

## About CAN

CAN is a non-profit, charitable organization founded in 2005 to cover a wide range of service gaps left by inadequate state support services. These include DeafBlind patrons instructing other DeafBlind clients in Braille, help with transportation to and from appointments, additional mobility and communication services for Deaf, Deaf elderly and DeafBlind citizens.

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**Full participation is a right, not a privilege.**

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**The 9 voluntary Board Members are fluently communicated in ASL and comfortably familiar with the diverse cultural, social and political interests and needs of Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing individuals.**

## Contact for Information:

Communication Advocacy  
Network, Inc. (CAN)

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Hours: 9:00 am - 4:00pm  
Monday- Friday

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(860) 566-9490

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## Communication Advocacy Network, Inc. (CAN)

### Mission

To provide auxiliary support services to statewide agencies who serve deaf or hard-of-hearing elderly (who require American Sign Language interpretation by native users of ASL) and Deaf-Blind, and Deaf persons with diminished visual acuity regardless of race or gender so that they can be provided opportunities to succeed in areas of employment, education, housing, economics, and self-determination. Such opportunities are currently restricted due to inability of public agencies to successfully communicate with our clients.

## Advocacy & Outreach

Information and referral is for any person or agency that need assistance in serving Deaf Elderly and DeafBlind individuals. We also provide on-site training for businesses, agencies or organizations requesting information about the unique needs of Deaf Elderly and DeafBlind individuals.

“It gets frustrating for me both as Deaf person and as a professional to discover gaps in services. CAN makes this point over and over with a loud and clear message that no matter how small a community it is, the needs are still very serious and important enough for the public at large to address with solutions.”

-Wm. Erich Kregel



## DeafBlind Services

### *How to Apply:*

Potential applicants must contact the State Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB) under Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) in order to qualify for the community Inclusion Grant and receive CAN services. Contact BESB at (860) 602-4000 or 800.842.4510.

### *Support Service Providers (SSPs)*

SSPs are fluent in American Sign Language (ASL) and trained to provide tactile or visual communication, transportation and assistance in maintaining independence.

### *DeafBlind Consumer Support Group*

The DeafBlind support group meets monthly, and covers a wide range of information and other topics related to DeafBlindhood.



## Deaf Elderly Services

CAN Elderly Services provides advocacy, awareness, collaboration, support and information about immediate community to Deaf and Hard of Hearing seniors for the common goal of having communication access and improving services to isolated elderly people.

CAN receives partial funding from Title III of the Older Americans Act through grants from the North Central Area Agency on Aging, Inc. (NCAAA), and the Agency on Aging Area of South Central CT (AOASCC) and the Connecticut Department of Social Services.

Elderly Deaf Consumer Support Providers provide peer to peer communication offering home maintenance, scheduling transportation to medical appointments, food shopping and community participation.