



Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

KCDHH at Work:

Connecting Kentuckians through the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP)

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kcdhh.ky.gov



TEAM
KENTUCKY
EDUCATION AND
LABOR CABINET

Telecommunications Access Program (TAP)

- Established in 1994 by the Kentucky General Assembly
- Ensures equal access to telephone service for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind, and Speech-Impaired Kentuckians
- Funded through a small surcharge on Kentucky phone lines, managed by the Public Service commission.

Who Qualifies?



- Must be a Kentucky Resident
- Must be at least 5 years of age for landline devices or 13 years of age for wireless devices. *Guardians must apply on behalf of applicants under 18 years of age.*

Deaf

Hard of
Hearing

DeafBlind

Speech
Difficulties

Who is NOT eligible?

- Someone who has received equipment from the program in the last four (4) years; or
- Someone who has received KCDHH TAP equipment more than four (4) years ago that is still in good working condition; or
- Someone whose KCDHH TAP equipment has been lost or damaged due to neglect, or stolen without a police report provided as verification

Application Process

- **Complete application**
- **Signature/Date**
- **Professional Certification Verification**
- **Select Equipment Type Select Signaler**
- **Copy of phone bill**
- **Identification Review Checklist**
- **Mail to KCDHH**

Review & Approval Process

- **KCDHH TAP Staff review Applications**
- **Eligible applicants are notified**



Amplified Telephones

Wireless Equipment



iPad Mini



iPad



iPhone

Specialized apps are preloaded to every device depending on the consumers communication needs

***Model Subject to change**

Other Equipment



Jitterbug



Superprint TTY 4425

Signaler Equipment





- In 1991, the General Assembly charged the Public Service Commission to establish a **Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS)** Program. The purpose of the program is to relay calls between deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired individuals and hearing individuals. The TRS is a 24-hour a day, seven day a week service, allowing you to "talk" at anytime without having to worry about communication barriers. It uses a third party, a "communications assistant" (CA), to relay messages back and forth between users. Hamilton is the current TRS provider for Kentucky. <http://www.hamiltoncaptel.com/>

- **Video Relay Services** are now available through many companies nationwide, allowing consumers using American Sign Language to communicate in their Native Language through Video Interpreters. These companies are not part of TRS.

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Free Assistive Technology Programs

American Red Cross

Free fire alarm with bed shaker.

Make sure you select YES to this question on the application:

Is there anyone in the residence that is deaf or hearing impaired?



Sign up for [FREE Red Cross Smoke Alarm](#) for your home

'Moore Safe Nights' NOAA Weather Radio

Free NOAA weather radio with flashing strobe light and pillow shaker.

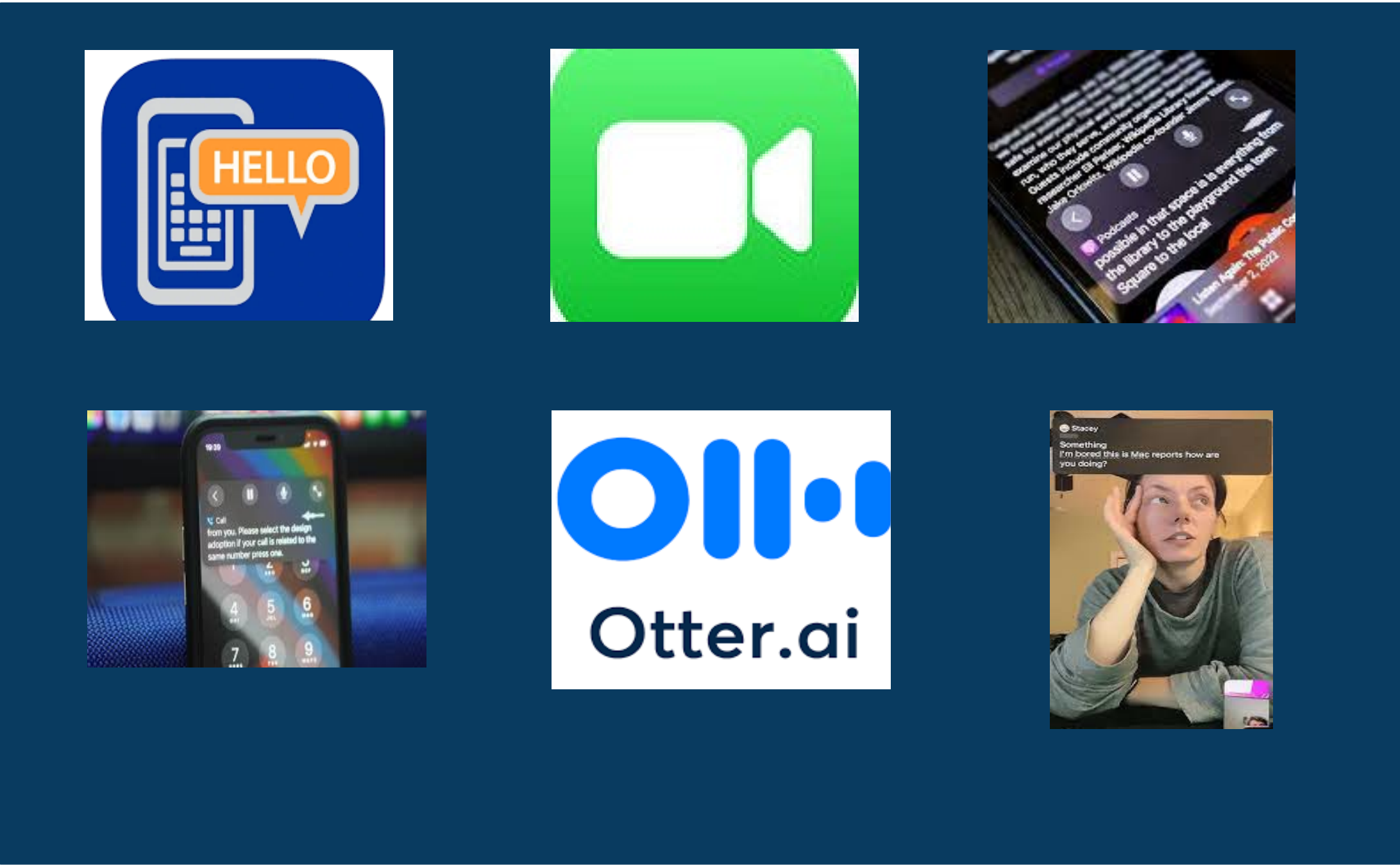
Thanks to the partnership between KCDHH and KY Division of Emergency Management



Sign up for [FREE "Moore Safe Nights" Weather Radio](#) for your home

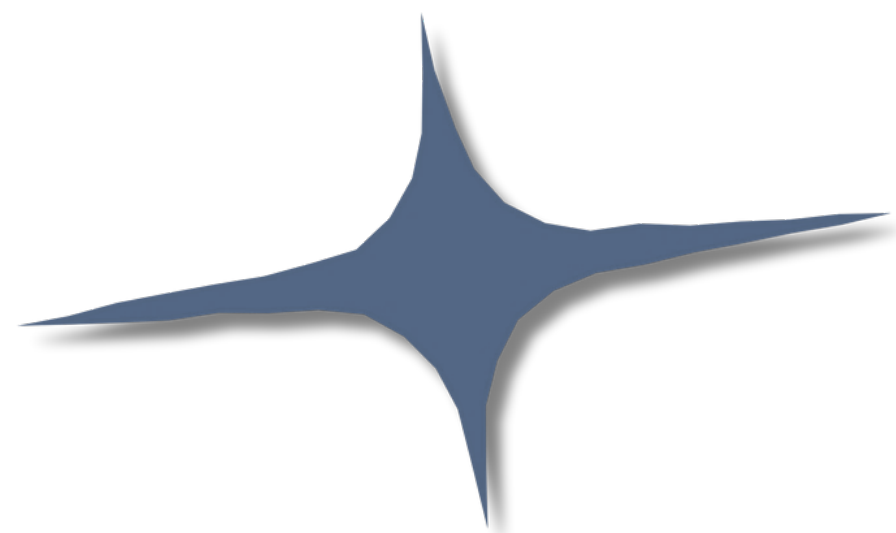


Favorite apps for Wireless Equipment



Q & A





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