



Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 18, 2017

RICDHH holds 9th annual Hearing Loss Awareness Expo

(Providence, R.I.) – The **Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (RICDHH)** is hosting the 9th annual Hearing Loss Awareness Expo in the atrium of the Department of Administration on Thursday, May 18th, from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The Expo – part of the Commission’s observation of Hearing Loss Awareness and Better Hearing and Speech Month – will provide the chance for exhibitors to share educational materials and resources that are beneficial to the hard of hearing or late-deafened.

Hearing Loss Awareness Month promotes and recognizes the resources that are available to people who have different levels of hearing. Its goal is to enhance their quality of life through education, technology, and advocacy. More than 156,000 people living in Rhode Island are deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened and deaf-blind. Here are some other interesting facts:

1. One (1) in five (5) people 12 years old and up experiencing hearing loss.
2. One (1) in four (4) college students experiencing hearing loss.
3. The age group of 19-44 years old is the leading age group when they begin experiencing hearing loss.
4. Two (2) in three (3) people over 70 experiencing significant hearing loss.

The Hearing Loss Awareness Expo is **free** for all ages. For more information about the Expo or other RICDHH events, please go to www.cdhh.ri.gov.

About

The Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (RICDHH) is an advocating, coordinating, and service providing entity committed to promoting an environment in which the deaf and hard of hearing in Rhode Island are afforded equal opportunity in all aspects of their lives.

The RICDHH develops policy; initiates and lobbies for favorable legislation; fosters cooperation and awareness among state agencies and community organizations; and educates and advises consumers, state agencies, and employers about Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) rights to equal access.

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