subsection provides straightforward information about helpful books, links to dependable sources, locating parent groups, summer camps, and sources of financial assistance for hearing aids.

The Listen-Up Web (website only)

Website: www.listen-up.org

The Listen-Up Web calls itself the one-stop shop for information, answers, help, ideas, resources and anything else related to hearing loss. Selected topics include information on communication methods, education resources, Spanish resources, legal issues, deaf blind information, hearing technology, assistive technology and much more.

Midwest Center on Law and the Deaf

P.O. Box 804297
Chicago, IL 60680-4104
Toll Free: (800) 894-3653 (V)
Toll Free: (800) 894-3654 (TTY)

Website: www.mcld.org
E-mail: MCLD1@aol.com

The Midwest Center on Law and the Deaf provides information, referrals, resources, education, training and advocacy regarding the rights of deaf and hard-of-hearing people.

Services include: information and referral to the general public, deaf and hard of hearing people (D/HH), and attorneys; assistance to deaf and hard of hearing people in finding attorneys willing to provide accessible legal services; workshops on the legal rights of deaf and hard of hearing people; and advocacy for the civil and constitutional rights of D/HH people.

National Association of the Deaf

8630 Fenton St.
Suite 820
Silver Spring, MD
20910-3876
(301) 587-1788 (V)
(301) 587-1789 (TTY)

Website: www.nad.org
Email: nad.info@nad.org

The National Association of the Deaf (NAD), founded in 1880, "safeguards the civil rights of deaf and hard of hearing Americans". As a national federation of state association, organizational and corporate affiliates, the advocacy work of the NAD encompasses a broad spectrum of areas, including but not limited to, accessibility, education, employment, healthcare, mental health, rehabilitation, technology, telecommunications, and transportation. The NAD website (http://www.nad.org) has a wealth of advocacy information and resources.

Programs include: American Sign Language Teachers Association (ASLTA), Biennial National Conference, Captioned Media Program (CMP), Education Policy and Program Development Center, Government Affairs, Information and Outreach, Interpreter Assessment and Certification, Junior NAD, the NAD Law Center, Miss Deaf America Program, Publications and Youth Leadership Camp.

National Association of the Deaf Law Center

8630 Fenton Street, Suite 820
Silver Spring, MD 20901
(301) 587-1788 (V)
(301) 587-1789 (TTY)

Website: www.nad.org
Email: NAD.info@nad.org

The mission of the NAD is to promote, protect and preserve the rights and quality of life of deaf and hard of hearing individuals in the United States of America.

Services include: information, advocacy, legal representation, and youth programs.

National Black Deaf Advocates (NBDA)

Website: www.nbda.org
Contact: Cory L. Parker, Secretary
Email: secretary@nbda.org

National Black Deaf Advocates (NBDA) is the first and largest consumer organization for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people of color established in the United States. NBDA was founded in 1982 because of Black leaders' concern that the African-American community was not adequately represented in leadership and policy-making affecting their lives. The President must be Deaf and African-American, but membership and advocacy is open to all.

Services include: advocacy, membership, news reports, state chapters, and social activities.

National Cued Speech Association
Deaf Children's Literacy Project

Information Services/Association Office:
5619 McLean Drive
Bethesda MD 20814-1021
Toll-free: (800) 459-3529 (V/TTY)
(301) 915-8009

Website: www.cuedspeech.org
Email: info@cuedspeech.org

Cued Speech Bookstore:
23970 Hermitage Road
Cleveland, OH 44122-4008
Toll Free: (877) 283-2030 (V/TTY)
(216) 292-6213 (V/TTY)

Website: www.cuedspeech.com
Email: info@cuedspeech.com

The National Cued Speech Association (NCSA) supports and promotes the effective use of Cued Speech for effective communication, language acquisition, and literacy. Cued Speech provides the appropriate phonemic language base for literacy. NCSA offers information about Cued Speech use with children and adults with hearing, speech, and language needs.

Services include: information and referral/networking, family camps, on-line bookstore and catalog, publications, instructor certification, On Cue newsletter, Cued Speech charts in more than 50 languages.

National Information Center for Children and Youth With Disabilities (NICHCY)

PO Box 1492
Washington, DC 20013-1492
Toll Free: (800) 695-0285
(TTY callers will then be connected to an information specialist via TTY)

Website: www.nichcy.org
Email: nichcy@aed.org

NICHCY is a national information and referral center that provides information on disability and disability-related issues for family, educators and other professionals. Their special focus is children and youth (from birth to age 22).

Services include: general information and referrals to national information sources to assist parents, educators, caregivers, advocates and others in helping children and youth with disabilities participate as fully as possible at school or home and in their community. NICHCY's publications include: parent's guides, fact sheets, state resource sheets, technical assistance guides, students' guides, briefing papers and annotated bibliographies on selected topics; many publications are available in Spanish.

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

1 Communication Avenue
Bethesda, MD 20892-3456
Toll free: 800-241-1044 (V)
Toll free: 800-241-1055 (TTY)
Fax: 301-770-8977

Website: www.nidcd.nih.gov
Email: nidcdinfo@nidcd.nih.gov

The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) conducts and supports basic and clinical research and research training in the normal and disordered processes of hearing, balance, smell, taste, voice, speech, and language.

Services include: research, publications, and newsletter. NIDCD's new parent page on their website provides information on communication options for children who are deaf or hard of hearing as well as other information about the causes and implications of hearing loss in children.

National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID)

Rochester Institute of Technology
52 Lomb Memorial Drive, LBJ Building
Rochester, NY 14623
(716) 475-6400 (V/TTY)

Website: http://www.rit.edu/NTID
Email: ntidmc@rit.edu

Mission: To provide deaf and hard-of-hearing students with outstanding state-of-the art technical and professional college education programs, complemented by a strong liberal arts and science curriculum, that prepare them to live and work in the mainstream of a rapidly changing global community.

NTID is one of eight colleges of Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT): 1,100 deaf students study and live with approximately 14,000 hearing students at RIT, which has been recognized by U.S. News and World Report as one of the nation's best educational institutions.

Services include: At RIT/NTID deaf students earn associate, bachelor's or master's degrees in more than 200 programs in Applied Science and Technology, Business, Engineering, Computing and Information Sciences, Imaging Arts and Sciences, Liberal Arts and Science.

RIT/NTID's deaf and hard-of-hearing students have access to faculty who use sign language, as well as unprecedented support services including interpreting, tutoring, career counseling, academic advising, and direct instruction in some course sections taught specifically for deaf students. Also, cooperative work experiences provide students the opportunity to apply the skills they learn in a job related to their field of study.

Oticon (website only described here)

Website: www.oticonus.com
Email: webmaster@oticonus.com

Oticon is a hearing aid manufacturer. Services include: the website includes a library of questions and answers about hearing aids and hearing loss, special "OtiKids" sites about recognizing and understanding hearing loss among children, a history of hearing aids, and links to other organizations.

Parents Helping Parents – The Family Resource Center/Parent Training and Information Center

Sobrato Center for Nonprofits-San Jose
1400 Parkmoor Avenue Suite 100
San Jose, CA 95126
Work: (408) 727-5775
Fax: (408) 286-1116

Website: www.php.com
Email: info@php.com

Parents Helping Parents works to help children with special needs "receive the resources, love, hope, respect, health care, education and other services they need to achieve their full potential by providing them with strong families and dedicated professionals to serve them." Although centered in San Jose, CA, Parents Helping Parents offers nationwide services via their website.

Services include: resource directory, library (which can be searched on line), support groups, assistive technology program, newsletter, and information on parent training and information centers.

Raising Deaf Kids (website only)

Website: www.raisingdeafkids.org

The Raising Deaf Kids website was created by the Deafness and Family Communication Center at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and was made possible by a grant from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD). The website is a compilation of information about children's hearing loss and related issues. Topics covered include: an explanation of hearing loss, what to expect at a hearing examination, descriptions of professionals that can help, communication methods, education options, your child's rights, stories from other families and information on hearing loss with other special needs.

Registry of Interpreters For the Deaf (RID)

333 Commerce Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 838-0030 (V)
(703) 838-0459 (TTY)

Website: www.rid.org
Email: pr@rid.org

RID certifies interpreters and provides various support services to practicing interpreters, students of interpretation, and persons who share an active interest in the field of interpretation.

Services include: speakers, workshops, and classes on such topics as the interpreting profession, interpreter preparation programs, certification, national ethical practices system and interpreter referral services.

The Signing Exact English (SEE) Center

For the Advancement of Deaf Children
P.O. Box 1181
Los Alamitos, California 90720
(562) 430-1467

Website: www.seecenter.org
Email: seecenter@seecenter.org

The S.E.E. Center works with parents and educators of hearing impaired children to promote the following: early identification and intervention, development of improved English skills, understanding of principals of Signing Exact English and its use, information to parents on deafness and related topics, and the positive development of self concept in the deaf child.

Services include: information about the pros and cons of Signing Exact English and other communication choices, information and referral regarding hearing loss, parent information packet, workshops, and videotapes. The Center also conducts weekend and week-long Skillshops to improve sign communication skills of parents, interpreters, aides, extended family members and anyone involved with deaf and hard of hearing children.

Sorenson Communications

4393 South Riverboat Rd, Suite 300
Salt Lake City, UT 84123
(801) 287-9400 (V)
(866) 877-9826 (TTY)

Website: www.sorenson.com

Sorenson Communications is focused on breaking down communication barriers with its innovative solutions and high quality products, providing communication services for the deaf and hard-of-hearing community

Services include: Sorenson Video Relay Service (VRS), Sorenson IP Relay.

Supplemental Security Income

Social Security Administration
National number: 1-800-772-1213
National TTY number: 1-800-325-0778

Website: www.ssa.gov

Twin City Metro Offices:

Minneapolis Office:
(612) 870-2000 (V)
(612) 870-2046 (TTY)

Edina Office:
(612) 831-9026 (V)
(612) 832-5041 (TTY)

St. Paul Office:
(651) 290-0054 (V)
(651) 290-4242 (TTY)

Brooklyn Center Office:
(763) 566-2475 (V)
(763) 561-5608 (TTY)

For other offices: go to www.ssa.gov and click on “contact us” then “office locator.”

Supplemental Security Income is a cash assistance program funded and administered by the Federal Government.

Services include: SSI provides monthly cash assistance to persons who have disabilities and limited income and resources. There is no minimum age limit for establishing eligibility based on blindness or disability.

Virtual Tour of the Ear (website only)

Website: www.augie.edu/perry/ar/ar.htm

This website provides educational information about the ear and hearing, as well as links to hundreds of other sites of interest to parents of deaf or hard of hearing children. Contains links in such areas as education, hearing aids, assistive listening devices, cochlear implants, audiologic rehabilitation, self-help groups, and laws and regulations.

Where Do We Go From Hear? (website only)

Website: www.gohear.org

Where Do We Go From Hear? is dedicated to being "the best source of information for families of infants and children diagnosed with a hearing loss and the professionals who work with these individuals." Information is included from a wide variety of sources, from the auditory perspective to the culturally Deaf perspective.

Services include: on-line sections on "parent stories," education, technology, the full array of communication choices, insurance, and a bookstore.

Wrightslaw (website only)

Website: www.wrightslaw.com
Email: webmaster@wrightslaw.com

Wrightslaw.com provides parents, advocates, educators, and attorneys with "accurate, up-to-date information about effective advocacy for children with disabilities." There are hundreds of articles, cases, newsletters, and other information about special education law and advocacy.

Services include: on-line access to advocacy library, articles, law libraries, free on-line newsletter, and bookstore. The site also contains two documents created especially for new parents called "Advocating for Your Child – Getting Started" and the "Wrightslaw Game Plan for New Parents."

Yellow Pages for Kids with Disabilities (website only)

Website: www.yellowpagesforkids.com

Yellow Pages for Kids helps parents find consultants, therapists, attorneys and organizations in their state.

Services include: separate listings for each state and territory, disability information groups, evaluators, tutors, support groups, advocacy groups, and state agencies.