

- (2) IMPROVING ACCESS TO COMMUNICATION AND TO EXISTING SERVICES AND PROGRAMS FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING INDIVIDUALS;
 - (3) PROVIDING DIRECT SERVICES TO DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING INDIVIDUALS AS APPROPRIATE;
 - (4) INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE NEEDS AND ISSUES AFFECTING DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING INDIVIDUALS;
 - (5) WORKING WITH STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES TO ENSURE ACCESS FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING INDIVIDUALS TO SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES, INCLUDING THE ACQUISITION AND DISTRIBUTION OF VISUAL SMOKE DETECTORS;
 - (6) DEVELOPING A REFERRAL SERVICE FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING INDIVIDUALS;
 - (7) SERVING AS AN INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE ON THE NEEDS AND ISSUES AFFECTING DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING INDIVIDUALS;
 - (8) WORKING TO INCREASE ACCESS FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING INDIVIDUALS TO EDUCATIONAL, HEALTH, AND SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES;
 - (9) WORKING WITH PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, AND OTHER UNITS OF STATE GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING INDIVIDUALS;
 - (10) WORKING TO ELIMINATE THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT OF DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING INDIVIDUALS;
 - (11) PROVIDING A NETWORK THROUGH WHICH SERVICES PROVIDED BY STATE AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS SERVING DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING INDIVIDUALS CAN BE CHanneled; AND
 - (12) PROMOTING COMPLIANCE WITH STATE, LOCAL, AND FEDERAL LAWS AND POLICIES PROTECTING AND SERVING DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING INDIVIDUALS.
- (C) THE OFFICE SHALL HOLD AT LEAST TWO PUBLIC TOWN HALL MEETINGS EACH YEAR TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON:
- (1) THE QUALITY OF STATE SERVICES AND PROGRAMS AFFECTING DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING INDIVIDUALS;
 - (2) THE FUNCTIONS AND OPERATIONS OF THE OFFICE; AND
 - (3) ANY OTHER ISSUES THAT AFFECT DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING THOSE SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.
- (D) THE OFFICE SHALL:
- (1) HELP FACILITATE THE APPROPRIATE DELIVERY OF STATE, LOCAL, AND OTHER PUBLIC SERVICES TO DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING INDIVIDUALS;