



Connecticut State

Department of Aging and Disability Services



RESOURCE GUIDE:

For the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing of
Connecticut

ABSTRACT

This resource guide is intended to provide information and does not endorse any agencies or services. IF you have information to add or correct, please reach out to us at ads.dhohcounseling@ct.gov

Susan Shatney

State of Connecticut- Aging and
Disability Services-Deaf and
Hard of Hearing Unit



CONNECTICUT

Connecticut holds significant importance in the Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing (DDBHH) community because it is home to American School for the Deaf, the first permanent school for the Deaf in the United States, founded in 1817. This institution played a crucial role in the development of American Sign Language (ASL) and the education of Deaf individuals. Additionally, Connecticut established the first Commission on the Deaf, further underscoring its commitment to advocating for and supporting the DDBHH community. It also became the blueprint for other states to follow. The presence of ASD and pioneering the establishment of a commission provided a foundation of Deaf Culture and Deaf Rights, making the state a pivotal location for historical and on-going advancements in Deaf education and advocacy.

For more information regarding historical site to visit please contact us at ads.dhohcounseling@ct.gov

The Deaf, Deafblind and Hard of Hearing Unit

The Department of Aging and Disability Services is dedicated to offering a comprehensive suite of services provided through the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing (DDBHH) Services designed to be both linguistically and culturally accessible. This commitment ensures that individuals receive services that are tailored to their unique communication needs and cultural contexts.

The overarching goal of the DDBHH Unit is to assist individuals in reaching their full potential by providing comprehensive, accessible services that address their educational, professional, and personal needs. Through these efforts, the unit strives to foster an inclusive community where DDBHH individuals can thrive and participate fully in all aspects of life through:

Advocacy: The cornerstone of the Deaf Unit's mission. The unit actively works to protect and promote the rights of access to information and communication for individuals. We advocate for policy changes, raising awareness of the DDBHH culture and challenges that are unique to the community.

Education: The unit not only offers training and workshops to empower individuals to advocate for themselves but also provides workshops and education sessions for agencies to provide best practices to this population. They also work with families to understand potential appropriate accommodations, such as American Sign Language Interpreters, note-takers, and different technology aids. Referrals made to other portions of the ADS are frequently made, such as to the CT Tech Act.

Employment: The DDBHH unit collaborates with public and private partners, to empower individuals for work readiness, obtaining work, remaining employed, and/or advancing their career. The unit also collaborates with employers to create inclusive work environments and recognize the value of employing people with diverse abilities and backgrounds. The unit can assist employees to communicate their needs to employers and connect employers to resources for appropriate reasonable accommodations.

Independent Living: The Counseling unit within the DDBHH Unit offers a variety of services to individuals and families that enable constituents to live autonomously and confidently. The unit also collaborates and consults with the Centers for Independent Living to wrap around services.

Accessibility: The DDBHH Unit focuses on removing barriers that prevent DDBHH individuals from fully participating in society. We focus on making sure information is accessible by having the goal of all public spaces having Sign language Interpreters, captioning services, and/or learning devices available.

For more information or to work with the DDBHH Unit, please reach out to:

Sue Shatney
Counselor for the Deaf
Susan.Shatney@CT.gov
860-899-1648 (Videophone)
860-500-5222 (Cell)

Alvin Chege
Human Services Advocate for the DDBHH
Alvin.Chege@CT.gov
860-899-1551 (Videophone)

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Addiction Services:

Navigating a world that is heavily dependent on hearing and seeing is incredibly difficult when one of those senses are no longer there. Many individuals that have any sensory loss struggle with the accessing services generally open to the general public. These issues are often compounded when an individual is dealing with substance abuse. Often times, individuals will resist treatment as there is no one who fully understands the nuances associated with the sensory loss and accessing services needed to fully complete and engage in treatment. Facilities often do not know what is needed as far as accessibility in terms of meeting the needs of these individuals. Connecticut has as committed staff that provide the cultural and linguistic competent that is crucial to successful treatment and provide an atmosphere of understanding and trust.

State of Connecticut- Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services: DMHAS facilities provide DHOH services, including American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreting, Certified Deaf Interpreting, Home Sign, Tactile Interpreting, Signed English, Foreign Sign Language, other forms of visual gestural communication as well as Assistive Listening Devices, Communication Access Real Time (CART) and Video Relay Interpreting. Each DMHAS state operated facility and program designates a DHOH Contact person who helps persons with disabilities arrange DHOH Services for that facility's programs, services and activities at no cost to the person: [DMHAS Deaf DeafBlind Hard of Hearing Program and Services DHOH \(ct.gov\)](#)

-Merritt Hall

Other on-line resources:

[Deaf Off Drugs & Alcohol \(DODA\) Meetings \(sardiprogram.com\)](#)

[Browse the Directory of Online Meetings – Online Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous \(aa-intergroup.org\)](#)

[Drug Rehab Centers for the Deaf, Blind & Impaired Near Me \(americanaddictioncenters.org\)](#)

<http://DeafAA.org> - Home (google.com)-Deaf AA meetings and ASL Interpreted meetings

Advocacy and Legal:

- **Connecticut Bar Association:** [For the Public | Connecticut Bar Association \(ctbar.org\)](#)- A professional organization for attorneys but provides public information to find an attorney
- **Connecticut Bar Foundation:** www.ctbarfdn.org -A nonprofit organization to support the legal system and ensuring equal access to the judicial system, especially to socioeconomically disenfranchised individuals.
- **Connecticut Community Law Center:** Professional Legal Services at affordable rates. The Connecticut Community Law Center, an initiative of UConn School of Law and the Hartford County Bar Association, provides legal help in family matters to people who have traditionally

been underserved by the justice system: low- and moderate-income clients who don't qualify for legal aid but can't afford standard legal fees. <https://cclc.law.uconn.edu/>

- **Statewide Legal Services of Connecticut:** <https://slsct.org/>- The statewide contact for legal advice for low income individuals needing assistance.

Regional offices-

- **Connecticut Legal Services:** <https://ctlegal.org/> (Fairfield, Windham, Middlesex Counties)
- **Greater Hartford Legal Aid:** <https://www.ghla.org/> (Greater Hartford County)
- **New Haven Legal Assistance Association:** <https://nhlegal.org/> (New Haven County)
- **Connecticut Legal Rights Project:** <http://www.clrp.org/> - provides high quality legal services to low-income persons with psychiatric disabilities living in Connecticut, primarily on matters related to their treatment and civil rights.
- **Disability Rights Connecticut:** <https://www.disrightsct.org/> VP: 860-509-4992- Statewide non-profit organization with a mission to advocate for the human, civil, and legal rights of people with disabilities in Connecticut.
- **Connecticut Veterans Legal Center:** <https://ctveteranslegal.org/>
- **Equal Employment Opportunities Commission:** [Boston Area Office | U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission \(eoc.gov\)](#) - The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) is responsible for enforcing federal laws that make it illegal to discriminate against a job applicant or an employee because of the person's race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, or related conditions, gender identity, and sexual orientation), national origin, age (40 or older), disability or genetic information.
 - JFK Federal Building
15 New Sudbury Street, Room 475
Boston, MA 02203-0506
1-800-669-4000 (Phone)
617-565-3196 (Fax)
1-800-669-68209 (TTY)
844-234-5122 (Videophone)
Feng K. An, Director
Jeffrey Burstein, Regional Attorney

- **Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities -** <https://portal.ct.gov/chro/commission/commission/our-purpose>- The mission of the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) is to eliminate discrimination through civil and human rights law enforcement and to establish equal opportunity and justice for all persons within the state through advocacy and education.
- **Deaf Refugee Advocacy:** We recognize that deaf refugees, asylum-seekers, immigrants, and those from US territories have unique needs that are best served and assisted by the members of the general Deaf community. <https://deafrefugeeadvocacy.org/>
- **National Association of the Deaf:** The nation's premier civil rights organization of, by and for deaf and hard of hearing individuals in the United States of America. <https://www.nad.org>
- **National Black Deaf Advocates:** National Black Deaf Advocates (NBDA) is the official advocacy organization for thousands of Black Deaf and Hard of Hearing Americans. For more than three decades, NBDA has been at the forefront of advocacy efforts for civil rights and equal access to education, employment, and social services on behalf of the Black Deaf and Hard of Hearing in the United States. <https://www.nbda.org/>

American Sign Language Classes

- American School for the Deaf: <https://www.asd-1817.org/outreach-services/sign-language-classes> (virtual and in person)
- Connecticut State Colleges and Universities: <http://www.ct.edu/>
- Disabilities Network of Eastern Connecticut (DNEC): <https://www.dnec.org/deaf-services> (virtual and in person)
- Gallaudet: <https://www.gallaudet.edu/asl-connect/asl-for-free> (virtual)
- Life Print: <https://www.lifeprint.com/> (virtual)
- Sign School: <https://www.signschool.com/> (virtual)
- Start ASL: <https://www.startasl.com/learn-sign-language-asl/> (virtual)
- University of Connecticut: <https://asl.uconn.edu/>
- West Blue ASL Communications: <http://westblueaslcommunications.com/> (virtual only)

Assistive Technology

- **Connecticut Tech Act:** www.cttechact.com- A community project run through the State of Connecticut Aging and Disability services to provide a variety of programs and services to increase access to assistive technology for work, school, and community living.

- **New England Assistive Technology (NEAT Marketplace):** <https://oakhillct.org/NEAT-Center> - provide information/training about the latest technologies, products, equipment and services that assist people with day-to-day activities that they have trouble doing themselves, either because of a disability or the effects of aging.
- **Diglo (formerly Harris Communications):** <https://www.diglo.com/> -Company that provides adaptive equipment for individuals with hearing loss such as alert systems, communication devices, bed shakers, etc.
- **Lumen:** Lumen Technologies and our subsidiaries, CenturyLink and Quantum Fiber, make all our customers and your unique needs a priority. If you are a customer with a disability, we have solutions and discount programs designed for you. We can help determine whether you qualify for service discounts, and help with service orders, repairs and billing questions. <https://www.lumen.com/en-us/about/accessibility.html>

Captioning information and Services

- ***C-print***- Speech to text system, often used for students in a classroom for note taking.
 - Information about- [The C-Print® System | C-Print \(rit.edu\)](#)
- ***Communication Access Realtime Translation(CART)***- Service provides instantaneous translation of what is being said into visual print display so that it can be read (instead of heard).

- **Interpreters and Translators**

800-648-0686 (voice)

ititranslates.comneada@ihcdesign.org

- **Teti Reporting Services** (CT, MA and RI)

Frances R. Teti, Court Reporter

860-302-7111 (voice)

TetiReporting@gmail.com

Centers for Independent Living

Each state and U.S. territory is required to maintain a statewide independent living council (SILC). The Council and the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) within the state develop a State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). The SPIL is a document required by law that indicates how the IL Network is going to improve independent living services for individuals with disabilities over the next three years. It identifies the needs and priorities of consumers, providers, and other stakeholders and sets forth goals and objectives to respond to them.

Connecticut Statewide Independent Living Council: SILC works across CT to promote choice, equal access, opportunity and full inclusion of people with disabilities into the economic, political, social, cultural and educational mainstream of American society. <https://ctsilc.org/>

We work with the five Centers for Independent Living throughout the state. Think of SILC as the planning body and the ILCs are where the plans are put into action. We know that life can be challenging for

individuals with disabilities. But we also believe — as do you — that your abilities exceed your disabilities. Reach out at any time; we're here to help.

- **Disabilities Network of Eastern CT—DNEC**

19 Ohio Ave

Norwich, CT 06360

Alyson Dolan, Advocate

Email: ADolan@dnec.org

(860)255-4190 (videophone)

Service areas: Ashford, Bozrah, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Colchester, Columbia, Coventry, East Lyme, Eastford, Franklin, Griswold, Groton, Hampton, Killingly, Lisbon, Lebanon, Ledyard, Mansfield, Montville, New London, North Stonington, Norwich, Plainfield, Pomfret, Preston, Putnam, Salem, Scotland, Sprague, Sterling, Stonington, Thompson, Union, Voluntown, Waterford Windham, and Woodstock.

- **Independence Northwest**

1183 New Haven Road, Suite 200

Naugatuck, CT 06770

Jennifer Torres, Advocate Deaf Services

Email: Jennifer.Torres@indnw.org

VP:203-490-2373

Service areas: Barkhamsted, Beacon Falls, Bethel, Bethlehem, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Canaan, Cheshire, Colebrook, Cornwall, Danbury, Goshen, Hartland, Harwinton, Kent, Litchfield, Middlebury, Morris, Naugatuck, New Fairfield, New Hartford, New Milford, Newtown, Norfolk, North Canaan, Oxford, Prospect, Redding, Ridgefield, Roxbury, Salisbury, Sharon, Sherman, Southbury, Thomaston, Torrington, Warren, Washington, Waterbury, Watertown, Winchester, Wolcott, and Woodbury.

- **Independence Unlimited**

151 New Park Ave

Hartford, CT 06106

Dana O'Leary, Advocate

Email: Dana@independenceunlimited.org

VP: 860-724-2742 VP

Service areas: Granby, East Granby, Suffield, Windsor Locks, Windsor, Bloomfield, Ellington, Simsbury, Canton, Avon, West Hartford, Hartford, Farmington, New Britain, Plainville, Bristol, Burlington, Plymouth, Berlin, Wethersfield, Rocky Hill, East Hartford, Glastonbury, Manchester, Marlborough, Hebron, Andover, Bolton, Vernon, Tolland, Enfield, East Windsor, Newington, South Windsor, Southington, Somers, Stafford, Tolland, and Willington.

- **Access Independence**

300 Long Beach BLVD Suite 1

Stratford, CT 06615

Glynis Gibson, Advocate

Email: GGibson@accessinct.org

203-416-6076 VP

Service areas: Bridgeport, Darien, Easton, Fairfield, Greenwich, Monroe, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Trumbull, Weston, Westport, and Wilton.

- **Center for Disability Rights**

369 Highland Street
West Haven, CT 06516

Sue Catale

Email: sue@cdr-ct.org
203-680-3967 VP

Service areas: Ansonia, Bethany, Branford, Chester, Clinton, Cromwell, Deep River, Derby, Durham, East Haddam, East Hampton, East Haven, Essex, Guilford, Haddam, Hamden, Killingworth, Lyme, Madison, Middlefield, Middletown, Meriden, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Orange, Portland, Seymour, Shelton, Wallingford, West Haven, Westbrook, and Woodridge

Children and Families

- **Connecticut Hands & Voices** is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to supporting families with children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing without a bias around communication modes or methodology. We're a parent-driven, non-profit organization providing families with the resources, networks, and information to improve communication access and educational outcomes for their children. Our outreach activities, parent/professional collaboration, and advocacy are focused on empowering children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing to reach their highest potential.
- **Department of Children and Families**- Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind Advisory Team- <https://portal.ct.gov/dcf/multicultural-affairs/deaf-and-hard-of-hearing>

*The Statewide Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advisory Team (DHHAT) is comprised of collective minds from within the agency and the community. Internal staff from across all area offices, central office and facilities serve as liaisons to their respective areas and actively collaborate with our community partners, who have a wealth of knowledge and navigation of effective resources. This collaborative team approach is intended to support the needs of family members who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Children of Deaf or Hard of Hearing adults while addressing child safety and well-being. Therefore, in partnership with representatives from all divisions of DCF and members of the professional community, the **DHHAT** aims to identify, assess, and explore ways of improving the implementation of best-case practice for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing population.*

Coercive Control and Domestic Violence

- **Connecticut Coalition against Domestic Violence:** Through education and advocacy we empower survivors and eliminate stigma. Our goal: end domestic violence in our state—for good. It is with bold, ambitious action that we will end this public health crisis and move toward achieving our vision of creating a world where no person lives in fear. We are a membership organization of Connecticut's 18 domestic violence service agencies that provide critical support to victims including safety planning, emergency shelter, court advocacy, counseling & support groups, among other services. <https://www.ctcadv.org/>
- **National Domestic Violence Hotline for Deaf:** Deaf survivors of domestic violence face unique circumstances that can make it harder to access services or leave an abusive situation. Dynamics within Deaf, DeafBlind, or hard of hearing communities can make it difficult to retain confidentiality, and abusive partners may have increased opportunities to limit your access to support or information. <http://www.thehotline.org/help/deaf-services/abuse-in-the-deaf-community/> Secondary website: <https://www.thehotline.org/resources/deaf-deafblind-hard-of-hearing-services/>
- **National Resource Center on Domestic Violence-NRCDV** knows that domestic violence is preventable and ending domestic violence takes vision. WE PROMISE to lead boldly in centering and amplifying voices of survivors and traditionally marginalized communities. WE PROMISE to make you feel Valued, Inspired, Equipped, and Informed, in each and every interaction you have with NRCDV. WE PROMISE to provide opportunities to make you feel Invested and Connected in the movement to end domestic violence. <http://www.nrcdv.org/>
- **Violence Against Women**-home to thousands of materials on gender-based violence and related issues. <http://www.vawnet.org/>
- **Abused Deaf Women Advocacy Services** -empowers Deaf and DeafBlind survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and harassment to transform their lives, while striving to change the beliefs and behaviors that foster and perpetuate violence. We provide comprehensive services to individuals and families, community education, and advocacy on systems and policy issues.
Website: www.adwas.org
Website: thedeafhotline.org
Email: hotline@adwas.org
Local: 206-812-1001 (Voice/VP)
National: 855-812-1001 (Voice/VP)

Deaf Owned Businesses

To assist in promoting economic empowerment within the DDBHH community, ensuring that DDBHH entrepreneurs receive visibility, support, and opportunities to thrive in a competitive marketplace, we

have decided to include resources to lists of deaf own businesses. If you would like to include you DDBHH own Connecticut business, please reach out to ads.dhohcounseling@ct.gov

DeafBlind

- **Aging and Disability Services- Bureau of Education Services for the Blind**: provides funding to create opportunities for recreation, communication, socialization and other services that further community inclusion for adults age 21 or older who are deafblind. An individual is considered to be deafblind if his or her vision meets the statutory definition of legal blindness or impaired vision and the individual's hearing is non-functional for the purpose of understanding ordinary conversation with optimum amplification. Individuals who are deafblind may request funds for programs they design to provide access to recreation, communication, socialization and other services that reduces social isolation and increases involvement in the community. Additionally, organizations, providers, individuals and other entities may request funds to provide services to individuals or to groups of individuals who are deafblind.
<https://portal.ct.gov/aginganddisability/content-pages/bureaus/services-to-individuals-who-are-deafblind>
 - DeafBlind Advisory Committee- <https://portal.ct.gov/aginganddisability/content-pages/boards/deafblind-advisory-committee>
- **American Association of the DeafBlind**- a national consumer organization of, by, and for deaf-blind Americans and their supporters. "Deaf-blind" includes all types and degrees of dual vision and hearing loss. Our membership consists of deaf-blind people from diverse backgrounds, as well as family members, professionals, interpreters, and other interested supporters. AADB is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization governed by a board of directors, the majority of whom are deaf-blind. AADB receives funding from grants, membership fees, and tax-deductible donations.
<https://www.aadb.org/>
- **DeafBlind Support Group**: A way to connect the DeafBlind community across the US. Since then, it has expanded the programs to educate the mainstream community to DeafBlind people and our culture. <https://www.dbsan.org/>
- **DeafBlind Technology Grant, Aging and Disability Services**: <http://www.icanconnect.org/how-to-apply/connecticut>
- **Hadley School for the Blind**-
- **National Center on DeafBlindness**: NCDB works with state deafblind projects and other partners to improve educational results and quality of life for children who are deafblind and their families. <https://www.nationaldb.org/>
- **New England Consortium on DeafBlindness**: We are a collaborative system that enables infants, children, and youth who are deafblind to participate meaningfully in their homes, schools, and communities. <https://www.perkins.org/nec/>
- **Helen Keller National Center**: The only national program providing comprehensive vocational rehabilitation services to youth (16 and older), working-age adults and seniors (55 and better)

with combined hearing and vision loss. We work together with people who are DeafBlind to achieve their goals and aspirations. <https://www.helenkeller.org/hknc/>

- **Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.:** This program creates a space for DeafBlind people to come together to share and learn information in an accessible format and environment. The Lighthouse employs more people who are DeafBlind than any other organization in the U.S. <https://lhblind.org/>
- **Tactile Communications:** Tactile Communications is committed to maximizing the autonomy of DeafBlind people by providing necessary training in a linguistically and culturally appropriate setting. Our aim is to give DeafBlind people the tools they need to become active, productive members of society and in doing so, to improve the quality of their lives. <https://www.tactilecommunications.org/ProTactilePrinciples>

Developmental Disabilities

State of Connecticut- Department of Developmental Disabilities- The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) partners with individuals, their families, and support groups to help individuals with intellectual disability lead fulfilling lives within their communities. [DDS \(ct.gov\)](https://www.ct.gov/dds/)

Driver's Training Programs

State of Connecticut- Aging and Disability Services Driver Training Program- any qualified permanent Connecticut resident who requires special equipment in order to operate a motor vehicle. This is the only state-operated program of this type in the U.S. There is no charge for this training. [Driver Training Program \(ct.gov\)](https://www.ct.gov/ads/dtp/)

Education and Transition Services

- **American School for the Deaf:** Founded in 1817, the American School for the Deaf was the first permanent school for the deaf in the United States and a nationally renowned leader in providing comprehensive educational programs and services for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. <https://www.asd-1817.org/>
- **Gallaudet University:** Federally chartered in **1864**, is a bilingual, diverse, multicultural institution of higher education that ensures the intellectual and professional advancement of deaf and hard of hearing individuals through American Sign Language (ASL) and English. Gallaudet maintains a proud tradition of research and scholarly activity and prepares its graduates for career opportunities in a highly competitive, technological, and rapidly changing world. <https://gallaudet.edu/about/>
- **RIT/NTID:** **RIT/NTID:** serves more than 1,100 deaf and hard-of-hearing students from around the world, many of whom live, study, and work alongside hearing students on the mainstream RIT campus. <https://www.rit.edu/ntid/about-ntid>

- **Northwestern Community College:** One of the Connecticut State Community Colleges that provides a Deaf Studies Program and an Interpreter Training program. Either educational path begins with courses in American Sign Language. The goal is to provide students with advanced ASL skills and an in-depth understanding of the Deaf Community focusing on a bilingual-bicultural approach. These preparatory courses are the foundation for pursuing a certificate in Deaf Studies or continuing on in the Associate's degree towards becoming an Interpreter for the Deaf. <https://nwcc.edu/deaf-studies-itp/>
- **Connecticut Birth to 3:** <https://www.birth23.org/>
- **Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf:** <http://www.ceasd.org/advocacy/advocacy-tool-kit>
- **Connecticut Deaf and Hard of Hearing Transition Resources:** <http://www.studenttransitionresources.org/student-resources.html>
- **Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center:** Educate, support, and empower Connecticut's diverse families of children and youth with any disability or chronic conditions, ages birth to 26, and the professionals who serve them. <http://www.cpacinc.org/>
- **Connecticut Hands & Voices** is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to supporting families with children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing without a bias around communication modes or methodology. We're a parent-driven, non-profit organization providing families with the resources, networks, and information to improve communication access and educational outcomes for their children. Our outreach activities, parent/professional collaboration, and advocacy are focused on empowering children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing to reach their highest potential. <http://www.cthandsandvoices.org/>
- **National Deaf Center:** Our products and services are deaf-centered, evidence-based, and developed in response to community needs. We offer online courses, online gaming tools for youth, data reports, research summaries, evidence-based resources, webinars, and more. We also provide individualized consultation, training, and resources that help community members, organizations, and schools improve outcomes for deaf people in continuing education and training. <https://www.nationaldeafcenter.org/>
- **Soundbridge:** the leading service provider for auditory/oral and aural habilitation support in Connecticut. CREC Soundbridge offers specialized expertise (Teachers of the Deaf) and services (Audiology) for students with hearing loss using listening and spoken language as a communication modality. <http://www.crec.org/soundbridge/>

Employment

- **The State of Connecticut- Aging and Disability Services- Bureau of Rehabilitation Services:** Has VR counselors for the Deaf (RCD) who are geographically situated across the state. Staff works to provide individualized services, develop effective partnerships, and share sufficient information so that consumers and their families may make informed choices about the rehabilitation process and employment options.
https://portal.ct.gov/rehabilitationservices?language=en_US
- **State of Connecticut- Department of Administrative Services**-the nerve center for state government. From statewide human resources to information technology to building and construction services to procurement to fleet operations to grant administration and more, DAS helps state government function. DAS offers services for state agencies, municipalities, businesses, and individuals. https://portal.ct.gov/das/services/state-jobs-and-employment?language=en_US

Entertainment- Theater, Social Clubs,

- **Connecticut Deaf/ASL Social**- Find on Facebook
- **CTFSN Deaf or Hard of Hearing Learning Community**- Find on Facebook
- **Connecticut Deaf Theatre:** theatrical experiences showcasing American Sign Language and Deaf Culture through performing arts and artistic efforts in the state of Connecticut and the region of New England. <https://www.conndeaftheatre.org/about>
- **Museum of Deaf:** Welcome to the Museum of Deaf History, Arts and Culture and the William J. Marra Museum! If you are curious about what it is like to be Deaf or want to learn about our rich heritage, you have come to the right place! Through these webpages or through the doors of our facility located in Olathe, Kansas, you will be exposed to the historical experiences of being Deaf and our numerous contributions to the world around us. The educational opportunities here are limitless! Learn more about the legacies of Paul Hubbard, Luther “Dummy” Taylor and Charles Baird while you’re here for starters. Come in, browse around, learn more about our cultural enrichment programs, participate in our many events, and best of all, volunteer your time with us! You will walk away inspired by what the Deaf world has to offer! <https://www.museumofdeaf.org/>
- **Danbury Area Deaf/ASL Community**- Find on Facebook
- **Greater Hartford Club of the Deaf**- Find on Facebook

- **Litchfield Country ASL Social club**-Find on Facebook
- **New England Deaf Group**- Find on Facebook
- **The Northwest Deaf Club**: <https://www.nwcc.edu/clubs-organizations/> This group brings together deaf and hard-of-hearing students, as well as students of American Sign Language for cultural, social and recreational activities
- **National Theater of the Deaf**: Founded in 1967, NTD has a long and rich history as a national and international performing arts organization. NTD pioneered a dual language theatre concept, creating a hybrid of American Sign Language with spoken English that has been seen in all fifty states in the U.S., in thirty-three countries, and on all seven continents throughout the world. Over its 50+ years, NTD has appeared and performed on Broadway, the Disney Channel, on Sesame Street, at the White House, and before luminaries and dignitaries the world over. NTD operates in Washington, DC both locally and with a national focus, and is always reimagining itself and how it supports the greater Deaf theatre ecosystem. <https://ntd.org/about-us/>

Emergency and Preparedness

- American Red Cross Video: “Preparing to go to a Shelter- Deaf and Hard of Hearing”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=izwCXt7B6sc>
- American Red Cross Video: “Emergency Preparedness Kit in American Sign Language”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yEmrm9Ns3KA&feature=related>
- American Red Cross and NTID Disaster Preparedness and the Deaf Community Handbook:
http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/sites/default/files/public/php/332/332_brochure.pdf
- CDC COVID-19 information in ASL:
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvrp9iOILTQatwnqm61jqFrsfUB4RKh6J>
- CT Department of Public Health Hearing Loss Emergency Planning Tip Sheet:
<https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Public-Health-Preparedness/BT/Tips-for-People-Who-Are-Hearing-Impaired>
- CT Department of Public Health Preparedness Video for People who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_n7Hljd5OmE
- CT Department of Public Health Ebola Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8VPVJ9LH57I>
- FEMA ASL Videos: <https://www.fema.gov/resources-people-disabilities-access-functional-needs>

Hearing Aid Programs

The first step for financial assistance resources for hearing aids (and other technology) is to check with your health care insurance provider to find out if they carry hearing aid coverage. After that, check out the programs listed here to find out you might be eligible for services:

- **America Speech-Language-Hearing Association:** [Local Funding Agencies/Programs for Audiology Services and Hearing Aids \(asha.org\)](#)
- **Hearing Loss Association of America:** <https://www.hearingloss.org/hearing-help/financial-assistance/>
- **Gift of Hearing Foundation (Cochlear Implants only)**- offers resources to other organizations as well. <http://www.giftofhearingfoundation.org/>
- **Lions Club:** [Find a Club \(lionsclubs.org\)](#)
- **Miracle Ear:** [Miracle-Ear Foundation: Eligibility Criteria | Miracle-Ear](#)
- **Rotary Club:** [Home EN | Rotary International](#)
- **Sertoma:** Our mission and our passion is to improve the quality of life for those at risk or impacted by hearing loss through education and support. <https://www.sertoma.org/>

Housing

More Information coming soon!

Information services

- **Federal Communication Commission (FCC):** The FCC has launched an ASL Consumer Support Line, specifically designed so consumers who are deaf and hard of hearing can engage in a direct video call with an FCC consumer specialist. Specialists can assist consumers with filing informal complaints, and help consumers obtain information in response to inquiries on a wide range of disability-related matters, such as telecommunications relay service (TRS), closed captioning and access to emergency information on television, and general telecommunication matters, such as slamming, Do-Not-Call telemarketing violations and broadband services. 202-418-2517 (V) 844-432-2275 (VP) <https://www.fcc.gov/>
- **Social Security Office:** A representative at these numbers can often handle your situation, if not, they will set up an appointment for you with your local office, or will transfer the call to your local office. The website provides many resources and contact information for local offices. 800-772-1213 (V) 800-325-0778 (National TTY) Social Security Administration's website- www.ssa.gov
- **United Way 211-** United Way 211 is a free health and human service information and referral helpline. Calls are answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. 211 is certified by the [American Association of Suicidology](#) for crisis intervention and accredited by the [Alliance of Information and Referral Systems](#). 211 also maintains a database that includes resources for, but not limited; to housing, food banks, child care, etc. <https://uwc.211ct.org/>

Interpreter training programs

- **Discover Interpreting**- platform for offering resources and insight to the profession of interpreting. You can find online articles from RID VIEWS, JOI, CATIE Center, Gallaudet University and much more. With tremendous resources and links to help students and aspiring interpreters learn where to start, and how to connect with the community in order to succeed. - <https://discoverinterpreting.org/>
- **Northwestern Community College**: program of study leading to an Associate in Science degree. The purpose of the program is to provide quality interpreter education in a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary endeavor focusing on preparing student interpreters of ASL and English. - <https://nwcc.edu/completion/interpreter-training/>

Interpreting information

Connecticut State Law and Registry:

[AN ACT CONCERNING ALLOCATIONS OF FEDERAL AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS AND PROVISIONS RELATED TO GENERAL GOVERNMENT, HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION AND THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025.](#)

Aging and Disability Services monitors and posts a statewide [Interpreter Registry](#) for all sign language interpreters working in Connecticut in accordance with state statute. Interpreter Registry :

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/aginganddisability/interpreterlisting/registeredinterpreterlisting.pdf>

- **Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf**: Serving equally our members, the profession, and the public by promoting and advocating for qualified and effective interpreters in all spaces where intersectional diverse Deaf lives are impacted. <https://rid.org>
- **Connecticut Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf**: The affiliate chapter of RID. Serving equally our members, the profession, and the public by promoting and advocating for qualified and effective interpreters in all spaces where intersectional diverse Deaf lives are impacted. <https://www.connrid.org/about.html>

Interpreting services

Please contact us at @ ADS.DHOHCounseling@ct.gov for an updated list of agencies currently provided in the state both In- person and VRI.

Medical and mental health

- **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline** **The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline** provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in the United States. When people call, text or chat 988, they will be connected to trained counselors. Counselors will listen, provide support and connect them to resources in Minnesota. Videophone users: Use your preferred video relay services and dial 988. Captioned phone and TTY users: Use your preferred relay service or dial 711 then 988. To text 988, enter 988 and send

a text message to get connected. To chat from a computer, go to 988lifeline.org/chat For more information about 988, go to [Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Hearing Loss - 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline \(988lifeline.org\)](https://988lifeline.org)

- **State of Connecticut- Aging and Disability Services** Provides counseling related to special language, communication and socioeconomic problems unique to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families: [Deaf and Hard of Hearing Counseling \(ct.gov\)](https://www.ct.gov/ads)
 - *****Please email the ADS Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deafblind Counseling unit for updated therapists who are culturally and linguistically competent @ ADS.DHOHcounseling@ct.gov
- **State of Connecticut- Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services:** DMHAS facilities provide DHOH services, including American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreting, Certified Deaf Interpreting, Home Sign, Tactile Interpreting, Signed English, Foreign Sign Language, other forms of visual gestural communication as well as Assistive Listening Devices, Communication Access Real Time (CART) and Video Relay Interpreting. Each DMHAS state operated facility and program designates a DHOH Contact person who helps persons with disabilities arrange DHOH Services for that facility's programs, services and activities at no cost to the person: [DMHAS Deaf DeafBlind Hard of Hearing Program and Services DHOH \(ct.gov\)](https://www.ct.gov/dmhas)
- **Deaf Lead:** We provide 24/7 crisis intervention, advocacy, case management, interpreting, and mental health support services to victims of crime who are Deaf, hard of hearing, DeafBlind, and late-deafened individuals and their families. We also lend our expertise to victim service providers—individuals and organizations alike—in ensuring that their services for crime victims with hearing loss are culturally and linguistically appropriate. <https://deaflead.org/>
- **Deaf Counseling Center:** a Deaf-owned and operated counseling and consulting practice staffed by Deaf licensed professional therapists. We specialize in working with Deaf people and their families. <http://www.deafcounseling.com/>
- **National Deaf Therapy:** <https://www.nationaldeaftherapy.com/>
- **HIVinfo:** Part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). HIVinfo and Clinicalinfo provide access to federal HIV/AIDS-related information on clinical research, HIV treatment and prevention, and medical practice guidelines for health care providers and consumers. Information is available in English and Spanish on the websites and from Health Information Specialists by phone Monday through Friday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Eastern Time. Office of AIDS Research, National Institutes of Health, 5601 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20892 800-448-0440 (V) Email: HIVinfo@NIH.gov – www.HIVinfo.nih.gov

DDBHH Organizations

- **AG Bell:** <https://agbell.org/> -Founded in 1887 by Alexander Graham Bell, AG Bell initially started as the Volta Bureau, focusing on improving education and welfare for the deaf. While Bell is best known for inventing the telephone, he dedicated much of his life to supporting the deaf and hard of hearing, especially children.
- **American School for the Deaf Alumni Association:** [ASDAA, Alumni Association of American School for the Deaf: Home Page](#)
- **Association of Late Deafened Adults:** support the empowerment of deafened people. Late-Deafened Adults are people who have lost the ability to understand speech with or without hearing aids after acquiring spoken language. ALDA is committed to providing a support network and a sense of belonging by sharing our unique experiences, challenges and coping strategies, helping one another find practical solutions and emotional support, and working together with other organizations and service providers for our common good. <https://www.alda.org/>
- **Deaf Black Advocates:** We are a 501c(3) educational Deaf and hearing Black collaborative nonprofit. We create educational materials, experiences, and trainings rooted in Black Deaf cultures in solidarity with other Communities of Color to build relationships, increase cultural understanding, promote respect, and create pathways to joy and liberation. <https://www.blackdeafproject.com/>
- **Cochlear Implant Events:** <https://www.cochlear.com/us/en/home/ongoing-care-and-support/connect-with-us/events>
- **Communication Advocacy Network:** Provides auxiliary support services to Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing senior citizens and DeafBlind individuals.
- **Connecticut Academy of Audiology:** A professional organization of individuals dedicated to providing expert hearing health care to the public. The mission of the Academy is to enhance the ability of our members to achieve career and practice objectives through professional development, education, advocacy, research, and increased public awareness of hearing and balance disorders and audiologic services. <https://www.ctaud.org/>
- **Connecticut Association of the Deaf:** A state association as one of affiliations under the National Association of the Deaf to promote the rights and quality of life of deaf and hard-of-hearing CT residents. - <http://www.deafcad.org/>
- **Connecticut Council of Organizations Serving the Deaf:** Objective is to promote and serve the best interests and welfare of all Deaf citizens of CT. [CCOSD - Connecticut Deaf Organizations | West Hartford CT | Facebook](#)

- **Connecticut Resources for the Deaf:** *A Student Transition Resource For Individuals Who Are Deaf / Hard of Hearing* <http://www.studenttransitionresources.org/student-resources.html>
- **Connecticut Deaf Senior Citizens:** Find the information that you need to make good choices on socials, meetings, services, programs, and plans activities that enables people to participate in any center activity at Newington Senior and Disabled Center, 120 Cedar Street, Newington, CT 06011. The door is open from 9 am to 4 pm at the multi-purpose room once every Tuesday a week. <http://www.deafwebconnections.org/cdsc/index.html>
- **Connecticut Hands & Voices:** a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to supporting families with children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing without a bias around communication modes or methodology. We're a parent-driven, non-profit organization providing families with the resources, networks, and information to improve communication access and educational outcomes for their children. Our outreach activities, parent/professional collaboration, and advocacy are focused on empowering children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing to reach their highest potential. <http://www.cthandsandvoices.org/>
- **Connecticut Retirement Community:** Is dedicated to providing affordable, independent living apartments to seniors in Connecticut. These comfortable apartments are located in an attractive, country-like setting. The friendly, social atmosphere of our complex foster a sense of community, and residents are welcome to enjoy shared activities and common spaces. The Connecticut Retirement Community, Inc. building is ideal for seniors who want to maintain their independent lifestyle, but don't want to maintain a home and yard. We are a nonprofit organization recognized by the federal government. <http://www.deafwebconnections.org/crc/index.html>
- **Council de Manos:** Empowering Latinx Deaf, DeafBlind, Deaf Disabled, Hard of Hearing, and Late Deafened (DDBDDHLD) through social justice awareness. <http://www.councildemanos.org/>
- **Deaf-Blind Association of the CT:** Promotes the welfare of DeafBlind people in educational, economic, security, social equality and just rights and privileges as citizens. The Association cooperates with other organization of and for DeafBlind people and Deaf people in working toward its objections. <http://www.deafwebconnections.org/dbac/index.html>
- **Deaf Women United:** Deaf Women United is a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering deaf women and promoting their rights. Our mission is to create effective initiatives that address the unique challenges faced by deaf women. We believe in taking urgent action to raise public awareness about the pressing issues affecting deaf women and society today. <http://www.dwu.org/>

- **Hearing Loss Association of America Connecticut Chapter (Hartford, Eastern, and Southwestern)**: to empower teens and young adults to overcome their everyday life challenges associated with hearing loss. We aim to do this using a mentor model. <http://ct-shhh.tripod.com/hlaaeasternct/>
- **Hear Here Hartford**: Hear Here Hartford (HHH) is the Hartford Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA). HHH is one of the few organizations in CT with a specific mission to empower teens and young adults with hearing loss, regardless of communication mode, through education, inspiration, social, and mentor-supported programs. <http://www.hearherehartford.org/>
More information on Facebook Page
- **International Deaf Catholic Association**: <https://www.icda-us.org/>

Service Animals

- **Assistance Dogs International**: a worldwide coalition of not-for-profit programs that train and place Assistance Dogs. Founded in 1986 from a group of seven small programs, ADI has become the leading authority in the Assistance Dog industry. <https://www.assistancedogsinternational.org/>
- **Dogs for Better Lives (formerly Dogs for the Deaf, Inc.)**: a 501(c)(3) national nonprofit with campuses in Central Point, Oregon and Falmouth, Massachusetts. DBL rescues or breeds, trains, and places Assistance Dogs free of charge with deaf or hard-of-hearing adults, children diagnosed with autism, and licensed professionals working with vulnerable communities so people with disabilities can lead safer and more independent lives. <https://www.dogsforbetterlives.org/>
- **NEADS World Class Service Dogs** - <https://neads.org/service-dog-programs/hearing-dogs-deaf-and-hearing-loss>
- **Paws with a Cause**: Enhances the independence and quality of life for people with disabilities nationally through custom-trained Assistance Dogs. PAWS® increases awareness of the rights and roles of Assistance Dog Teams through education and advocacy. <https://www.pawswithacause.org/>
- **Pawsitivity Service Dogs**: A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in St. Paul, Minnesota, EIN 47-1446634. Founded in 2012, we train service dogs for U.S. military veterans and first responders with PTSD and other disabilities. <https://www.pawsitivityservicedogs.com/>