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

- Hundreds of Thousands more Arizonans over the age of 50 are experiencing some degree of hearing loss

- Primary causes of hearing loss are previous exposure to loud noise (e.g. mp3 players) and aging

- 76% of seniors with a hearing loss are not using hearing aids, yet many other inexpensive options are available

- 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

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)

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