## What Is Our Purpose?

### **Our Vision**

The vision of the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH) is a Commonwealth where persons who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late-Deafened, or DeafBlind can fully participate in all aspects of life without barriers to communication.

### **Our Mission**

The Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH) promotes accessible communication so that persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing may fully participate in programs, services, and opportunities throughout the Commonwealth.





## How To Contact Us



1602 Rolling Hills Drive, Suite 203 Henrico, VA 23229-5012

804-662-9502 or 800-552-7917 (Voice/TTY) 804-325-1290 (Videophone) 804-662-9718 (Fax) info@vddhh.virginia.gov www.vddhh.org www.facebook.com/VDDHH



## Dial 7-1-1 to Make a Virginia Relay Call Now

Or use the numbers below to directly access your preferred calling option.

800-828-1120 (TTY) 800-828-1140 (Voice) 877-243-2823 (Captioned Telephone Service) 866-221-6784 (Speech-To-Speech) 800-855-8220 (Visually Assisted Speech-To-Speech) 800-855-8200 (Spanish)

#### **Customer Care**

866-894-4116 (Voice) 866-246-9300 (TTY) 402-694-5110 (Fax) varelay@hamiltonrelay.com

## **About Virginia Relay**

www.varelay.org www.facebook.com/VirginiaRelay

# **About VDDHH**



# Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Established 1972

# Advancing Communication in Our Communities



**Commonwealth of Virginia** 

## What Are Our Concerns?

The general public cannot easily identify people with hearing loss and sometimes do not fully understand hearing loss. The lack of understanding can cause misconceptions and communication barriers in all aspects of daily life, including:

- Early Learning
- Education
- Employment
- Medical / Mental Health
- Law Enforcement / Legal / Courts
- Business
- Nonprofit
- Government

Federal laws requiring equal opportunities to effective communication, include:

- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

However, these laws are oftentimes overlooked, and communications barriers persist.



# Who Do We Serve?

Hearing loss affects people of all ages—from infants to the elderly—with no regard to income, religion, political affiliation, race, ethnicity, or education.

VDDHH works to serve the diverse needs of Virginians with hearing loss, including those who are:

- Deaf Hard of Hearing
- Late-Deafened
  DeafBlind

Those living with hearing loss want to fully participate in the world around them by:

- Maintaining connections with family and friends
- Building relationships with neighbors and groups
- Interacting with employers and colleagues
- Contacting businesses and professional services
- Engaging with the general public

People who can hear yet have difficulty speaking are a unique group. They often face telecommunication barriers, and VDDHH works to meet their needs.

VDDHH works in collaboration with government agencies, nonprofits, and national organizations to serve people with hearing loss.

# What Do We Offer?

Our services are designed to meet the needs of our communities and break down communication barriers.

**Virginia Relay** allows people with hearing loss to communicate effectively with hearing people through telecommunications.

**Technology Assistance Program (TAP)** provides specialized telecommunication equipment to eligible applicants, including veterans.

Interpreter Services Program (ISP) connects you to a network of qualified sign language interpreters and coordinates requests for interpreters and captioning services for state government meetings or events and court appointments.

## Virginia Quality Assurance Screening (VQAS)

assesses and provides feedback to interpreters to enhance their professional growth.

## **Community Services** include:

- Responding to requests for information and referrals on topics related to hearing loss
- Education and training to government agencies and the general public
- Technical assistance to help organizations provide effective communication and reasonable accommodations
- Outreach to promote public awareness about hearing loss

Visit www.vddhh.org to learn more and get started with any of our programs.