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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Aging and Disability Services Division

Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.



Dena Schmidt
Administrator

Dear _____

In 2018 the census reported there were approximately 117,060 individuals that identify as having a hearing loss in the State of Nevada. People with hearing loss worry and plan how they will communicate daily, and often, hearing aids and cochlear implants are not enough. This issue is a huge detriment to their quality of life resulting in the lack of equal participation, communication access, and most importantly full inclusion.

With the advancement of technology, assistive listening systems have been created to assist those that experience hearing loss and provide them equal access to public accommodations. Specifically, the creation of hearing loops has provided the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community the ability to be included in day to day activities, in addition to public events.

According to a study documented by The Hearing Journal "A survey in 2014 asked 866 people to rate the performance of their hearing aids or cochlear implants using a 10-point scale (*Hear Rev*, 2014). The average response was 4.9 in a non-looped setting and 8.7 in a looped environment. A 2016 study by Faivre found that hearing loops greatly improved speech understanding and sound quality, and reduced listening effort (*Hear Rev*, 2016)"

Hearing loops are a seamless way to be more inclusive of all people and create more of a cohesive hearing-friendly environment. More importantly, the installation of hearing loops assists public spaces in being compliant of Title III of the ADA. Allowing for individuals with disabilities to have access to public accommodations in the most integrated setting.

Even with this technology majority of the buildings within the state and cities do not provide hearing loop technology, nor do they provide ample amount of resources (i.e. assistive listening devices) to those that are in need. Therefore, we wish to inquire what has been done to ensure ADA compliances and equitable treatments are a viable option for Deaf and Hard of Hearing citizens of Nevada as well as the rest of the population? Furthermore, lets work together to promote a more inclusive environment for all citizens of Nevada.

Respectfully,

Regional Office

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