

# Deaf Access Services



Deaf Access Services, a program of People Inc., facilitates accessibility for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, hard of hearing and hearing communities of Western New York and the Greater Rochester region. The program responds to the interests of people who are Deaf and hard of hearing by promoting communication access, awareness and opportunities in the community.

We envision a community where ALL people experience equality, empowerment and inclusion – leading lives full of possibilities.



A program of People Inc.

Phone: 716.833.1637 • Video Phone: 716.335.9192 • [wnydas.org](http://wnydas.org)

# Interpreting Services

**To request an interpreter, call 716.833.1637.**

Deaf Access Services, a program of People Inc., provides services in a variety of settings throughout the eight counties of Western New York, the Greater Rochester region and into the Central New York region. Interpreters are evaluated by highly qualified staff and adhere to the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Code of Professional Conduct, an industry standard. Services include:

## **ASL Interpreting Services**

**Communication Access Real-Time Translation (CART)**

**Video Remote Interpreting (VRI)**

## **Why Choose Deaf Access Services for your Services?**

### **Deaf Access Services**

- We are the ONLY nonprofit program in the region focused on services for Deaf and hard of hearing communities.
- By using our services, you are giving back to the community by supporting the additional services we provide, such as:
  - Advocacy
  - ASL Education
  - Community Support Services
  - Community Training
  - Employment Services
  - Deaf Refugee Services
- We are language and cultural experts, focused only on the language and variations used by Deaf and hard of hearing community.
- We are experts in understanding accessibility needs for Deaf and hard of hearing people and can help you find resolutions for communication access and assistive technology.
- Extensive roster of Qualified Interpreters.
- Unique CART Services for accommodations for the hard of hearing.
- Only local VRI provider, able to work with you through the process and provide ongoing, local and onsite support.

### **Other Providers**

- If offering VRI, support is not local and limited.
- Often provide interpreting and VRI services for multiple spoken languages.
- For-Profit – meaning they are not supporting the local community, but profiting from interpreting services.

# Captioning Services

Deaf Access Services supports the use of captioning and interpreting in all video content. This ensures everyone has access to the information.

Our captioning services are customizable, based on your needs and can be combined with ASL interpretation or voice-over interpretation. The completed video contains the additional content embedded directly – all you have to do is hit “play.”

**For more information, contact our Interpreting Department at [InterpretingServices@wnydas.org](mailto:InterpretingServices@wnydas.org) or 716.833.1637.**

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# Career Pathways Program

The Deaf Access Services Career Pathways Team assists qualified people who are Deaf and hard of hearing with all aspects of job search. Our commitment is to help find steady, satisfying, long-term employment that meets the goals of each person.

## **PROMOTE Services**

**P**rovide **R**eal **O**pportunities to **M**aximize **O**ptions for **T**ransition and **E**mployment

PROMOTE services are for students with disabilities (age 14-21) who need, but are potentially NOT YET eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation Services (ACCES-VR).

PROMOTE prepares students with disabilities for employment, explores their post-secondary education options, develops their employment related soft skills and assists them in obtaining work experience. The goal is to prepare the students to become engaged in their own transition and vocational planning, as well as for successful long-term employment consistent with their individual strengths, abilities, interests and informed choices.

## **Youth Transition**

Pre-Employment (Pre-ETS) and Transition Services are used to support students with disabilities.

Pre-ETS are experiential opportunities for students as outlined to address the career development needs of students with disabilities, ages 14-21.

This includes students in secondary school or students looking to enter college or training programs. Services focus on the unique characteristics of each individual student, designed to engage the student so that they develop a better understanding of themselves, their strengths, interests and abilities. This self-knowledge gained through participation in these services will allow students to successfully engage in their own post-secondary transition and vocational services.

## **Employment**

*For the job-seeker*

- Creating a career plan
- Developing resumes and cover letters
- Job placement support
- Job retention support
- Job searching for available positions
- Mock interviews
- Pre-employment skills
- Soft skills to help you land the job of your dreams

*For potential employers*

- Collaboration with Deaf Access Services will add diversity to your workplace, as well as provide your business with State and Federal Tax incentives.
- Deaf Access Services can assist employers by:
  - Ensuring individuals are work-ready and a suitable match
  - Providing information on assistive technology devices
  - Providing interpreters for interviews, orientations and performance reviews
  - Providing job coaching to assist with training

# Community Services and Supports

## Advocacy

We understand the unique circumstances of each person and respect diversity of language and communication preferences.

We engage in a variety of activities to ensure our local community has access to mainstream services, as well as provide connections to other resources through referrals and case management. This includes providing support to navigate complex systems, such as:

- Applying for SSI/SSD
- Courts
- Educational Institutions
- Employment
- Food Stamps
- Government entities
- Health Care
- Law Enforcement
- Medicaid and Medicare

## Assistive Technology

We provide information, resources and guidance on assistive devices for the home. Community members are able to order the devices from our offices with staff support. The cost of the devices typically holds a high price tag. With our support, clients are able to get the cost of assistive devices and technology covered in part – bringing the price down to zero for most.

## Training

All of our training is customized to the individual or organizational needs. These include various topics, such as:

- Deaf cultural competency
- Deaf culture and history
- Empowerment through self-advocacy
- Rights covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Rights covered by New York State Division of Human Rights
- Working with people who are Deaf and hard of hearing/Employing Deaf and hard of hearing people
- Understanding language deprivation

## ASL Education

Deaf Access Services offers classes for people who want to learn American Sign Language (ASL) and Deaf culture. Classes are taught evenings at our office for levels 1-5 and can be arranged at other locations and alternative times, dependent on class size.

Our goal is for students to become an ally and advocate, understand Deaf culture and develop conversational skills to communicate using ASL. In our immersion classes, students are taught in a “voice-off” classroom where we prioritize the use of trained Deaf community members to teach.

## Hard of Hearing Supports

Deaf Access Services provides supports for people who are hard of hearing, those experiencing hearing loss, and their families. Our staff can help guide you and your family member(s) through understanding and obtaining critical assistive technology, as well as connecting you with valuable programs and services.

## Deaf Refugees and Immigrants

We provide a welcoming environment for all community members, collaborate with local resettlement agencies, and are a proud founding member of the National Deaf Refugee Provider Coalition (NDRPC).

Our program offers a unique opportunity for Deaf refugees and immigrants in the Western New York area to learn and work alongside other local Deaf new Americans, community members, staff and volunteers.

Our goal is to see Deaf refugees and immigrants gain the knowledge necessary to:

- Navigate all aspects of life in America
- Secure gainful employment
- Live independently
- Successfully obtain driver’s license and complete citizenship



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**■ WNYDAS • ■ Deaf Access Services**

**Call to request interpreting services today!**

**TRI-MAIN CENTER • 2495 Main St., Ste. 446 • Buffalo, NY 14214**