

Where Will You Find Assistive Listening Systems?

Currently, there are thousands of assistive listening systems (hearing loops, FM, and infrared systems) already installed across the United States.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the following places are required to have a hearing loop, FM/RF system, or infrared system:

- In ALL indoor or outdoor areas or rooms, with a public address system. These are called “Assembly Areas.”
- In all Courtrooms.
- Where Effective Communication is needed, such as service counters, rooms without public address systems, etc.



Assistive Listening Systems apply to: Title I (employment), Title II entities (state and local governments), and Title III entities (businesses and nonprofit organizations that serve the public).

What Places have Assistive Listening Systems (ALS) requirements?

- amphitheaters
- arenas
- auditoria
- classrooms
- concert halls
- convention centers
- courtrooms
- dinner theaters
- grandstands
- lecture halls
- legislative chambers
- motion picture houses
- performing arts centers
- playhouses
- public hearing rooms
- public meeting rooms
- stadiums
- theaters

Other Places

While not specifically named in the ADA, these facilities/sites may have assembly areas. Or they may be an area for Effective Communication under the ADA.

- airport gate waiting areas
- comedy clubs
- community rooms, e.g., fire and police stations
- cruises
- funeral homes
- gymnasiums
- hotel conference rooms
- information, registration desks
- lifelong learning classrooms
- pharmacy counters
- places of worship*
- senior centers
- senior communities
- transient venues
- transit
- yoga studios

* commonly exempted under the ADA but depends on activities, funding sources, and state or local building codes or regulations. See [Religious Entities Under the ADA](#)

About the Center for Hearing Access

Founded in 2024, the nonprofit Center for Hearing Access is a national advocacy and education initiative of The John G. Shedd Institute in Eugene, OR. We champion and educate users, sites, audiologists, and hearing instrument specialists about all ADA-compliant assistive listening systems and other strategies to increase access to theaters, libraries, conferences, government offices, courtrooms, places of worship, and other public and private spaces. Effective hearing access can be life-changing for people with hearing loss to maintain community engagement.

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