“We opened a program for the deaf—in this elegant, modern house, with neighbors who weren’t thrilled about us being there. A woman from Hennepin County came out, and she said, ‘Oh my, all this glass. We’ve heard about these volatile deaf people. They’re going to break every window.’ They never broke a thing, of course.”
— MARY KAY MCJILTON, VP, 1977 (2018 photo, still working and volunteering for People Incorporated)
Who we serve

Our DSL location serves adults (18+) who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Deaf-Blind and experience a mental illness. Supported apartment living must be a reasonable expectation for individuals in this program. In addition to individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, DSL may serve others with disabilities who may benefit from the services provided at DSL. Must be waiver eligible, including CADI and TBI waivers.

Services we provide

› Financial Management
› Housing & Health
› Community Support
› Employment
› Transportation
› Individualized Services

About our location

Individuals live in either a single room or efficiency apartment. The program is in a large building co-located with our Deaf Mental Health Services Drop-In Center in Northeast Minneapolis. Those living in single rooms have access to kitchen and dining facilities shared by seven individuals. Efficiency apartments have a self-contained kitchenette and bathroom in each unit. Staff have offices in the building.

Hours of operation

Services and on-site supervision are provided 24-hours a day, 7-days a week, with awake overnight staff. Staff remain available for medical and any other emergencies. We use a paging system that allow participants to inform staff of urgent needs from their apartments.

About our staff

Our staff are both Deaf and hearing individuals who are fluent in sign language and have education and experience in human services. Staff are trained in CPR, First Aid, OSHA, psychiatric medication, psychiatric rehabilitation, VA, communication skills, and non-violent de-escalation techniques.

Licensing

The program is a Certified Housing with Services establishment and is also licensed through the Minnesota Department of Health.