

Access in Action:

Navigating Interpreter Use, Partnerships, and Inclusive Practices

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Objectives:



Identify and Apply Best Practices for Communication Access:



Develop Strategies to Secure Funding and Build Partnerships:



Recognize the Cultural and Ethical Implications of Access Decisions:

How do we determine appropriate communication access services for various settings?

How will we be able to apply best practices when working with interpreters?

How are we providing accommodations to ensure inclusive participation for DHH individuals?



VIDEO INTERPRETING:

H&V has a communication guideline for on-site interpreting and for virtual activities. It is recommended to collaborate with a DHH liaison and an interpreter to develop communication guidelines for your organization.



Check out: [ADA Effective Communication](#)

Using Video Relay Services (VRS) or Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) for virtual meetings: pros and cons

CERTIFICATIONS:

BEI: [available certifications](#)

RID: [available certifications](#)

Certified Deaf Interpreters (CDI)

State licensures - [state-by-state regulations](#) or
[interpreter resource](#)

To learn more in depth about DHH perspectives on
using interpreters: watch [Linguabee's webinar series on
You Tube!](#)



TRUST US, WE KNOW.

Do you have a DHH liaison within your organization? If not, seek and ask them to refer you to trustworthy interpreters and/or service providers.



DHH community members often have preferred interpreters and/or trusted interpreter agencies.

Usually, the most trustworthy interpreters are the ones who are immersed with the DHH community.

GET TO KNOW LOCAL DHH LEADERS. GET TO KNOW LOCAL SERVICE PROVIDERS. IMMERSE.

Offer a separate accommodation FEEDBACK opportunity for DHH attendees.

Invite them to contact you directly via email, text, or a simple survey sent to people who marked themselves as DHH and requested accommodations.

Feedback gives DHH consumers a sense of empowerment and may be a means of gaining trust.





How do we gain practical skills in writing grants to fund accessibility services?

Effective ways to build sustainable partnerships with interpreting agencies and DHH leaders to support long-term access solutions.

Grant Writing

Key Tips:

- Review previously awarded grants to observe the language and tone that secured funding.
- Collaborate with DHH-led organizations, sharing responsibilities as equal partners to strengthen proposals and increase success.
- Highlight DHH leadership in action and align strategies with the Deaf Ecosystem.



Grant Writing Examples



- *“Captions and/or ASL and Spanish interpreters will be offered/provided in each event to model accessibility to parents and ensure that all participants are able to fully engage.”*
- *“We will partner with Deaf-owned businesses for event catering, venue services, and printing needs, reinvesting funds back into the Deaf Ecosystem while building community connections.”*
- *“In partnership with a DHH-led organization, we will co-develop and deliver parent workshops, ensuring program leadership and facilitation by individuals with lived experience.”*

Grant Writing Examples



If the grant is prioritized on the wellbeing of DHH children & youth:

- *“This project will directly benefit DHH youth and children by giving them full access to information, events, and educational content in their language. Seeing DHH adults in leadership, interpreting, and business roles also provides positive role models and shows young people what is possible for their future.”*
- *“Accessible content and Deaf-led representation help reduce isolation and increase confidence, self-identity, and engagement for DHH youth.”*

Relationships Matter

Seek and embrace partnership opportunities with DHH-led organizations and leaders.

DHH leaders know which interpreting agencies work best, trust their expertise.

Know your local interpreting agencies. List them. Reach out to them for pro-bono opportunities.

Select interpreting agencies that are DHH-owned or true partners with the community, rather than those with limited DHH experience.



Putting Partnerships Into Practice

- Collaborate early by involving DHH leaders and agencies in planning, not just at booking time.
- Share resources i.e. exchange referrals, training opportunities, and community contacts.
- Create win–win opportunities by offering visibility, co-hosting events, and promoting partner services.
- Invest in consistency by using recurring interpreters and agencies to build trust and efficiency.
- Give back to the community by hiring Deaf-owned vendors, support training programs, and reinvesting funds locally.





Understand the cultural impact of interpreter selection, including the implications of using ASL students or interns.

We will be equipped to make respectful, culturally responsive decisions that prioritize the DHH experience.

Interpreter Skills Matter

For some DHH individuals, confidence decreases when partnered with interpreters (or signers) who are less likely to facilitate communication effectively.



A lived DHH experience from Emily: I quiet down much more when I am not confident in the interpreter(s). I code switch when I sense the interpreter/signer has limited skills to facilitate communication efficiently and effectively.

Some of the best experiences I had was at the H&V conference in Michigan - they had an INCREDIBLE team of interpreters that I felt so confident collaborating with people there.

Best Practices: ASL Students & Interpreter Interns



Utilize DHH leaders to lead activities/events:

- Students should not take the lead of activities/events

It's important to remember that families, especially DHH children, need to have opportunities to see DHH leaders in action.

Utilize ASL students as volunteers:

- Students can help set up, take down, children's activities (low key i.e. crafts, games, etc.), and any behind the scene tasks that make sense.
- Remember students want an opportunity to interact, not interpret

Best Practices: ASL Students & Interpreter Interns



Utilize ASL Interpreter Interns*:

- Announcements at events such as park events, picnics, etc.
- Online events
- Family Camp

In Arizona*, ASL interpreter interns or students in training are allowed to practice interpreting in certain contexts if they meet specific criteria.

- Enrollment in an accredited interpreting program
- The intern must work under the direct supervision of a person licensed as an interpreter in Arizona.
- The intern must be clearly identified to all consumers as an interpreter intern or student in training.

* Requirements vary state to state. Check your state's guidelines to ensure you are meeting the requirements if any regarding interns.

Consistent Communication Partners

Recurring interpreters develop familiarity with participants' communication styles and preferences, leading to smoother, more accurate interactions. This consistency fosters trust, efficiency, and overall communication success.



A lived DHH experience from Emily: I APPRECIATE recurring interpreters for many H&V virtual activities. We partner with a virtual agency, so there is a team of interpreters that we work with frequently and it is actually effective because they get used to my style and I am familiar with theirs as well. I am personally able to chime in with specific interpreter requests for certain activities.

IT IS EMPOWERMENT.

Thank you for joining us!

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