

# Assistive Communication Devices

## Recommendation

Use the resources below to plan how your organization can communicate more effectively with people with vision or hearing disabilities, and those with limited English proficiency during times of emergency.

## Accommodation Resources

- **Accessible Signage:** Signs that use large print, Braille, or other languages.
- **In-person Readers:** Volunteers/staff who read clearly and describe in detail documents out loud to people who are blind or have low vision.
- **Large Print Documents:** Use font size 16+ for people who have low vision.
- **Communication Boards:** Boards with images of common needs during emergencies to assist a person unable to communicate verbally. To communicate, an individual points to the pictures on the board. For an example please see here: [www1.nyc.gov/assets/em/downloads/pdf/communication\\_board.pdf](http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/em/downloads/pdf/communication_board.pdf)
- **Tablets with Screen Reading and Screen Magnification Software:** People who are Blind or have low vision use this technology to read documents. Screen reading software, such as JAWS, will read the entire screen to the individual, and screen magnification software will enlarge the screen.
- **Video Remote Interpretation (VRI):** Video telecommunication service that uses a web camera and speakers to provide sign language interpretation through a remote or offsite interpreter.
- **Personal Amplification Device/telephones that convert speech to captions:** Technology that people who are Deaf or have hearing loss use to communicate.
- **Communication Access Real-Time Translation (CART):** Real-time captioning service used to convert speech to text for people who are deaf or people whose first language is different than the language being used.

## Additional Information

- [www1.nyc.gov/site/mopd/resources/disability-specific-resources.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/mopd/resources/disability-specific-resources.page)
- [www1.nyc.gov/site/em/ready/community-planning-disabilities-access-functional-needs.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/em/ready/community-planning-disabilities-access-functional-needs.page)