Other Services Provided:

- Basic hearing screenings that can indicate a loss of hearing.
- Referral to hearing health care professionals for in-depth hearing evaluation.
- Workshops and information on: cochlear implants, hearing aids, assistive technology, communication tips and other related topics.
- Assistance with obtaining a hearing service dog.
- Consultation on ANY need you might have related to hearing loss.

We help you hear the little things you’ve been missing.
Some Signs of Hearing Loss

- Often ask people to repeat themselves
- Sometimes give inappropriate and embarrassing responses
- Watch a speaker intently to understand what is said
- Have difficulty hearing people talking from behind
- Turn up the volume on the TV or radio to understand
- Have difficulty understanding conversation on the phone

What Is the Hard of Hearing Program?

The Hard of Hearing Program of DSDHH is a program designed to assist, support and uplift the approximately 775,000 residents of North Carolina who are hard of hearing. A variety of direct services can be provided to hard of hearing individuals, their families, caregivers, or community organizations and businesses by the Hard of Hearing Services Specialists located in seven DSDHH Regional Centers across the state or by the Hard of Hearing Program Coordinator located in Raleigh. Each specialist is highly skilled and knowledgeable in issues affecting the hard of hearing and provides the utmost in professional and quality service.

Services Available from DSDHH

Individualized consultation is given in the following areas:

Hearing Aid Provision:

- One hearing aid with a Telecoil through the Equipment Distribution Service if eligibility requirements are met.
- Provide a list of audiologists and licensed hearing aid dispensers.
- Consultation about the expectations of using a hearing aid.
- Connect and refer to other resources for assistance with funding or provision of hearing aids.

Communication Assistance with Family and Friends:

- Videotape loan program to help build speech-reading skills.
- Work closely with individuals and families toward building positive communication techniques, coping strategies, and a better understanding of hearing loss.
- Connect individuals with other people who have hearing loss and are working together to improve communication access through local support groups.
- Provide resources on the latest assistive technology designed to assist a person in better communication capabilities.

Effective Communication with Community Organizations and Businesses:

- Help plan and prepare the best way to approach a business or agency to ask for better communication access.
- Visit places of business to share information about our services and programs to benefit both their staff and customers.
- Discuss hearing loss with employers and the easiest ways to meet accessible communication needs at work.
- Provide in-service and sensitivity training to an organization’s staff and business personnel about the effects of hearing loss.
- Have special activities during “Better Hearing and Speech Month” to increase awareness of hearing loss issues.
- Perform outreach to develop collaborative relationships through information booths at health expos and special community events and activities.