

Communication Needs

[American Red Cross – Are You Red Cross Ready?](#) (in American Sign Language with subtitles)
Students and staff from the Oregon School for the Deaf created this video in American Sign Language to help the Red Cross reach more people in the community.

[American Association of the Deaf-Blind – Building an Emergency Kit: Checklist](#)
Emergency preparedness information specifically for the deaf-blind population.

[National Health Service \(NHS\) – Communication Passport: Accident and Emergency](#)
Communication Tools for Use in Shelters – Individuals with communication barriers and special healthcare or functional needs or their caregivers can fill out their personal information on this communication passport in advance to help them prepare for emergencies. The passport can then be reviewed by shelter and healthcare workers and serves as an excellent method for communicating emergency health information.

[“I Speak” – Language Identification Guide](#)
This language identification guide is a tool for law enforcement and other criminal justice agencies to identify the language of individuals they encounter who do not speak English

[“Show Me” – A Communication Tool for Emergency Shelters](#)
This communication tool has been tested with and co-created by public health professionals and the populations it is designed to help, including

- People who have cognitive disabilities
- People who are deaf or hard of hearing
- People who have limited English proficiency
- Anyone who may struggle to communicate verbally during an emergency

[Deaf Services Center](#)
Deaf Services Center, Inc. is the largest provider of community-based services for people who are deaf or hard of hearing in the state of Ohio. Interpreters are available 24/7.

[Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf \(RID\)](#)
RID is a national membership organization for sign language interpreters. You can search their online member directory for local interpreters or e-mail info@rid.org for more information on locating a certified interpreter.

[The Ohio Relay Service](#)
The Ohio Relay Service is a free public service for communication between standard (voice) users and persons who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, deaf-blind, and speech-disabled using text telephones (TTYs) or PCs via the Internet.

[The Harris Family Center for Disability and Health Policy \(HFCDHP\)](#)

Guidance and resource links for developing emergency health information for functional needs populations. HFCDHP focuses on improving access to health care for people with disabilities and enhancing health professions education for disabled people. *Western University (California) of Health Sciences*

[CDC Disaster American Sign Language \(ASL\) Videos](#)

The CDC provides ASL public service announcement videos to help deaf and hearing-impaired persons stay safe before, during and after a disaster.

[NOAA Weather Radio for Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#)

The National Weather Service provides information on this page about how to use NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) as an alerting system for the deaf and hard of hearing. The NWR receives National Weather Service warnings, forecasts, and hazard information 24 hours a day. Some NWR models are able to be connected to alerting devices such as vibrators, bed shakers, pillow vibrators, and strobe lights.

[Emergency Preparedness ASL Videos](#)

The Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission, in collaboration with the Illinois EMA, has developed a series of emergency preparedness and severe weather preparedness American Sign Language videos.

[Accessible Emergency Information](#)

The NE Texas Public Health District compiled 18 emergency preparedness topics and formatted the information specifically for the deaf, blind, and limited sight populations. The site also provides access to emergency preparedness information in Braille, large print and regular font.

[Advocacy for People with Speech Disabilities: Emergency Preparedness Resources](#)

Emergency preparedness resources for individuals with speech disabilities.

[Analysis of Risk Communication Strategies and Approaches with At-Risk Populations to Enhance Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery – Final Report](#)

A one-year study by the US Dept. of Health & Human Services that presents the results of an assessment that involved review of the literature on emergency preparedness risk communication and public health messaging strategies, and the compilation of educational and outreach materials for emergency preparedness communication with at-risk populations.

[Ensuring Language Access and Effective Communication during Response and Recovery: A Checklist for Emergency Responders](#)

A guide by the US Dept. of Health & Human Services to help emergency responders effectively reach all members of the community during emergency response and recovery efforts.

[Population-Specific Resources: Cultural and Linguistic Diversity](#)

US Department of Health and Human Services – Links and Resources for Addressing Access and Functional Needs

[CDC Public Health Workbook: To Define, Locate and Reach Special, Vulnerable and At-Risk Populations in an Emergency](#)

By following the process outlined in this document, you will begin to develop a Community Outreach Information Network (COIN), a grassroots network of people and trusted leaders who can help with emergency response planning and delivering information to at-risk populations in emergencies.