

# Communication Resources



Deaf Independent Living Association, Inc. (DILA) provides a diverse array of communication resources for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals, their family and friends, community members and sign language interpreters.

## Deaf Resource Library

Open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., DILA's Deaf Resource Library offers a broad selection of information materials and multimedia resources on deafness and other related topics. Over 700 VHS/DVDs and more than 150 books can be enjoyed on site at no charge or checked out for a two week loan. Materials that have been checked out can be renewed for a second two-week period provided there are no reservation requests on file from other patrons. Topics of interest include:

- ◆ Basic, intermediate and advanced American Sign Language (ASL) lessons
- ◆ ASL lessons with a focus on infants and toddlers
- ◆ Parenting young children
- ◆ Biographies of famous deaf figures
- ◆ Deaf culture and history
- ◆ Health and safety
- ◆ Sign language interpreting
- ◆ Poetry and artistic ASL
- ◆ Literature classics in ASL
- ◆ Stories, comedy and drama
- ◆ And more!

## Sign Lab/Interpreter Workstations

The Deaf Resource Library houses a Sign Lab where visitors can watch instructional videos or DVDs. Visitors can also check out items to view at home. Materials that have been checked out can be renewed for a second two-week period provided there are no reservation requests on file from other patrons.

For sign language interpreters, the Sign Lab is equipped with



a Tandberg Interpreter Workstation, featuring a video camera, VCR, DVD player, monitor and cassette recorder. These special workstations help interpreters sharpen their receptive and expressive skills.

## CapTel™

DILA's Communication Center features leading-edge telecommunications equipment including a Captioned Telephone (CapTel™) and TTYs (text telephones). CapTel™ allows people with hearing loss to read a captioned version of their conversation on the built-in text screen of their CapTel™ phones and listen to the voice of the person they are calling at the same time.

## Video Relay Service (VRS)

The Communication Center also offers Video Relay Service (VRS), a technology that enables sign language users to converse in their native language with the person they are calling. VRS allows users to express their emotions and feelings (similar to a person-to-person call.) Once a connection is made, a professionally trained video relay interpreter begins translating the user's sign language into spoken language or text for the other (hearing) party. When the other party responds, the operator translates his or her words back into sign language for the VRS user. Community members are welcome to use VRS and other Communication Center technology at no charge.

## To Learn More...

For more information about our communication resources, call 410-742-5052 (voice/TTY) or email [dila@dila.org](mailto:dila@dila.org).

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