

INFORMATION ONLY

ASSISTIVE LISTENING SYSTEM RESOURCES/VENDORS IN IOWA

We do not have an officially approved vendor list of Assistive Listening Device companies, but here is a list of potential vendors in the area. Some are manufacturers that will refer you to a vendor in your area. If you have any vendors that you have utilized that you would recommend, please provide the Diocese the information so the list can be revised.

There are a variety of types of assistive listening systems with pros/cons and levels of costs to consider. Types include, FM, infrared, Wi-Fi, loop system and a combination of any of the above. The vast majority of House of Worship applications are three specific technologies, or combinations: Induction Loop; FM and Wi-Fi. A new technology using Bluetooth broadcast audio is under development with tentative plans to be released in next year or so. Here is a couple of resources about the new technology being developed: [Auracast Assistive Listening](#) and [Auracast Bluetooth Technology](#). As a subset of Bluetooth technology, the common standard of audio transmission in the world, it will be able to transmit directly to any Auracast/Bluetooth enable headphones, earphones, speakers or hearing aid directly with no receivers. This could be a standalone technology and/or work with current technology as well.

It is always a challenge to find devices that will meet all the needs of your congregation. (It is HIGHLY recommend during the demonstrations to ask some of the parishioners who would benefit from the devices to come in and provide feedback on the systems--***ease of use***, compatibility, sound quality, etc.)

If you do have a FH channel system, it is recommended to make the channel number easily available to people so, those who have their own receiver can tune in to your churches channel system.

Parishes that currently have assistive listening systems include St. Peter and Paul in Atlantic (loop system), St. Francis of Assisi in West Des Moines (FM system). St. Mary of Nazareth in Des Moines (FM system). St. Patrick's in Neola (FM system), St. Theresa's in Des Moines (FM system), Sacred Heart in West Des Moines (FM), St. Boniface in Waukee (FM system), St. John the Apostle in Norwalk (FM system), All Saints in Des Moines (FM), Our Lady's Immaculate Heart (FM system).

Resource for potential partial funding of assistive technology may be available through grants from the [Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa](#). See website for date of deadline as typically in the spring.

Please check out the Assistive Listening Systems section on the [Disability Ministry—Parish Resources](#) website. A webinar about types of technology and other resources are available on that site. **The Diocesan Building Commission can provide additional assistance if needed.**

- [Audio Engineering](#) They will help to determine which assistive listening technology devices will best meet your needs with a phone and/or email conversation but can do a site visit if needed. Office in Ames Iowa. Toll-Free: (800) 659-3529 Email info@audioengineering.com
- [Centrum Sound](#) They work with churches all over the US with their selection process but no longer perform installation services of ALS. Peter Bengtsson's "Overall recommendation in ALS: My recommendation would be for FM/Wi-Fi combinations such as one of the [Williams Sound FM + Wi-Fi Hearing Systems](#). Installation is fairly simple and users who have cellphones can use their own earphones or neck loops. However, if money were not an object, I would highly recommend a loop



system along with a FM system such as the Williams Sound PPA VP or the above-mentioned FM+ Wi-Fi. Then you have the best of all worlds. I do not recommend use of infrared systems for churches. They are great for classrooms where multiple systems may be installed adjacent to one another operating interference free on the same frequency. They are also great where confidentiality is required, i.e., courtrooms and military installations. Churches generally do not benefit from the IR advantage. Furthermore, if inadequate emitter power occurs, it can cause signal drop out. Particularly when standing up, i.e., the person in front of you may be blocking the line of sight to the emitter panel.” Contact: Peter Bengtsson -1-888-736-6005

peterb@centrumsound.com

- [Hearing Access Solutions LLC](#) works to bring equal communication access for those with hearing loss through advocacy, education and assistive hearing technology; our primary technology focus is hearing loops. They have no charge for site visits. They do work with churches to allow volunteers to help with the install to decrease costs. They also provide other assistive listening systems. (RF, IR and Wi-Fi) but only recommend the other systems if a hearing loop cannot be installed. The contact for the person who covers Iowa is Sheryl Butler at (712) 309-0509 sbutler@hasloops.com. Sheryl is also the contact for the [Hearing Loss Association of American Omaha Chapter](#)
- [Iowa Audio Video](#) has a team of certified Designer Engineers and Brand Consultants ready to provide a FREE consultation with you on the right products for your business. This includes assistive listening devices. They have expert technicians that can meet with the customer, provide a recommendation, and quote. 515-457-1199 salesIAV@IAVWAV.com
- [Listen Technology](#) – Contact for Iowa: Austin Knaus, Technology Specialist. support@livellabrandgroup.com M: 913.534.4197 or Spencer Pope, Western Sales Manager. spencer@livellabrandgroup.com M: 913-534-4034 [9726 Rosehill Rd Lenexa KS 66215](#) Office hours: 8:30 to 5:30 Mon – Fri (They can assist you to identify customer needs based on client situations and system requirements and then make recommendations to the vendors for the client. They have a list of vendors in Des Moines and Omaha area that cover SW Iowa.)
 - [Electronic Source Company](#) (Des Moines vendor for Listen Technology Systems) Al Osborn aosborn@esoundco.com M: 515-249-6152 O: 515-274-3546 (Three major types are FM (216 MHz & 72 MHz-- 72 MHz should not be used where there is an analog TV channel), Infrared and Loop. All systems require a transmitter and antenna and each user wears a small receiver and connects an earbud, headphone, ear speaker or neck loop (if they have hearing aids equipped with a Tele coil). Receivers have rechargeable batteries each facility would need a master charger and individual chargers. Government and Civic buildings typically use infrared and Schools use both FM and Loop.
- [Oval Window Audio](#) From one-on-one applications and small groups to large audiences of more than 300, Oval Window Audio has an induction loop assistive listening system that meets your need to provide communication accessibility and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Office: 303-447-3607 oval@infionline.net Contact: Norman Lederman
- [Williams AV](#) : Tim Henry, National Sales Manager, Central Region. 1-800-328-6190 info@williamsave.com Contact directly for an overview/video call/ white paper, etc.
 - [Cadon Technical Sales](#): (Iowa representative of Williams AV) James Gast, Territory Manager and A/V Engineer, jgast@cadon.biz Phone: 636-300-3671 1-800-607-2786 Toll Free

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