Assistive technology for employers

The Americans with Disabilities Act and other laws require businesses and nonprofit organizations to provide access to employees who are Deaf, DeafBlind or hard of hearing.

Assistive technology is one tool to help improve communication and productivity in the workplace.

Examples of assistive technology

UbiDuo
If you have been writing back and forth to communicate, you might appreciate the UbiDuo. It is a stand-alone device that allows two individuals to type a conversation. It is faster than texting or instant messaging because the text is visible to both people as each character is typed. This supports more natural conversation.

The UbiDuo can be a great tool for shorter or more informal conversations. It may be useful for communicating with someone who has combined hearing and vision loss, since font size can be increased. It is also helpful for people with hearing loss who do not use ASL.

Amplified telephones
Amplified telephones have adjustable volume control to make the phone conversation louder and clearer. This can help your employee understand telephone conversations more easily.

Captioned telephones
Captioned telephones work through the Minnesota Relay service. A communications assistant sends captions of what is said to a telephone with a caption display. Captioned telephones also have adjustable volume control.

Assistive listening devices
Assistive listening devices are portable devices that transmit sound via a microphone and transmitter to headphones, an earphone or a neck loop. Assistive listening devices can help your employee participate in meetings and one-on-one conversations.

Request a demonstration
If you think you or your employees who are Deaf, DeafBlind or hard of hearing can benefit from these technologies, contact us to request a demonstration! Qualified businesses may be able to borrow equipment.

You can also learn more about providing communication access through our website.

Contact us!

mn.gov/deaf-hard-of-hearing
dhs.dhhshd@state.mn.us
800-657-3663 voice
651-964-1514 videophone
Attention. If you need free help interpreting this document, call the above number.

For accessible formats of this information or assistance with additional equal access to human services, write to dhs.dhhsd@state.mn.us, call 800-657-3663, or use your preferred relay service.