

# Tip Sheet: ASL & QSL

Did you know that the accessibility needs of Capital D Deaf and little d deaf/ hard of hearing people are different? People in the Capital D Deaf community are visual communicators and use sign language to communicate, whereas little d deaf people are oral communicators. In order to provide accessibility for Capital D Deaf people you will need to provide a sign interpreter. ASL (American Sign Language) and LSQ (Langue des signes québécoise) are two examples of sign languages. It's important to understand that for many, ASL/LSQ is their primary language, and as such they may not read in English or French. Each type of sign language has its own grammar and way of articulation, and just like spoken language it can evolve over time to incorporate new words.

## Tips for users



If you need the service of interpretation, do not hesitate to ask for your accessibility needs.

Ensure that your view of the ASL/LSQ interpreter is unobstructed by asking for priority seating.

**Ask in advance!** It can take at least 2 weeks and up to 2 months during busy times to book an ASL/LSQ interpreter.

Contact us at [info@hearhear.org](mailto:info@hearhear.org) if you would like a list of **ASL and LSQ interpreters**.

### References

<https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/thought-leadership/making-your-events-accessible-the-deaf-and-hard-of-hearing>

<https://www.respectability.org/accessible-virtual-events/during-the-event/>

<https://dc.aiga.org/how-to-design-an-accessible-event-for-the-d-deaf-and-hard-of-hearing/>

<https://oaklandpostonline.com/35710/features/sign-language-interpreter-challenges-and-tips-for-communicating-virtually/>

<https://cad.ca/fr/ressources-liens/la-terminologie/>

## Tips for organizers



It is preferable to have an in-person interpreter at live events.

Ask attendees to **RSVP ASL** for the event by a specific date on all promotional materials and event info. Then if ASL services are not required you can save the additional cost.

Plan ahead! Keep a list of interpreters with their costs and availability.

Interpreters need to be seen. Avoid any bright light directly on the interpreters as it can make lip-reading and sign language difficult to see.

Confirm that the interpreter is certified and able to do public events.

Ensure sign language users have seats close to the interpreter.

Confirm the interpreter has access to a microphone so that they can relay messages and questions posed by the person who uses sign language.

For virtual events ensure the sign language users can always see the interpreter on their screen by pinning the interpreters.

Whenever possible try to reserve the services 2-3 months in advance.

For events longer than an hour, you may need 2 interpreters because they need breaks.

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Accessibility sponsor



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