



Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Bulletin June 2011

VISION

Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, in concurrence with the Colorado Department of Human Service vision, seeks to become the nation's leader in empowering Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals, families, and communities to become safe and independent.

MISSION

To promote the interests of our constituents and to work to ensure the quality of communication access for individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing living in the state of Colorado.

Resource Directory

CCDHH is pleased to announce that the long-awaited and essential deaf and hard of hearing Resource Directory is now up and running! No more scattered information! No more directories only related to specific services or programs! Individuals will now be able to find a list of Communication Access Real-time Translation providers, recreation centers or programs, behavioral health agencies, vocational rehabilitation offices, and much more all in one place!

Just go to the link below then click "Resource Directory" on the left:

<http://www.coloradodeafcommission.com/resources/default.aspx>. You will see a consolidated list of categories. Select the category of your desire and print the list of resources. Or print all of the resources for all of the categories by clicking the box on the directory page.

Our directory is also designed for government agencies, community organizations, or businesses to enter or revise their own information by filling out the on-line form and then pressing "Submit".

Those agencies, organizations or businesses that are not accessible to deaf and hard of hearing individuals (e.g. services without direct communication or services or are not willing to provide auxiliary services, aids or communication technology) are not encouraged to submit information for the Resource Directory. We are committed to making our directory useful, not useless.

Please note that our Resource Directory is still a work in progress. Many more resources will be added to the directory as we progress. You are welcome to share your feedback regarding our directory with us at any time.

Enjoy our Resource Directory!

TEDP Update – New Coordinator!

The Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program is now up to speed with Tricia Frank now running the program! Tricia, who previously occupied the staff Sign Language Interpreter position in the CCDHH offices, vacated that position to take the TEDP Coordinator position last April. She has been with CCDHH for three years and is “technology savvy.” She thrives doing the technology work for the offices. Her comfort with the use of telecommunications equipment was a bonus. CCDHH is grateful to have a person of her caliber and her level of familiarity with the program to assume this position.

Please welcome her to her “new” position and don’t hesitate to contact her at any time!

Grant Application with CCDHH

Grant application for Fiscal Year 2012 is now available!!!

Attached are the CCDHH grant application, budget template, and guidelines. The deadline to submit your application is **Friday, July 29, 2011 at 4:00 p.m.**

Please contact CCDHH at email.ccdhh@state.co.us, 720-457-3679 (vp), or 303-866-4824 (voice) if you have questions or need these documents mailed to you.

The deadline to submit your application and budget worksheet is **Friday, July 29, 2011 at 4:00 p.m.**

Access to Emergency Preparedness Information

Coloradans are relatively fortunate to experience fewer natural and man-made disasters (hazardous chemical spills, terrorism, etc.) than some other states. Extreme weather is a rarity here in this sunny state. Although we do experience wildfires, tornadoes, severe storms, flash floods, and other disasters from time to time, it is always wise to be prepared for them and to have access to public information. When (or if) natural and man-made disasters strike, communication access to urgent information through radio broadcasts, emergency broadcasts on television, text messaging system or other types of announcement are likely not accessible to deaf and hard of hearing residents. Read below for the May 25, 2011 article the National Association of the Deaf posted on their website.

The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) has been monitoring the recent natural disasters in different states to ensure that the response by federal, state, and local governments; emergency management agencies and disaster relief organizations; and media outlets reporting on the disaster are accessible. We are paying close attention to the tornadoes such as the one in Joplin, Missouri and the overflowing of the Mississippi river in populated areas. The NAD is concerned about the welfare of deaf and hard of hearing people who may be affected. We would like to take this opportunity to remind our

members that in severe weather, deaf and hard of hearing people still are among the last to find out emergency information even in the 21st century.

We urge our members in affected areas to contact their local emergency management agencies and connect with the official channels exist regarding evacuation orders, tornado/flooding warnings, and so forth. Moreover, many local jurisdictions and TV stations have warning systems that are accessible via email and SMS (text messaging.).

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules require broadcasters and cable operators to make local emergency information accessible to persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, and to persons who are blind or have visual disabilities. This rule means that emergency information must be provided both aurally and in a visual format. If you are aware of a situation where emergency information is being made available to hearing people, but is not accessible to deaf or hard of hearing people, please file a complaint with the FCC if applicable (www.fcc.gov/guides/emergency-video-programming-accessibility-persons-hearing-and-visual-disabilities) and also let us know.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is hosting roundtable discussions with certain segments of the state community, including the deaf and hard of hearing, on how to improve the state's emergency preparedness system on July 15th, so we would gratefully appreciate your feedback, comments or experiences regarding this matter. Your input could be valuable and helpful for us in providing information and suggestions to the Department as they continue to seek ways to improve their emergency preparedness system. Please contact Rob Loveless, Education and Training Specialist/Deaf, at rob.loveless@state.co.us or 720-235-0062 (VP/voice).

Thank you!

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Members for the MIG Steering Committee Needed!!

The Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing was awarded a Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) for 2010 and 2011. This grant provides funding for Colorado to develop a strong infrastructure to support employment and health care coverage for individuals with disabilities. One of the critical components of the grant is for the Department to form a steering committee and work groups made up of services providers, policy makers, employers, persons with disabilities and family members to guide the MIG focus and priorities.

The steering committee meets quarterly (lunch is provided) and the work groups meet more frequently. The committee is looking for a new member to join the steering committee and also participate in one of the work groups.

If you have interest in participating in the steering committee, please contact Martha Beavers at martha.beavers@state.co.us or 303-866-3998 (voice). She can answer any questions that you have as well as provide information about the different work groups. The steering committee really appreciates your consideration!

New Rehabilitative Services Administration Distance Learning Training Grant

Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) has been awarded a grant from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) to provide RSA traineeships to highly skilled sign language users who wish to become Rehabilitation Counselors working for state vocational rehabilitation agencies in the future, specializing in work with people who are deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, or deaf-blind.

The admissions deadline for Fall semester 2011 has been extended to July 1, 2011 for candidates qualified for these traineeships. For more information, go to:

<http://www.coloradodeafcommission.com/pdf/Announcements/RSA%20Announcement.pdf>

Commission Meeting

The next CCDHH meeting and community forum will be held in Grand Junction at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 1, 2011. Location is to be announced.

For the meeting/forum agenda, go to:

<http://www.coloradodeafcommission.com/commission/agenda.aspx>

The CCDHH meetings/forums are always open to the public. You are more than welcome to come and be part of the informative as well as interactive sessions.

**Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
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