

Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

2023 Fact Sheet

Programs and Services for Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled, Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened, and Speech Disabled Individuals

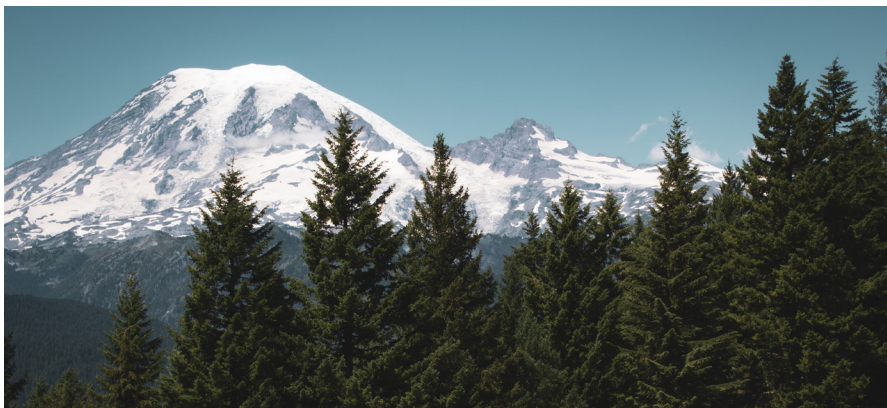


Image description: Photograph of Mt. Rainier National Park; white snow-covered volcano surrounded by a forest of green trees. Photo by Ryan Stone on Unsplash

ODHH offers long term supports and services to enhance accessibility and empower its service communities by supporting:

Communication Access: We promote effective communication by facilitating the provision of American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters, captioning services, assistive listening devices (ALDs), and other auxiliary aids for Washingtonians.

Distance Communication Support: We provide the Washington Relay program and the Telecommunication Equipment Distribution Program to enable Deaf, DeafBlind, Deaf Disabled, Hard of Hearing and Speech Disabled people to make telephone calls.

Education and Outreach: We conduct outreach programs, workshops, and training sessions to raise awareness, improve understanding, and foster sensitivity towards the needs of the communities the Office serves. The Office actively engages with educational institutions, employers, and service providers to promote accessibility and equal opportunities.

Policy Development: We actively participate in and provides expert insight and guidance to contribute to the development and review of inclusive policies, regulations, and legislation affecting the communities they serve.

Resource Referral: We maintain a directory of resources, including support groups, service providers, technology solutions, and assistive devices. This directory serves as a tool for connecting Washingtonians with appropriate services and assistance as needed.

Direct Services: We provide direct services to support individuals in who are Deaf, DeafBlind, Deaf Disabled, Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened, and Speech Disabled, including case management services, support service provider services, communication facilitator services, and family mentor services.

PLEASE VISIT WWW.DSHS.WA.GOV/AL TSA/ODHH FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Who We Are

The Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) provides programs and services for Deaf, DeafBlind, Deaf Disabled, Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened, and Speech Disabled individuals, their families, and service providers in Washington State. ODHH works to ensure that services and resources are accessible and inclusive to all Washingtonians.

What We Do

ODHH operates under the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and is entrusted with fulfilling its legislative mandate outlined in RCW 43.20A.725.

ODHH's work includes:

Advocacy: ODHH advocates for the rights, interests, and needs of individuals who are Deaf, DeafBlind, Deaf Disabled, Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened, and Speech Disabled. The Office works to eliminate communication barriers and promote equal opportunities in various service areas, including training, consultation, contract management, information and referrals, and resources to promote communication equity.

Coordination: ODHH is a centralized resource. The Office collaborates with governmental, business, and community stakeholders to develop and implement policies, programs, and initiatives that address and ensure that state services and resources are accessible and inclusive to all Washingtonians.

Contact Us!

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Transforming lives