



## Information Equals Access

### Communication Accessibility for Public Events

*Think ahead about communication accessibility at business events...*

**Is your event open to the public? Is anyone welcome to attend? Has your event been publicized? Is this an informational forum?**

**If you've answered YES to any of these questions, are you prepared for providing communication accessibility?**

#### WHAT THE LAW SAYS...

Under Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, public entities are required to provide public accommodations such as, auxillary aids and services, to ensure effective communication with deaf and hard of hearing people: **A public accommodation shall furnish appropriate auxillary aids and services where necessary to ensure effective communication with individuals with disabilities. 28 C.F.R. 36.303 (c).**

#### What are considered public entities?

Public entities are defined as businesses that own, lease, lease to, or operate facilities such as, but not limited to:

- Places of Lodging (motel, hotel, inn)
- Place of exhibition or entertainment (theater, stadium, concert hall)
- Place of public gathering (auditorium, convention center, lecture hall)
- Education (nursery, K-12, colleges/universities, private school)
- Public display or collection (museum, library, gallery)
- Service Establishment (bank, travel agency, accountant, doctor office, law office, funeral home, nursing home, beauty shop, pharmacy, or other service establishment)

This also applies to State and Local Government Public Entities regardless of public entity's size. They include, but are not limited to:

- State legislatures, city halls, and city councils
- State and local agencies, parks and recreation programs
- State and local courts, jails, police and prisons
- Public medical or health care facilities and clinic
- Public mental health facilities and clinics

#### What are auxillary aids or services?

In order to communicate effectively with and to ensure communication accessibility for individuals with hearing, vision or speech disabilities, auxillary aids and services must be provided at the expense of the public entity. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Qualified sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, open and closed captioning, TTY, Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART)
- Braille materials, large print materials, materials on computer disk, qualified readers, audio recordings
- Acquisition or modification of equipment or devices

#### Important Contact Information:

##### Sign Language Interpreters

Visit, <http://www.idhhc.state.il.us/interpreter/referral.htm> to find other interpreter referral agencies in Illinois.

##### Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART)

Caption First, Inc. - 815-825-5234

##### Braille

Horizons for the Blind - 815-444-8800

#### *Business Services*

Accessibility Assessments, ADA Education, TTY  
Training & Education, Presentations, and more!

#### *RAMP Office Locations*

**Boone County** - 530 S. State St., Suite 103, Belvidere 815-544-8404

**DeKalb County** - 115 N. First Street DeKalb 815-756-3202

**Stephenson County** - 2155 W. Galena Ave. Freeport 815-233-1128

**Winnebago County** - 202 Market St., Rockford 815-968-7467