

Leading the Way

The Center for Hearing & Deaf Services, Inc.

(HDS), began in 1920 as the League for the Hard of Hearing. Its primary goal, was to provide social activities for people with hearing loss. From these modest beginnings, HDS has evolved into our region's only comprehensive service center for individuals who are culturally deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing, and their friends and families.



Our mission is to provide a diverse and affordable program of quality diagnostic, rehabilitative and supportive services to meet the unique challenges of children and

adults who are deaf and hard of hearing and to serve as an information and referral source for this population and the general public.

The vision of HDS staff is to be caring professionals, serving persons who are deaf or hard of hearing with excellence, dignity, and trust.

Leading the Way...

- HDS offered the first Chemical Dependency Program in the tri-state area for people who are deaf or hard of hearing
- the region's only Assistive Listening and Signaling Device Demonstration and Sale Center
- a Deaf Youth Program to provide activities for youth who are deaf and hard of hearing and their families
- a Hearing Aid Recycling Program
- Sign-A-Thon, the premier sign language awareness event in the Pittsburgh area.



Center for Hearing and Deaf Services
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Center for Hearing & Deaf Services

HDS
Westmoreland



Providing quality services
for the Deaf population
and increasing awareness
of their needs

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How We Can Help

Center for Hearing & Deaf Services



PROGRAM SERVICES

AUDIOLOGY SERVICES

Statistics show that one out of ten Americans has some form of hearing loss. Though aging is the most common reason people lose their hearing, a growing number of young Americans are experiencing hearing problems due to exposure to loud noises. To monitor and prevent hearing loss, audiologists recommend that people—especially those over 50 and those at risk for noise-induced hearing loss—have their hearing checked annually.

The Audiologists at HDS are certified by the American Speech-Language Hearing Association and licensed by the state of Pennsylvania.

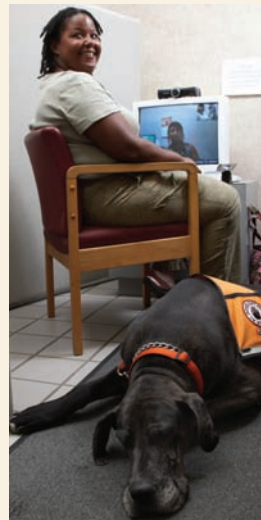
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

In collaboration with Family Services of Western Pennsylvania, HDS provides behavioral health services for the deaf and hard of hearing in southwestern Pennsylvania. All Behavioral Health therapists are fluent in American Sign Language and skilled at eliminating communication barriers, as well as providing psychiatric help. This includes psychiatric evaluations, medication management, individual,

family, and group therapy, personal assistance, and casework support.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY

A significant function of HDS is developing public awareness and acting as an advocate on behalf of persons who are deaf and hard of hearing. HDS assumes an advocacy



position in areas pertaining to existing and pending legislation, public service programs, and any other matter influencing the well being of individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing.

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICES

Persons who are deaf and hard of hearing are given information about, and may be referred to, government and community programs that can assist them with a specific need.

INTERPRETING SERVICES

Communication between individuals who are deaf and those who are hearing often requires a sign language interpreter. HDS provides interpreters for many situations: educational, medical, legal, occupational, cultural, and more. Interpreting services are available on a 24-hour basis. All interpreters follow the RID/NAD Code of Conduct.

LIFE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

HDS serves clients who are deaf and mentally challenged by offering instruction and experiences that improve daily living skills and foster independence. Primary areas of instruction are academics, communication skills development, computer training, mobility training, personal hygiene and grooming, personal safety training, physical education, pre-vocational training, sexual awareness, social skills development, and utilization of community resources.

PERSONAL ASSISTANCE

This includes a wide range of services provided to adults who are deaf and hard of hearing including: filling out forms, making telephone calls, budgeting money, opening bank accounts, using public transportation, purchasing a home, filing income tax, obtaining a driver's license, obtaining insurance,

borrowing money, and other typical everyday pursuits.

REFERRAL AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE

This service provides the opportunity for persons who are deaf and hard of hearing to meet with an attorney to discuss their legal questions and concerns. If legal representation is required, appropriate referrals are made.

SIGN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION

HDS offers classes in American Sign Language to the public. Sign language classes are also available on a contract basis for organizations, schools or agencies. In addition, instruction is provided on an individual basis.



LIVE UNITED

Supported in part by the United Way—
HDS Westmoreland, Donation Code: 4847

The Center for Hearing & Deaf Services, Inc. does not discriminate in its admission or employment policies on the basis of gender, ethnic origin, age, religion, sexual orientation or disability.

Center for Hearing and Deaf Services, Inc.

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