



Sudbury Commission on Disability Meeting - Supporting Material

Thursday January 26, 2023

7:30 PM

The proposed article for the May Town Meeting Warrant

ARTICLE___. FAIRBANK COMMUNITY CENTER AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT AND ASSOCIATED DESIGN FUNDING

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or to transfer from available funds, the sum of \$200,000, or any other sum or sums, to be expended under the direction of the Town Manager, for the purpose of purchasing audio-visual and related equipment, and associated design services, for the Fairbank Community Center project to address needs and associated costs therefor; or to act on anything relative thereto.

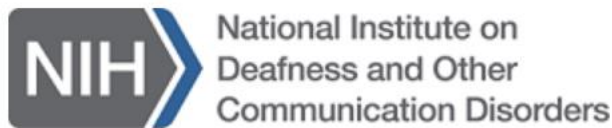
Council on Aging report

1. The request is submitted to meet the need for enhanced audio-visual equipment to address the special needs of the users of the Senior Center program spaces at the new Fairbank Community Center. The capability of the equipment contemplated by this request was not part of the request approved by the Town at its 2022 Annual Town Meeting. At the time that Article was brought forth, the narrative for that proposal provided minimum Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB) compliance, but did not address all of the requests of the users. Specifically, it did not include Assisted Listening Systems, speech enhancement systems, or hybrid remote learning AV systems in all program rooms that support Senior Center programming.
2. The contemplated equipment will
 - a. enhance the ability of all patrons to hear and be heard within a given program space, with special emphasis on the hearing impaired
 - b. enhance the availability of, and interaction with, virtual and remote programming for all patrons of the Senior Center
 - c. enable persons unable to attend programming at the Senior Center to interactively participate in programming originating at, or transmitted through, the Senior Center. The capability of the enhanced equipment will expand the availability and participation of residents in our community unable to attend programs in person and make for a more welcoming Senior Center for all

residents.

3. In addition to the equipment needed, approved funds will be used for necessary redesign services and the installation of the systems ordered.
4. The best time to install these systems is now, as the building is under construction. To wait will likely result in higher costs and unnecessary disruption of programming at the Senior Center.

Quick Facts from National Institutes of Health about Hearing Impairment



Advancing the science of communication to improve lives

Last Updated Date: March 25, 2021

- About 2 to 3 out of every 1,000 children in the United States are born with a detectable level of hearing loss in one or both ears.¹
- More than 90 percent of deaf children are born to hearing parents.²
- Approximately 15% of American adults (37.5 million) aged 18 and over report some trouble hearing.³
- Among adults aged 20-69, the overall annual prevalence of hearing loss dropped slightly from 16 percent (28.0 million) in the 1999-2004 period to 14 percent (27.7 million) in the 2011–2012 period.⁴
- Age is the strongest predictor of hearing loss among adults aged 20-69, with the greatest amount of hearing loss in the 60 to 69 age group.⁴
- Men are almost twice as likely as women to have hearing loss among adults aged 20-69.⁴
- Non-Hispanic white adults are more likely than adults in other racial/ethnic groups to have hearing loss; non-Hispanic black adults have the lowest prevalence of hearing loss among adults aged 20-69.⁴
- About 18 percent of adults aged 20-69 have speech-frequency hearing loss in both ears from among those who report 5 or more years of exposure to very loud noise at work, as compared to 5.5 percent of adults with speech-frequency hearing loss in both ears who report no occupational noise exposure.⁴
- One in eight people in the United States (13 percent, or 30 million) aged 12 years or older has hearing loss in both ears, based on standard hearing examinations.⁵
- About 2 percent of adults aged 45 to 54 have disabling hearing loss. The rate increases to 8.5 percent for adults aged 55 to 64. Nearly 25 percent of those aged 65 to 74 and 50 percent of those who are 75 and older have disabling hearing loss.⁶

- Roughly 10 percent of the U.S. adult population, or about 25 million Americans, has experienced tinnitus lasting at least five minutes in the past year.⁷
- About 28.8 million U.S. adults could benefit from using hearing aids.⁸
- Among adults aged 70 and older with hearing loss who could benefit from hearing aids, fewer than one in three (30 percent) has ever used them. Even fewer adults aged 20 to 69 (approximately 16 percent) who could benefit from wearing hearing aids have ever used them.⁹
- As of December 2019, approximately 736,900 cochlear implants have been implanted worldwide. In the United States, roughly 118,100 devices have been implanted in adults and 65,000 in children.¹⁰
- Five out of 6 children experience ear infection (otitis media) by the time they are 3 years old.¹¹

Sources

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). [Identifying infants with hearing loss - United States, 1999-2007](#). MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 59(8): 220-223. Vohr B. [Overview: infants and children with hearing loss—part I](#). Ment Retard Dev Disabil Res Rev. 2003;9:62–64.
 2. Mitchell RE, Karchmer MA. [Chasing the mythical ten percent: Parental hearing status of deaf and hard of hearing students in the United States](#).
- ⓘ [\(PDF\)](#) Sign Language Studies. 2004;4(2):138-163.
 ⓘ Blackwell DL, Lucas JW, Clarke TC. [Summary health statistics for U.S. adults: National Health Interview Survey, 2012](#) [\(PDF\)](#). National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 10(260). 2014.
 ⓘ Hoffman HJ, Dobie RA, Losonczy KG, Themann CL, Flamme GA. [Declining Prevalence of Hearing Loss in US Adults Aged 20 to 69 Years](#)
 ⓘ . JAMA Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery. December 2016 online.
 ⓘ Lin FR, Niparko JK, Ferrucci L. [Hearing loss prevalence in the United States](#).
5. [Letter] Arch Intern Med. 2011 Nov 14; 171(20): 1851-1852.
 6. Based on calculations performed by NIDCD Epidemiology and Statistics Program staff: (1) using data from the 1999-2010 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES); (2) applying the definition of disabling hearing loss used by the 2010 Global Burden of Disease Expert Hearing Loss Team (hearing loss of 35 decibels or more in the better ear, the level at which adults could generally benefit from hearing aids).
 7. Based on calculations performed by NIDCD Epidemiology and Statistics Program staff: (1) tinnitus prevalence was obtained from the 2008 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS); (2) the estimated number of American adults reporting tinnitus was calculated by multiplying the prevalence of tinnitus by the 2013 U.S. Census population estimate for the number of adults (18+ years of age).

8. NIDCD Epidemiology and Statistics Program, based on December 2015 Census Bureau estimates of the noninstitutionalized U.S. population, personal communication; May 2016.
9. Based on calculations by NIDCD Epidemiology and Statistics Program staff using data collected by (1) the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) annually for number of persons who have ever used a hearing aid [numerator], and (2) periodic NHANES hearing exams for representative samples of the U.S. adult and older adult population [denominator]; these statistics are also used for tracking Healthy People 2010 and 2020 objectives. See also [Use of Hearing Aids by Adults with Hearing Loss \(chart\)](#).
10. Estimates based on manufacturers' voluntary reports of registered devices to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, December 2019.
11. Teele DW, Klein JO, Rosner B. [Epidemiology of otitis media during the first seven years of life in children in greater Boston: a prospective, cohort study](#). J Infect Dis. 1989 Jul;160(1):83-94.

Sudbury Disability Data from 2017

Data that the Census Bureau Population Estimates Program produces and disseminates for official use are based on data from the Census. The information below is taken from the 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. The total for all six categories of disability is 1,804 in 2017.

With a 1.8% increase in population from 2017 to 2022 the estimated total is **likely to be closer to 1836**. And that figure is just under 10% of our total population so is likely to be too conservative.

DISABILITY TYPE BY AGE GROUP IN SUDBURY	est.	margin
With hearing difficulty	499	+/-0.8
Under 18	11	
18-64	167	
65 and over	321	
With vision difficulty	179	+/-0.4
Under 18	27	
18-64	78	
65 and over	74	
With cognitive difficulty	336	+/-0.8
Under 18	89	
18-64	168	
65 and over	79	
With an ambulatory difficulty	400	+/-0.6
Under 18	9	
18-64	114	
65 and over	277	
With a self-care difficulty	161	+/-0.4
Under 18	22	
18-64	87	
65 and over	52	
With an independent living difficulty	229	+/-0.8
18-64	109	
and over	120	