

# Technology Assistance Program

The Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH) established the Technology Assistance Program (TAP) to provide assistance to Virginia residents who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, or speech-impaired in getting the telephone equipment they need to stay or become more independent. The TAP program has evolved over the years to meet the changing needs of consumers and fit within the Commonwealth's budget. Its current incarnation is the Loan to Own (L2O) program.

## Loan to Own Program (L2O)

For example, let's say that your hearing loss is making it difficult for you to understand speech on a regular telephone. If you can provide proof of Virginia residency, documentation of your hearing loss (usually an audiogram), and if your monthly income meets the L2O guidelines, you could borrow an amplified phone for up to 30 days to see if it works for you. If you are satisfied with the phone after 30 days, it becomes yours.

Devices available through L2O include:

Text Telephones (TTYs)  
Voice Carry Over (VCO) Phones  
Hearing Carry Over (HCO) phones

Amplified Telephones  
Captioned Telephones

Visual Signalers

Audible Signalers

If you are not eligible for the L2O program, you may still be able to get equipment through TAP at cost. Applications may be obtained through a Demonstration Site or an Outreach Specialist who can explain the process to you and assist you in filling out the application.

There is a network of Sites across the Commonwealth—like NVRC's Demo Room—that can demonstrate L2O equipment and help hard of hearing consumers choose the right device for their hearing/listening needs. NVRC is a Demonstration Site for the Northern Virginia area which includes Fairfax County, Arlington County, Loudoun County, Prince William County and the Cities of Fairfax, Falls Church, Alexandria, Manassas, and Manassas Park.



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**NVRC's Demonstration Room**

For more information about this program or to set up an appointment to determine your eligibility, contact NVRC:

**Northern Virginia Resource Center  
for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons  
3951 Pender Drive, Suite 130  
Fairfax, VA 22030**

*Debbie Jones, Resource and Technology Specialist. During her 15 years at NVRC, Debbie has given hundreds of technology demonstrations to consumers, administrators, agencies, emergency personnel, educators and students. She studied Psychology at George Washington University, and is fluent in American Sign Language.*

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