

disabilities

Follow these guidelines when referring to people with physical disabilities:

- *Disabled.* A general term used for a physical or cognitive condition that substantially limits one or more of the major daily life activities. Avoid the use of "the disabled" to describe disabled people as a group.
- *Handicapped.* Avoid this term in describing a disability or a person who is disabled.
- *Blind.* Describes a person with complete loss of sight. For others, use terms such as "visually impaired" or "person with low vision."
- *Deaf.* Describes a person with total hearing loss. For others, use "partial hearing loss," "hearing impaired," or "partially deaf." Avoid the term "deaf mute"; do not use "deaf and dumb."
- *Wheelchair-user.* A person who uses a wheelchair for independent mobility. Do not use "confined to a wheelchair" or "wheelchair-bound."