

## Fast Facts about Hearing Loss and Older Adults

### Treating hearing loss is important to long-term quality of life

Even a mild hearing loss should be treated

*Hearing loss is common, almost as common as aging*

Hearing loss is more obvious than hearing aids

- ❖ Over 300,000 Arizona Seniors Aged 65+ are Deaf or Hard of Hearing<sup>1</sup>
- ❖ Hundreds of Thousands more Arizonans over the age of 50 are experiencing some degree of hearing loss<sup>1</sup>
- ❖ Primary causes of hearing loss are previous exposure to loud noise (e.g. mp3 players) and aging<sup>2</sup>
- ❖ 76% of seniors with a hearing loss are not using hearing aids, yet many other inexpensive options are available<sup>3</sup>
- ❖ Many seniors are not aware of their hearing loss and many are in denial
- ❖ Medicare and Medicaid (AHCCCS) do not cover the cost of hearing aids and other assistive devices. Does your insurance cover you?
- ❖ Facilities that provide hearing assistance enable seniors to be more engaged in the activities. Does your meeting center use assistive listening devices for the hard of hearing?
- ❖ Effective hearing technology can cost as little as \$20
- ❖ When hearing aids are not enough, many seniors with moderate to profound hearing loss may qualify for a cochlear device which is covered by Medicare and some private insurers<sup>4</sup>

*To learn more about resources and services, see the reverse for steps YOU can take now to address the problem of untreated hearing loss.*

#### Sources:

1. CDC, Nat'l Health Interview Survey (2006) & Aging Trends No. 2 (March 2001)
2. Better Hearing Institute (2009): [www.betterhearing.org](http://www.betterhearing.org)
3. Kochkin S. Marketrak VII (2005): [www.betterhearing.org](http://www.betterhearing.org)
4. Medicare Learning Network/CMS, MLN Matters Number MM3796 (2005)

(Fast Facts Revised May 2015)

