

Special Needs Considerations

In responding to any mass crisis, the victim, witness, and family population will reflect our population in general. Keeping that in mind, it is important to consider the possibilities of special needs within our service population. The best recommendation is to pre-plan for some of these needs, but be aware of your responsibility to be sensitive and accommodating to needs that arise whether a pre-plan was done or not. There are many special needs around our state. This list will help you to process needs that may arise in your own community and to address those to assist the people in need. This is not a comprehensive list, but a starting point for consideration.

- **ADA Compliance** website – for information and requirements to assist those with disabilities and assist agencies with regulations. Colorado is in Region 8. www.adainformation.org or by phone 1-719-444-0268
- **Hearing Impaired**
 1. **DOVE**

Office: 303.831.7932 TTY/V,
24 Hour Crisis Line: 303.831.7874 TTY/V
Hotline@deafdove.org
Website: www.deafdove.org
Email: info@deafdove.org
Services: Medical/legal advocacy for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Deaf victims; Support group; Education/Outreach to service providers, community, and Deaf teens; Information and referral.
 2. **Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

1575 Sherman St., Garden Level
Denver, CO 80203
720-457-3679 Voice
303-866-4824 Voice
FAX: 303-866-4831 Fax
Web Site: www.coloradodeafcommission.com
Email: ccdhh@state.co.us
Description: This web site has a wide array of resources, including information sheets such as a list of auxiliary services and funding sources for assistive technology.
Services: TTY, Legal Auxiliary Services, Deaf Information, Advocacy
 3. **24 Hour Sign Language Services**

888-811-2424
Website: www.24hrsIs.com
Email: 24hrsIs@24hrsIs.com
Services: TTY, Sign Language Interpreter

4. Office of Sign Language Services

Lorrie A. Kosinski, Sign Language Interpreter
201 W. Colfax Ave., Dept. 1102, 12th Floor
Denver, CO 80202
Phone: 720-913-8487 Voice
Mobile: 303-880-3208
VP: 720-458-8486

Website: [Sign Language Resources](#)

Email: lorrie.kosinski@denvergov.org

Services: Sign Language Interpreter, Public Video Phone, Advocacy

5. Professional Sign Language Interpreting, Inc

303-920-7330

Web Site: <http://psli.net/PSLI/Home.html>

Email: psli@psli.net

Services: TTY, Sign, Sign Language Interpreter

- **Sight Impaired – comprehensive listing on Denvergov. org website**
<http://www.denvergov.org/Resources/BlindVisuallyImpaired/tabid/431789/Default.aspx#AdvocacyResourcesPrimarilyfortheBlindorVisuallyImpaired>
- **Mobility limitations – comprehensive listing on Denvergov. org website**
<http://www.denvergov.org/Resources/MobilityImpaired/tabid/431830/Default.aspx>
- **Developmental disabilities**
Colorado Department of Human Services 1- 303-866-7400 Information on regional centers is available for statewide services
<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDHS-VetDis/CBON/1251579253372>
- **Mental health concerns**
 1. Your local Colorado Community Mental Health Center.
<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDHS-BehavioralHealth/CBON/1251581449824>
Or call Colorado Department of Human Services 1- 303-866-7400
- **Acquired brain injuries**
 1. The Governor’s Brain Injury Trust Fund oversees services in the state.
Call for resources or referrals
- **Cultural considerations**
 1. Knowing specific cultures in your area can be essential. Local community leaders can be of assistance within these communities.
- **Religious considerations**
 1. Contact local religious leaders in the community

- **Language considerations**
 1. Language Line - Telephone interpreters communicating from English into more than 200 languages in seconds.
(800) 752-6096 for information

- **Medically Injured**
 1. Ensure that if victims are in hospitals or other facilities that services and information are taken to them.
 2. Inform the victim that they can appoint a person to be their point of contact
 3. Recognize that some victims may be incapacitated for a long time