

# NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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## Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Communication Access Grants

**Elizabeth Hill**, *Executive Director*

NJ Department of Human Services  
Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

# Communication Access Grants

- Statistics:
  - An average of 2-3 per 1,000 newborns have difficulty hearing
  - Deaf and hard of hearing individuals make up approximately 28% of the disability community.
  - Approximately, 500,000 sign language users in the United States
- Deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind residents face communication and language barriers in accessing county and community-based services, critical health/emergency information, public services, and public educational programming.



# Communication Access Grants

**Unique funding opportunity to address communication and language barriers, and;**

**Promote inclusion of deaf and hard of hearing residents in local and county-based services and programs**

**Counties are eligible to receive up to \$75,000.**

# Communication Access Grants

- Installation of hearing induction loops.
- Installation of public videophones and associated connectivity costs.
- Expanding access to sign language interpreter services.
- Expanding access to captioning services.
- Development and/or provision of community/educational/or healthcare-related programming or services accessible in American Sign Language (ASL).



# Communication Access Grants

*Potential areas to consider for the funding opportunities:*



Municipal and county government agencies



County libraries, county jails, county courthouses



Local community centers



Independent living centers



Community theaters



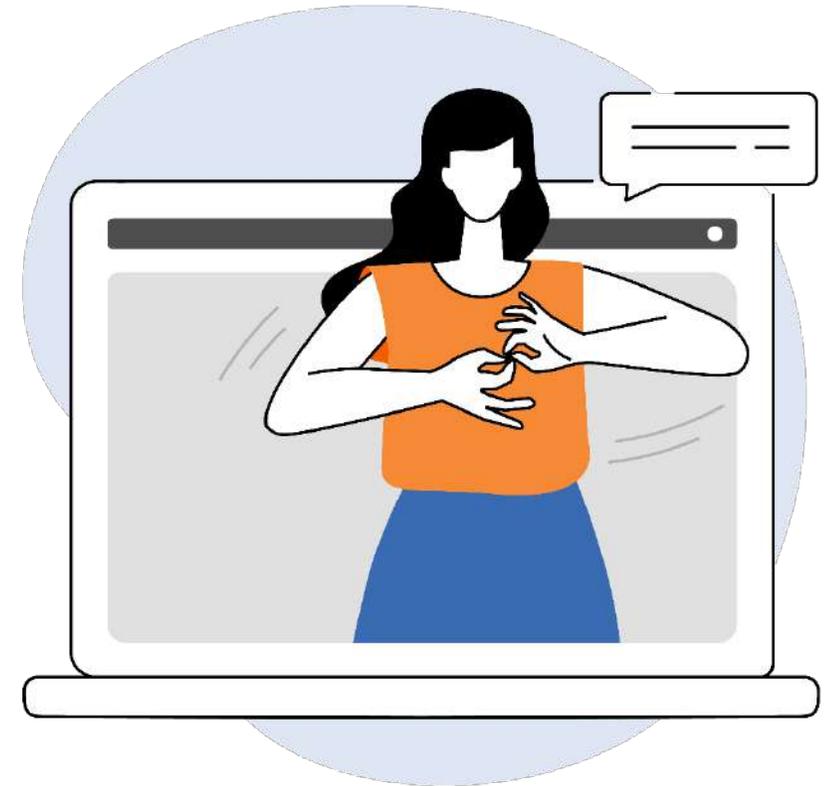
Non-profit organizations focused on health equity



Parent-run organizations/groups

# Communication Access Grants

- Encouraged to fund multiple initiatives
- Ideas for consideration:
  - Sign language interpreters for emergency services  
ex: Hurricane Ida
  - Installation of hearing induction loops for county libraries, municipal buildings, county courthouses
  - County library may host ASL children’s story hour
  - Installation of public videophones for the county jail for telecommunications
  - Sign language interpreters for deaf and hard of hearing children to participate in parent-led or community-based sports
  - Non-profit organization may propose converting health content in ASL and produce ASL video series ex: breast cancer awareness, HIV/AIDS prevention, addiction and mental health services



# Summary

- Timeline:
  - February 11, 2022 Release of RLI
  - February 25, 2022 DHS prospective Respondent presentation
  - March 15, 2022 Deadline for receipt of Letters of Interest (LOI)
  - March 29, 2022 Announcement of selected awardee(s)
- Email LOIs to Daniel Prupis at [Daniel.Prupis@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:Daniel.Prupis@dhs.nj.gov) no later than 5:00 pm on March 15, 2022
- For more information, visit:  
<https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/providers/grants/rfprfi/RFPfiles/DDHH%20RLI.pdf>