

I am the Outreach Specialist for Southern Georgia, here at Georgia Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

We are a resource center that has been benefitting Georgia residents for many years.

Our organization houses two assistive technology programs that could help Georgia residents to feel less isolated during this time of social distancing. The programs are income-based and tax-funded, so they will not cost Georgia residents anything to apply or qualify.

The first program, the Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (TEDP), is funded by the Public Service Commission and provides free equipment like amplified telephones with larger buttons, captioned telephones, personal amplifiers (they work with and without hearing aids) and visual alert systems (flashing doorbells, vibrating alarms) to individuals who have even a slight hearing loss. This program has been running successfully here in Georgia for over 20 years. Also, within this program is a speech sector that provides free Augmentative and Alternative Communication Devices and Electrolarynxes. They do not have to have any hearing loss whatsoever to apply for speech equipment. Here are the qualifications for the TEDP program:

- Applicants must be above the age of 5
- Applicants must live in Georgia
- Applicants must be at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guide lines (there is a chart for reference at [www.gcdhh.org/gatedp](http://www.gcdhh.org/gatedp))
- Applicants must have proof of landline phone, cell phone, or internet phone service-- they do not have to have all 3! One of those will do.



**AmpliPOWER60**  
Amplified Telephone



**CapTel 840**  
Captioned Telephone



**Clarity XLCgo**  
Amplifier



**AlertMaster**  
Visual Alert System

During the period of social distancing, we are allowing individuals to send a picture of the supporting documents, and signed application in order to expediate the process and get equipment to those in need. Once an applicant is qualified, we send the equipment to the applicant. If the applicant needs assistance, they can request a trainer to assist. At this time the trainer will determine if the applicant will be trained virtually or in person. If an applicant requests in-person training, we will be able to provide that while still following the guidelines set forth by the CDC. Applications may be sent via mail, email or fax. Our fax number is 404-297-9465 or email to [info@gcdhh.org](mailto:info@gcdhh.org).