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The Arizona Commission for the Deaf
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To learn more about telecoils or AzTEDP, visit
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AzTEDP can be reached directly at:

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Program applications can be found at

www.acdhh.org/aztedp.



T-Coil Technology in Arizona



The Telecoil: small technology, big benefits

Magnetic coupling technology

Magnetic coupling technology, known as telecoil, t-coil, audio switch or t-switch, has been available for hearing aids for decades, and for cochlear implant processors since their inception. Telecoils are located inside the hearing aid or cochlear implant processor and are activated by the user via a switch on the outside of the device or by a remote control.

This technology enables deaf and hard of hearing users easy access to sounds from telephone equipment, as well as a number of other electronic audio equipment – including radios, CD players, mp3 players, mobile devices, digital music, public address systems and assistive listening devices and systems in movie theaters.

Personal induction equipment, like neckloops, can allow hearing aid users with telecoils to receive signals directly from the phone or the electronic audio equipment. Background noise is eliminated and allows the user to hear more clearly. This is especially helpful for the user in large areas, airports, and meeting rooms with public address systems.

Initially provided on hearing aids to help the user hear better on the telephone, telecoils allow users

to talk on the phone without feedback (whistling) from their hearing aids. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 required all land-line phones to be compatible with telecoils. A similar requirement for cordless and cell phones ensures that 50% of these phones are telecoil compatible. FCC rules increasing this number to 100% are pending as of December 2015.

Many first-time hearing aid users are unaware of telecoil technology. As such, they often fail to inquire about how hearing aids could provide them with greater access to communication via the telecoil. If their hearing aids have telecoils, they are often unsure how to properly activate and use the telecoil.

There are more than 1,100,000 people with hearing loss in Arizona, and as the Baby Boomer generation ages, that number will continue to rise. Telecoil technology will impact more people.



Arizona Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program

The Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing is home to one of the most comprehensive telecommunications loan programs in the nation, serving Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf-Blind, and those with speech difficulties.

The Arizona Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (AzTEDP) offers free assistive

telecommunications devices for qualified Arizona residents.

Arizona: A leader in telecoil consumer education

The Arizona State Legislature passed Senate Bill 1348 in 2007, requiring state-licensed audiologists and hearing aid dispensers to educate their consumers about telecoil technology and the Arizona Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program.

Driven by a grassroots effort among hearing aid users and the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing, this law has sparked the interest of hearing loss advocacy groups in other states.

The Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing works with the state's licensed audiologists and hearing aid dispensers to provide telecoil information to the state's Deaf and Hard of Hearing population.



About ACDHH

Established in 1977, ACDHH is a state agency serving a population of more than 1,100,000 people in Arizona with hearing loss. In addition to AzTEDP, ACDHH offers information and referral, advocacy, administers the state relay service and oversees interpreter licensure.