



Hearing Education And Adults Resources

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT WE DO

Q: What kind of information and resources can people find through H.E.A.R. Me Out?

A: H.E.A.R. Me Out provides a variety of information and resources for people with hearing loss and those who support them, including tips for better communication, answers to frequently asked questions about hearing loss, blog posts and an online directory of hearing specialists and services in your area. For employers, we provide training to help them successfully recognize, accommodate and communicate with customers and employees who have hearing loss.

Q: Who does H.E.A.R. Me Out serve?

A: We offer information and resources for the deaf and hard of hearing, friends and family who want to help, and employers seeking to prepare their businesses for the growing number of customers and employees with hearing loss.

Q: Does H.E.A.R. Me Out serve people outside of Colorado?

A: Yes. Our online directory will soon include resources for people nationwide and our employer training is available for companies throughout the United States.

Q: Does H.E.A.R. Me Out have relationships with preferred hearing services and specialists?

A: No. Our online directory listings are unpaid and available to any viable company or organization offering hearing services or technology.

Q: Does H.E.A.R. Me Out offer hearing services to those with hearing loss?

A: No, H.E.A.R. Me Out does not directly offer any hearing services or sell any assistive hearing products.

WHO WE ARE

Q: How did H.E.A.R. Me Out get started?

A: H.E.A.R. Me Out's Founder Darnell Parks was born deaf in his right ear and with severe hearing loss in his left that has gotten progressively worse over time. Several years ago when he was pursuing a career change, he was passed over for a job because neither he nor his potential employer knew what hearing assistive technology was available for the workplace. This experience made Darnell realize he probably wasn't the first person with hearing loss to encounter a situation like this. It was probably happening to people all over the country every single day! And from there, H.E.A.R. Me Out was born.

Q: What is the organization's mission?

A: H.E.A.R. Me Out exists to give people with hearing loss a voice, connect them to the assistance they need, and help eliminate some of the challenges they meet in both their personal and professional lives.

Q: What kind of expertise does the H.E.A.R. Me Out team have?

A: The H.E.A.R. Me Out management team brings first-hand knowledge and more than 30 years of experience in teaching, corporate training and working with deaf and hard-of-hearing adults to the organization.

Q: Why is the deaf and hard-of-hearing population growing so quickly?

A: Over the last 25 years, hearing loss has increased by an astounding *160 percent*. Many studies forecast that in the near future, more than *75 percent* of people 19 and older will lose at least some of their hearing. This increase can be attributed to several factors, including widespread exposure to harmful noise levels, including headphones, iPods, concerts and sporting events, and hearing declines in the aging baby boomer population, which will soon account for more than half of the American population!

CORPORATE TRAINING

Q: What kinds of businesses can benefit from imP.A.C.T. Training?

A: H.E.A.R. Me Out's imP.A.C.T. Training is intended for businesses of any size that want to better identify and serve their deaf and hard-of-hearing customers and employees. We have trained businesses in a variety of industries, ranging from banking and retail to transportation, and employees in roles ranging from HR and PR to CEOs. With the rapid increase hearing loss among consumers, virtually any business dealing with the public can benefit from our imP.A.C.T. Training.

Q: What benefits do businesses receive from hiring and working with people with hearing loss?

A: By increasing the talent pool to include more people with disabilities, including those with hearing loss, business can: reduce hiring costs as a result of lower turnover; increase recruiting options for replacing workers who leave; and, improve rate of return through increased productivity levels and improved business image. In our imP.A.C.T. Training, we also cover tax incentives and other financial gains of hiring workers who have hearing loss.

Q: What does imP.A.C.T. Training consist of?

A: Our imP.A.C.T. Training is a half-day workshop that provides an in-depth look at hearing loss, business implications of working with the deaf and hard of hearing, workplace technologies and communication strategies for hard-of-hearing employees and customers.

Q: How long does the training last and how much does it cost?

A: The training is typically a half-day workshop that is tailored for your company, employees and common scenarios for your type of business. Please contact us for a customized quote for your business.