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Turning Santa Barbara into the most hearing accessible city in California.

**1. Why are assistive listening systems needed?**

Approximately 20% (48 million) of American adults have some form of hearing loss in at least one ear, making it the most prevalent form of disability in the United States. Despite legislation and available technology to provide access, many individuals find their communication needs to be misunderstood and unaddressed.

**2. Are assistive listening systems required by law?**

Most places of worship, schools, and businesses have made themselves accessible to the visible minority of people in wheelchairs. For less money, they can also make themselves optimally accessible to the large, but largely invisible number of people with hearing loss, about 90,000 people just in Santa Barbara county, and thus comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

**3. What is a hearing loop?**

Hearing loop systems take sound straight from the source and deliver it right into the listener's hearing aid without extraneous noise or blurring. To them, it sounds like the speaker is right in their head. It turns their hearing aids into wireless earphones that broadcast sound customized for their hearing loss.

**Hearing Loops are the only assistive listening system to send clear, pure sound directly to hearing aids. They are the international standard for universal hearing access.**

**4. How do you use the hearing loop?**

All the user needs to do is switch their hearing aid to the "T", telephone, or hearing loop program. All but the very smallest modern hearing aids tend to be supplied with an internal t-coil. However, it may not have been enabled when the device was initially programmed. If the user is not sure whether their hearing aid has a t-coil and/or does not know how to access the T program, their audiologist or hearing aid specialist will be able to advise.

**5. Can a hearing loop be used by someone without a hearing aid?**

Yes, there are portable receivers available. They are not as convenient to use as a hearing aid with a built-in t-coil and are not fine-tuned to suit individual patterns of hearing, but can still be helpful to people with hearing loss, who do not wish to wear hearing aids on a regular basis.

**6. Where can hearing loops be used?**

Hearing loops have almost infinite applications. They can be used in theaters, auditoriums, churches, class rooms, at ticket counters, drive-thru windows, banks, doctor's offices, pharmacies, and even with home TVs.

**7. Where are the hearing loops installed already?**

In the vicinity, there are hearing loops in several locations including UCSB's Campbell Hall and the Santa Barbara Museum of Art's Mary Craig Auditorium. For a comprehensive database visit our website as well as www.aldocator.com. Hearing loops are widely accepted across the UK and Scandinavia where you can find them in virtually every place where information is verbally communicated.

INDEPENDENT LIVING RESOURCE CENTER, INC.



A project of the Independent Living Resource Center and with funding provided by the California Communications Access Foundation and support from:



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## How a Hearing Loop works

