

SIGN of the TIMES E-NEWS

January 2011

Iowa Department of
Human Rights



Office of Deaf Services

HAPPY NEW YEAR

From Staff and Commissioners!



**ROB THE RACOON,
OUR CAMP MASCOT IS THRILLED
TO ANNOUNCE THAT
JUNIOR COMMISSION PROGRAM
LEADERSHIP CAMP IS BACK!**

JULY 18 — 23, 2011
[DOLLIVER STATE PARK](#)

**APPLICATION FORMS ARE
AVAILABLE ONLINE**

www.deafservices.iowa.gov/youth/junior-camp

Donations are welcome to the JCP Camp.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Communication Services for the Deaf is now accepting applications for Project Endeavor

“Communication Services for the Deaf has opened a new contact center and is starting to qualify deaf and hard-of-hearing consumers for Project Endeavor, a two-year project that allows low-income deaf and hard of hearing to purchase discounted equipment such as laptops, high-speed Internet access and life-skills training.

For the cost of \$230, consumers receive a new notebook computer along with a 12-month 3G/4G wireless Internet access plan at no additional cost. Participants can keep the computer after the two-year project ends.

Deaf and hard of hearing consumers who can verify a bilateral hearing loss of 40db or greater should contact the Project Endeavor contact center at 877-NETME77 (voice), 877-403-4596 (TTY), 550-4056 or 644-7399 (VP), and 782-8446 (fax). The contact center also can be reached via e-mail at info@projectendeavor.com.”



Visit DSCI website: www.deafservices.iowa.gov Questions or Comments? Email us: dhr.dsci@iowa.gov

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ANNOUNCEMENT

This information, **Visual Smoke Detectors for Deaf and Hard of Hearing** is posted and available on the Iowa State Fire Marshal's website: http://www.dps.state.ia.us/fm/main/smoke_detector_project/index.shtml

Conventional smoke alarms can't fully address the needs of people who are deaf or hard of hearing and who can't rely on the sound of a conventional alarm to alert them to smoke or fire. Today, safety device manufacturers and vendors offer visual smoke alarms that use sound and strobe lights to alert people to fires in the home. These specialized alarms are more expensive than regular smoke alarms.

The Office of Deaf Services within the Department of Human Rights has a long term goal to develop a visual smoke alarm distribution program for deaf and hard of hearing Iowans. In November 2001, 30 participants who were either deaf or hard of hearing or had a family member who couldn't hear volunteered and did a needs assessment survey. As a result, the outcome shows that 63% don't have visual smoke alarms and 17 families had at least two deaf members per household.

The Office of Deaf Services encourages families with deaf or hard of hearing children and hearing children of deaf parents to fill out the Smoke Detector Project Survey. According to the Department of Education's report, "Data on Iowa Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing," November, 2008, shows 3320 students in Iowa. It is recommended when filling out the survey to add how many people are deaf or hard of hearing in your home.

Status Form for Deaf/Hard of Hearing

The Office of Deaf Services and State Fire Marshal are working together on the needs of visual smoke alarms for the families with deaf or hard of hearing members. This voluntary status form will help get the funding for these specialized alarms.

This will also help local fire departments follow up with these families and help collect the optional surveys. This is a voluntary form which deaf and hard of hearing community members can send to the local fire department in their community. It is important to let the firefighters know if you move and/or this information changes.

Name _____

Phone: (check all that apply)

Voice___ TTY___ CapTel ___ VP (video phone) ___ Number: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Number deaf in household: _____

Number hearing in household: _____

Please check if appropriate:

_____ Knows sign language

_____ Doesn't know sign language

I give permission for firefighters to provide this information to help with installing the visual smoke alarms in our house.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please mail form to your local fire department.

Notify fire department in the event of moving from this residence.



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If movie captions are important to you, tell the Department of Justice on or before January 24, 2011!

Hearing Loss Association of America issued this Action Alert: Write to the Department of Justice to support Captioning in Cinema. If movie captions is important to you tell the DOJ. For more information: http://hlaa.convio.net/site/MessageViewer?em_id=11282.0&dlv_id=25081

INFORMATION

Iowa Civil Rights Commission is gathering input on ADA access at the Iowa State Fair.

They created a link below for people to go to and share their concerns or wishes There is a form available now regarding accessibility at the State Fair that they welcome anyone to fill out. If you can't access the form please email to: Elizabeth.DeBruin@iowa.gov and she'll send along something via email. Thank you for taking the time to fill this out in this busy season. Any input you might have would be invaluable.

The link:
<https://spreadsheets1.google.com/viewform?formkey=dGVNeE5oM0lVZ3djeXktZ1ZGUhNzcGc6MQ>

INFORMATION

“The Iowa Department of Public Health, Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program is pleased to announce the Hearing Aids and Audiological Services funding will be available for another year beginning July 1, 2011. The appropriation, \$187,890.00, was made possible by the Legislature during the last legislative session. Claims will be accepted for services July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, or until the funds run out. If you know of a child in need of hearing aids or audiological services, please have the family contact Provider Claim Systems at (800) 547-6789 for an application or click on the link under Funding Announcement entitled Application on the EHDI website, www.idph.state.ia.us/iaehdi/default.asp, parent or professionals pages. There you will also find a frequently asked questions sheet, which includes information about eligibility and services provided.”

Completed applications can be faxed or mailed to Provider Claim Systems as follows:

Provider Claim Systems

P.O. Box 1608

Mason City, IA 50402-1608

Phone: (800) 547-6789 - toll-free

Fax: (641) 422-2713



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TDI—Telecommunication for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing announces a new mobile technology service available called “Text4baby”.

TDI is a consumer advocacy organization that provides leadership in achieving equal access to telecommunications, media, and information technologies for 36 million Americans who are deaf and hard of hearing. The purpose for this service is educating New Moms via Text Messaging that provides free text messages with timely health information to women from early pregnancy through their babies’ first year. For more information and frequently asked questions, please go to www.text4baby.org.

INTERESTING RESEARCH INFORMATION

- “Brain imaging suggests that the brain can readily handle dual language development (bimodal-bilingual)” (Petitto, Katerelos, Levy, Guana, et. Al., 2001)
- “Being exposed to two languages from birth and in particular, being exposed to a signed and spoken language from birth – does not cause a child to be language delayed and confused.” (Petitto & Kovelman, 2003)
- “Having to wait several years to reach a satisfactory level in oral language that might never be attained, and in the meantime denying the deaf child access to a language that meets his/her immediate needs (sign language), is basically taking the risk that the child will fall behind in his/her development, be it linguistic, cognitive, social, or personal.” (Grosjean, 2008)
- “Early access to language (spoken or signed) is the best predictor of positive spoken language outcomes.” (Yoshinaga-Itano & Sedey, 2000)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



1/07: 6:00 pm: American Sign Language Social hosted by Deaf Awareness and DMACC located at [ALL-Play](#), Des Moines.

1/15: 9:00 am: Iowa Association of the Deaf Board Meeting located at URrelay, 3117—1st Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids.

1/22: 1-2 pm: Central Iowa Hearing Loss Association Presentation by Martha Meyer located at Scottish Rite Park Apartments, 2909 Woodland Ave., Des Moines.

To see more details of these events, see our events webpage:

<http://www.deafservices.iowa.gov/events/index.html>



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Deaf Capitol Day

Deaf and Hard of Hearing students from East High School, Des Moines will be hosting Deaf Capitol Day on **March 7, 2011**

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