



INFOSTORIES



People with Disabilities

**Why it matters that people with disabilities are
counted for Census 2020**



Demographic Size



In 2010, approximately **56.7 million people** living in U.S. had some kind of disability.

- **One in four** Americans lives with a disability
- Disability impacts **one in three** American families

-- Centers for Disease Control



Poverty

People with disabilities are almost **three times as likely to live in poverty** than any other group.





Unemployment

In 2018, the **employment-population ratio** — the proportion of the population that is employed — was:

- **19.1 percent** among those **with a disability**
- **65.9 percent** among those **without a disability**

-- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Supplemental Security Income (SSI):

- a Federal income supplement program designed to help **aged, blind and disabled** people, who have little or no income.
- Provides cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing and **housing**.



Lack of affordable, accessible housing

- In 2016, approx. **4.8 million** adults with disabilities received **SSI**.
- In 13 states & Wash, D.C., **SSI benefits could not even cover** the average cost of smallest apartments.
 - National **average rent** for a one-bedroom apartment **exceeded entire typical SSI check** of \$763 per month.
 - National average studio/efficiency unit rent equated to **99% of SSI payment**.

Less than one percent of all housing units in the U.S. have the minimum level of access enabling a wheelchair user to move in without renovations.

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990



Equal opportunity
to **participate**

Equal opportunity
to **benefit**; and

Receipt of benefits
in the most
integrated setting
appropriate.

**ADA: the most broad-sweeping federal civil rights law protecting
people with disabilities from discrimination**

People with disabilities need a mechanism by which they can **request accessible communications or other types of accommodations** as well as materials in alternate format in advance of a **public meeting or event**. In order to provide this mechanism, all notices of public meetings and events **shall contain the following statement**:

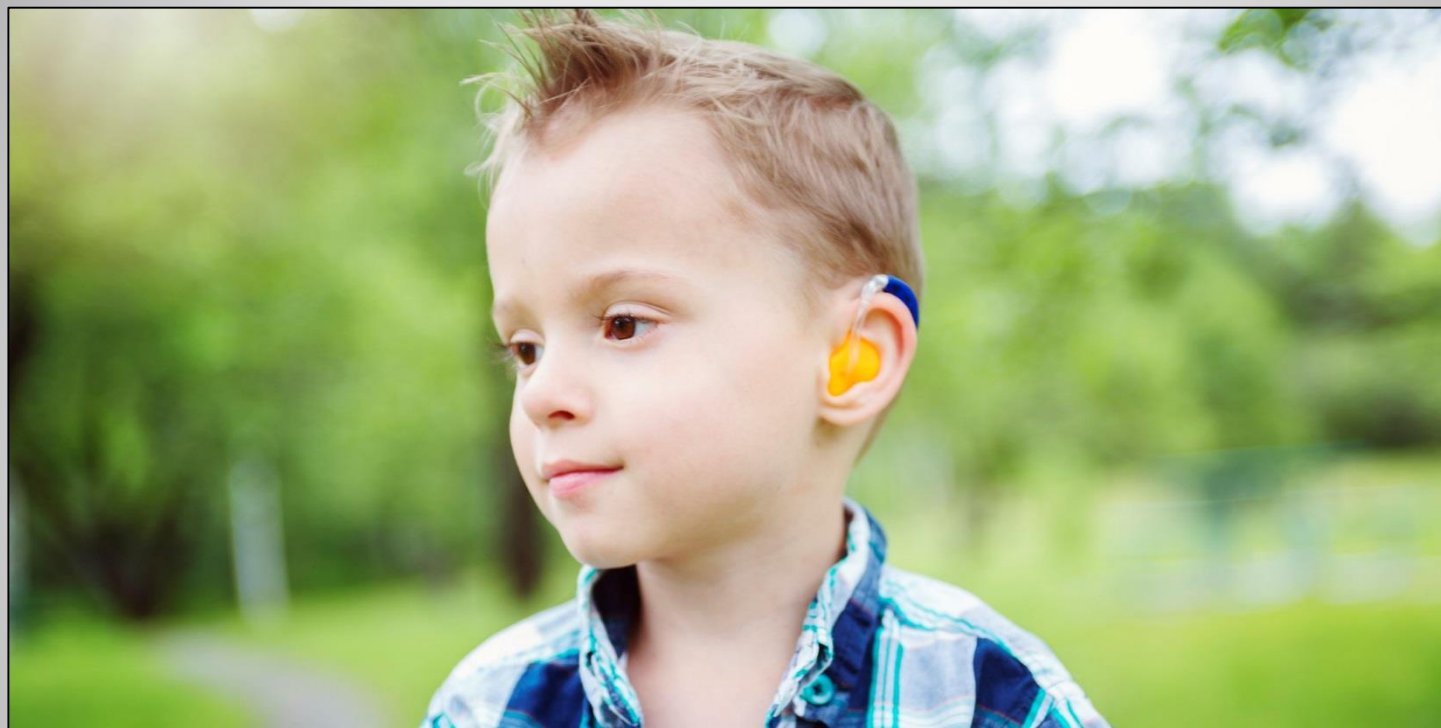
To request materials in accessible format, sign language interpreters, and/or any accommodation to participate in any County-sponsored program or meeting, please contact (_____) five days in advance to initiate your request. TTY users may also call 711 (Florida Relay Service.)

When meeting or event notices **do not contain the above statement** or are not sent out sufficiently in advance of the meeting or event for addressing accommodations requests, **sign language interpreters and materials in accessible format must be provided** by the department unless the department knows that no persons needing such accommodations will be attending.

When the County **disseminates materials to the general public (such as brochures, pamphlets, etc.)**, people with disabilities need a mechanism by which they can request such materials in alternate format. In order to provide this mechanism, all publications to be disseminated to the general public **shall contain the following statement:**

To obtain this information in accessible format, please call (_____).

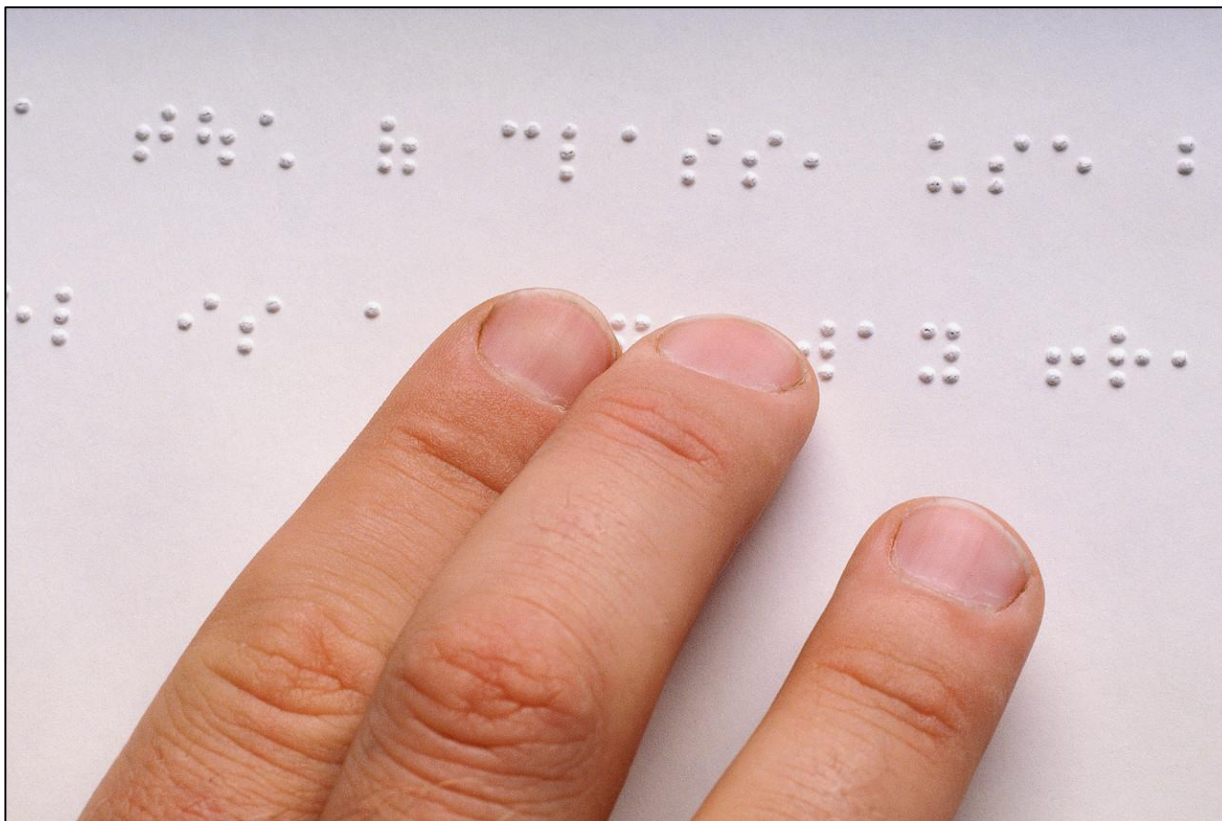
ETIQUETTE TIPS



Effective Communications

You must **communicate as effectively with persons with disabilities** as you do with those who don't have disabilities.

Sometimes this means **providing “auxiliary aids”** for individuals with hearing, vision or speech impairments.



"Auxiliary aids" include sign language interpreters, assistive listening headsets, TV captioning, phones with volume control and large print materials.



The best way to find out which is the right auxiliary aid is to **ask the person who needs it.**

The type of aid/service necessary to ensure effective communication will vary in accordance with the **length and complexity of the communication** involved.



When communications are **very short and simple**, exchanging notes with someone who is deaf or has a speech impairment is considered acceptable.*

Many deaf and hard of hearing people **do not lip read well, if at all.**

Many speech sounds have identical mouth movements and are difficult to discern.

Even when someone has lip reading skills, **accuracy is typically around 30%.**



Persons who **are deaf from birth** or become deaf before learning language frequently cannot communicate well via conventional written language.

American Sign Language is not English, but a unique language.

There is no well-established writing system for ASL.

Only **5-10%** of people who are blind can read and write in **Braille**.

Instead, most rely on **screen reading and voice recognition** software.



When referring to people with disabilities:

Avoid **outdated** terms:

- “handicapped”
- “crippled”

Avoid **euphemisms**:

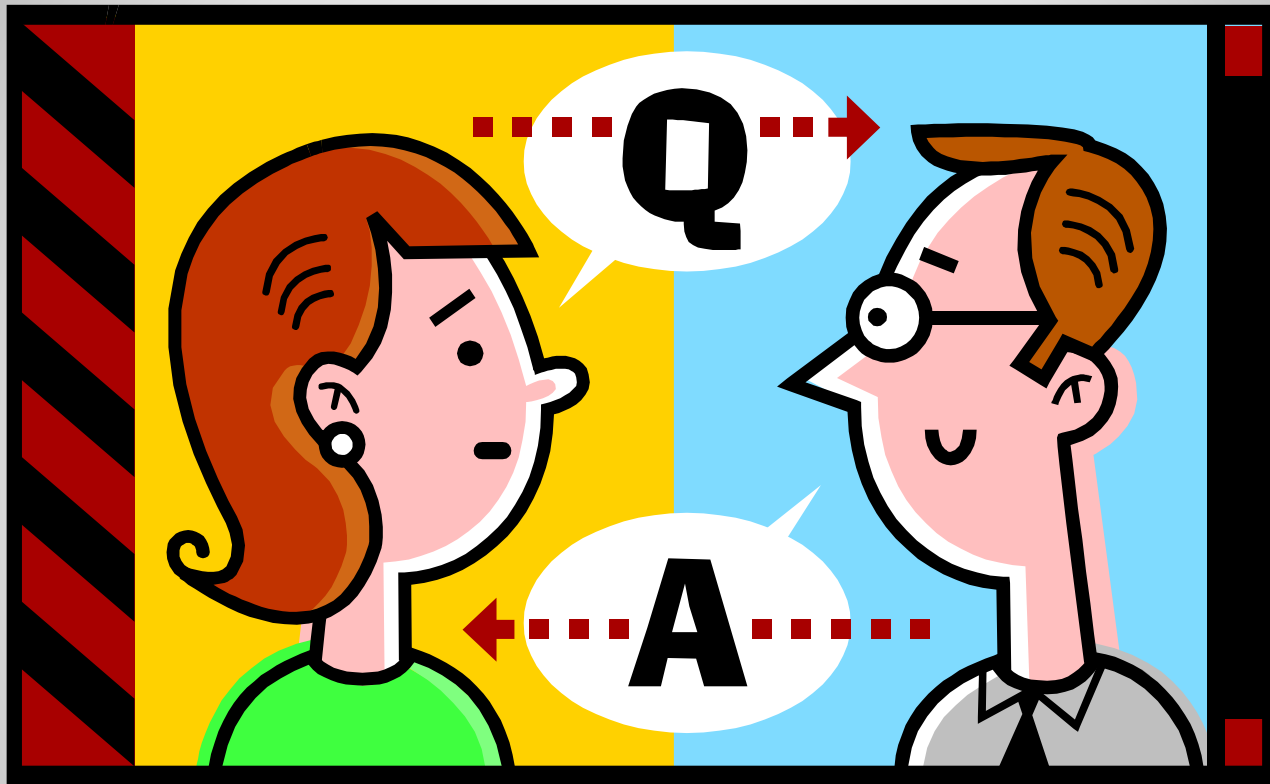
- “physically challenged”
- “handi-capable”
- “differently abled”

Acceptable

- people with disabilities
- people with AIDS
- Kate has autism.
- Bob has a mobility disability or impairment.
- Nora uses a wheelchair/is a wheelchair user.
- Tom has a mental health condition.
- children without disabilities
- Tonya has an intellectual disability.
- Pedro has multiple sclerosis.

Unacceptable

- the handicapped/the disabled
- AIDS victims/AIDS patients
- Kate is autistic.
- Bob is a quadriplegic/cripple.
- Nora is confined to a wheelchair/is wheelchair bound.
- Tom is emotionally disturbed/mentally ill/crazy.
- normal/healthy/typical children
- Tonya is retarded.
- Pedro is stricken/afflicted with MS; is an MS victim.



QUESTIONS?