The programs listed here will accept applicants from the Virginia, Maryland, and DC area.

**Canine Companions for Independence**

Northeast Regional Office:
PO Box 205
Farmingdale, NY 11735
631-561-0200 V/TTY; 631-561-0230 FAX
Debra Dougherty, Director
Ellen Torop, Program Director
[www.caninecompanions.org](http://www.caninecompanions.org) (National Office)
[www.caninecompanions.org/regions/northeast/northeast.index.html](http://www.caninecompanions.org/regions/northeast/northeast.index.html) (Regional Office)

National Office: 1-800-572-2275
info@caninecompanions.org

**Service Area:** National

**Member of Assistance Dogs International?** Yes – Full

**Waiting List:** Varies

**Fee:** None

**Other Expenses:** Must attend a 2-week training and pay for some expenses related to travel, meals, lodging

**Training Method:** Leash correction/positive reinforcement

**Dog’s Training:** Puppy raiser turns in dog at approx. 15 months; 6-9 months of advanced training follow

**Process to Apply:** Fill out application forms – personal info, medical. Live interview. Contact regional office to request application packet.

**Ownership of Dog:** CCI retains ownership.

**Certification:** Partner/dog must pass tests for ability to successfully command, control dog and ensure safety, as well as properly care for dog; re-certification every 1-3 years

**Followup Services:** Annual graduate workshops; program staff available to continue assisting with training or addressing any problems

**Age Requirement:** 18 years

**Specific Breed Requests:** No. All dogs are Labs, Goldens or a mix.

**Training of Pet Dogs:** No

**Specialty Training for Dual Disabilities:** No
Dogs for the Deaf

10175 Wheeler Road
Central Point, OR 97502
541-826-9220 V/TTY; 541-826-6696 FAX
Robin Dickson, President/CEO
www.dogsforthedeaf.org
info@dogsforthedeaf.org

Service Area: National
Member of Assistance Dogs International? Yes – Fully
Waiting List: Approximately 1 year
Fee: $50 application fee; $500 deposit refunded after person/dog have been together 1 year
Training Method: Positive reinforcement
Dog’s Training: Dogs are rescued from shelters and trained for approximately 6 months
Process to Apply: Fill out application forms – personal info, medical. Live interview in home.
Contact regional office to request application packet or get from website
Ownership of Dog: Transferred to partner
Certification: Must pass certification test and periodic retesting
Followup Services: Provided as long as team is together
Age Requirement: 16 years
Specific Breed Requests: Yes, but wait can be longer
Training of Pet Dogs: No
Specialty Training for Dual Disabilities: No

Fidos for Freedom

PO Box 5508
Laurel, MD 20726
410-880-4178 V; 301-570-7570 TTY; 301-570-9061 FAX
Joseph Swetnam, Director
www.fidosforfreedom.org
fidos@fidosforfreedom.org

Service Area: 75 mile radius of Laurel, MD
Member of Assistance Dogs International? Yes – Full
Waiting List: Varies – 6 months to 2 or 3 years
Fee: $10 application fee; $150 administration fee if approved
Training Method: Leash correction/positive reinforcement
Dog’s Training: Two to three years
Process to Apply: Application form, medical, audiogram, interviews, personal references
Ownership of Dog: Transferred one year after dog goes home with client if approved
Certification: Must be renewed each year – written exam, skills test, public access test, demonstration of skills and ability to work in public
Followup Services: Teams must return to center twice each month for a year; weekly trainings and support, phone consultations
Age Requirement: 18 years
Specific Breed Requests: No
Training of Pet Dogs: No
Specialty Training for Dual Disabilities: No
International Hearing Dog, Inc.

5901 E. 89th Avenue
Henderson, CO
303-287-3277 V/TTY; 303-287-3425 FAX
Valerie Foss-Brugger, Executive Director
www.ihdi.org
ihdi@aol.com

Service Area: National
Member of Assistance Dogs International? No
Waiting List: Varies – 6-12 months
Fee: None
Training Method: Positive reinforcement
Dog's Training: Dogs are rescued from shelters and trained for 4-6 months
Process to Apply: Contact to request application form or call to answer preliminary questions
Ownership of Dog: Transferred to partner at time of certification
Certification: After 90-day trial period; must pass tests for sound work, obedience, general behavior
Followup Services: Provided for the life of the dog
Age Requirement: 18 years
Specific Breed Requests: No
Training of Pet Dogs: No
Specialty Training for Dual Disabilities: Sometimes

NEADS (Dogs for Deaf and Disabled Americans)

PO Box 213
West Boylton, MA 05183
978-422-9064 V/TTY; 978-422-3255 FAX
Ricard Beeman, CEO
www.neads.org
info@neads.org

Service Area: National
Member of Assistance Dogs International? Yes - Full
Waiting List: Varies – 6 months and up
Fee: $9,500; will help to raise some funds—no one denied based on ability to pay
Other Expenses: Must live at the training center for a week
Training Method: Leash correction/positive reinforcement
Dog’s Training: Dogs from shelters, breeders, donations are trained for several months
Process to Apply: Fill out application forms (available on website); personal interview
Ownership of Dog: Transferred to partner
Certification: Team must pass public access test and successfully demonstrate sound work
Followup Services: Workshops and other services
Age Requirement: 13 years; younger children may be accepted if they have a facilitator
Specific Breed Requests: Sometimes
Training of Pet Dogs: Yes, if the dog passes program requirements
Specialty Training for Dual Disabilities: Some deaf/physical disability
Paws With a Cause

4646 South Division
Wayland, MI 49348
616-877-7297 V; 800-253-7297 TTY; 616-877-0248 FAX
Michael D. Sapp, Sr., CEO
www.pawswithacause.org
paws@pawswithacause.org

Service Area: National
Member of Assistance Dogs International? Yes – Full
Waiting List: Varies
Fee: None
Training Method: Food enhancement, positive reinforcement, clicker
Dog’s Training: Dogs from PAWS limited breeding program and shelters, trained for 6 months
Process to Apply: Application forms – audiogram, needs assessment; contact by phone, email
Ownership of Dog: Ownership is transferred to partner at certification
Certification: Dog and client must demonstrate ability to perform well as a team in assigned tasks; re-certifications every 18 months
Followup Services: Retraining or additional training provided as needed
Age Requirement: 18 years
Specific Breed Requests: Yes but wait may be longer
Training of Pet Dogs: Yes if criteria is met
Specialty Training for Dual Disabilities: May provide hearing/guide and service/hearing

Saint Francis of Assisi Service Dog Foundation

PO Box 21403
Roanoke, VA 24018
540-342-3647 V
www.saintfrancisdogs.org
info@saintfrancisdogs.org

Service Area: Virginia
Member of Assistance Dogs International? Yes - Full
Waiting List: Up to 5 years; capped at 20 adults and children. Places 7-10 dogs a year.
Fee: $25 non-refundable application fee, plus $200 at the time ownership is transferred.
Training Method: Unknown
Dog’s Training: Puppy raisers turn in dogs to field trainers for 14-18 months of training while living in trainer’s home
Process to Apply: Request the one page pre-application form or get it from the website
Ownership of Dog: Recipients own their dogs.
Certification: In order for the dog to achieve certification, he must achieve four levels of proficiency, the fourth being with the recipient. The dog and handler must perform obedience commands and tasks in public areas.
Followup Services: Unknown
Age Requirement: Children (based on maturity of child)
Specific Breed Requests: Unknown
Training of Pet Dogs: No
Specialty Training for Dual Disabilities: Multiple disabilities