

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Fiscal Year 2019 Budget



Volume II – Health and Human Services
Gina M. Raimondo, Governor

Agency Summary

COMMISSION ON THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

Agency Mission

To provide innovative leadership in public policy, advocacy, service delivery and accessibility throughout the Ocean State, RI CDHH ensures opportunities for every deaf and hard of hearing person to become an empowered and contributing citizen.

Agency Description

The Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (RICDHH) is a service-providing, coordinating, and advocating entity committed to promoting an environment in which more than 150,000 deaf and hard of hearing citizens in Rhode Island are afforded equal opportunity in all aspects of their lives. The RICDHH is independent of any existing agency or department within the state according to the Rhode Island General Laws 23-1.8-2, Duties-Activities.

The legislative mandates of the CDHH can be summarized as follows:

- 1) Provide a centralized and statewide sign language interpreter referral service, including emergency referrals
- 2) Promote awareness and provide information and referral
- 3) Conduct an ongoing needs assessment
- 4) Engage in advocacy to promote accessibility of services
- 5) Initiate and lobby for legislation
- 6) Engage in networking to promote agency cooperation and coordination
- 7) Initiate other necessary action to improve quality of life, including, education, employment, health care, and parenting issues.
- 8) Establish a Coordinating Council to implement a strategic plan for deaf and hard of hearing children
- 9) Track the yearly services provided by license-exempted interpreters, as defined in subsection 5-71-15 (4).

In addition, the RICDHH has these additional responsibilities under the revised state ADA Compliance Plan:

- 1) Provide interpreters and CART services for public hearings.
- 2) Test calls using latest telecommunication devices for the 911 centers
- 3) Lend the Assistive Technology Devices to citizens to ensure full participation and accessible to services and information (e.g. FM equipment system)
- 4) Monitor the use of state equipment and accommodations for telephone use and Assistive Listening System (ALS)
- 5) Assist agencies in the operation of Tele-communication devices and Videophones.
- 6) Provide general training and technical assistance on various topics such as technology, accommodations, culture, legal, education, all related to deaf and hard of hearing issues.

Statutory History

The Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing was established by Law (1977-Senate Bill 882) signed by Governor J. Joseph Garrahy on May 9, 1978 after the original bill was introduced in the 1977 Legislative session. The Commission is to address the needs and concerns of Rhode Island's Deaf and Hard of Hearing population. The name of the Commission was the Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired with 21 Commissioners. In 1992, the bill, House Bill 8245, was introduced on February 12, 1992 to restructure the Commission, down from 21 Commissioners to 9 Commissioners and changed from Hearing Impaired to Hard of Hearing. This bill was signed into law by Governor Bruce Sundlun on July 13, 1992. This is now known as Title 23, Chapter 1.8 of the Rhode Island General Laws.

Emergency and Public Communication Access Program (EPCAP) is established by Article 17 of HB 5127 signed by Governor Lincoln Chafee on July 3, 2013. It is now known as Title 39, Chapter 1-42 (d) and Title 23, Chapter 1.8-4.

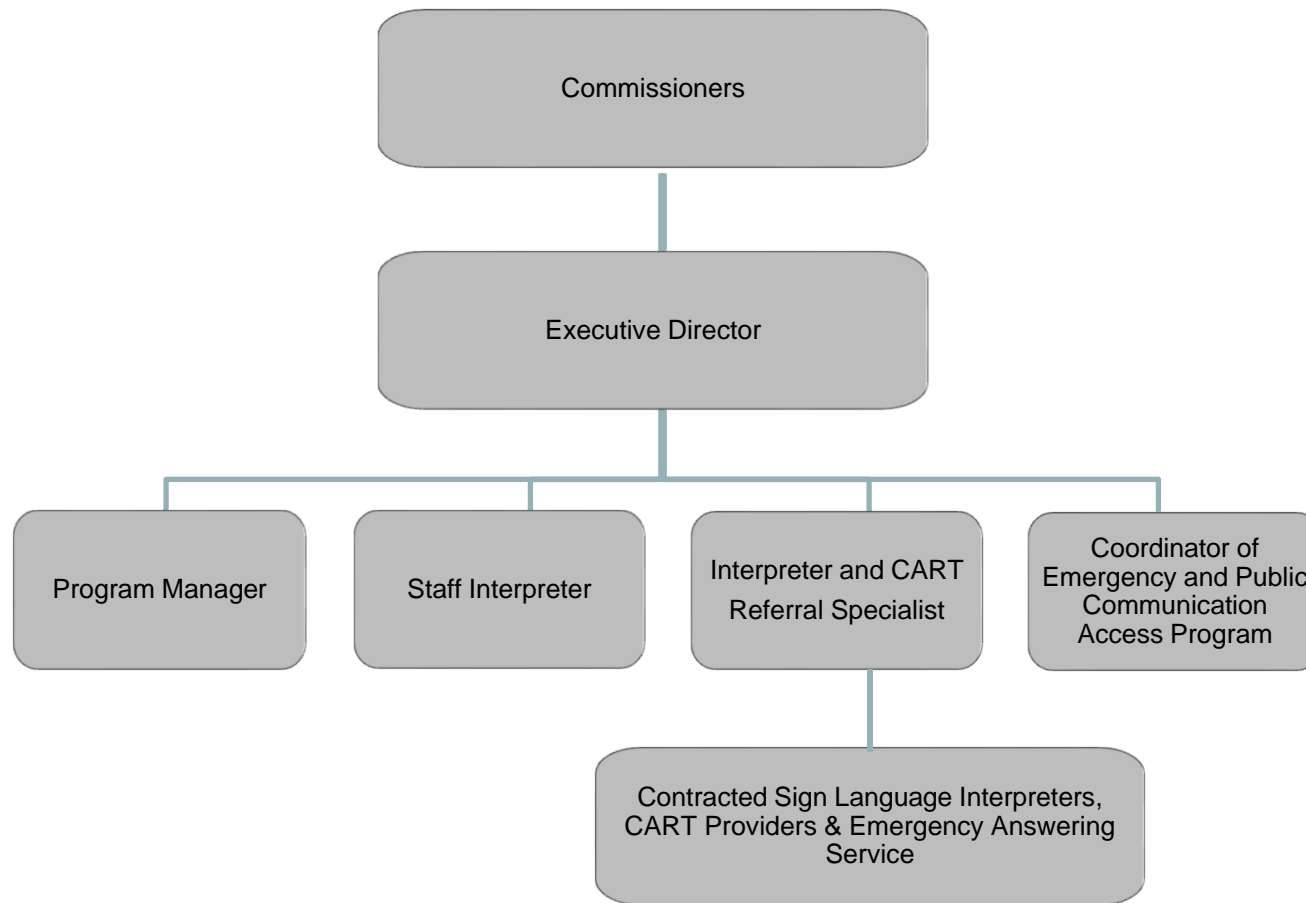
Budget

COMMISSION ON THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

	2016 Actuals	2017 Actuals	2018 Enacted Budget	2018 Revised Budget	2019 Recommended
Expenditures by Program					
Central Management	455,950	493,573	627,910	565,882	591,467
Total Expenditures	455,950	493,573	627,910	565,882	591,467
Expenditures by Object					
Salary And Benefits	334,895	359,194	467,069	382,001	450,334
Contract Professional Services	102,157	68,818	100,646	103,000	61,108
Operating Supplies And Expenses	18,898	65,550	57,395	78,081	73,025
Subtotal: Operating	455,950	493,561	625,110	563,082	584,467
Capital Purchases And Equipment	0	12	2,800	2,800	7,000
Subtotal: Other	0	12	2,800	2,800	7,000
Total Expenditures	455,950	493,573	627,910	565,882	591,467
Expenditures by Source of Funds					
General Revenue	406,634	421,448	498,710	436,682	511,467
Restricted Receipts	49,316	72,125	129,200	129,200	80,000
Total Expenditures	455,950	493,573	627,910	565,882	591,467
FTE Authorization	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0

The Agency

Commission on Deaf and Hard of Hearing



Performance Measures

COMMISSION ON THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

Timeliness of Fulfilled Interpreter Requests

One of the Commission's legislative mandates (RIGL 23-1.8-2(6)) is to administer the interpreter referral service. The Statewide Interpreter Referral Service locates and secures freelance interpreters for assignments requested by the paying parties (such as hospitals, civil and criminal courts, etc.) to ensure communication access is being provided. The figures below represent the percentage of interpreter requests received more than three business days in advance that are filled. [Note: Missing values appear as zeros in the measure.]

<i>Frequency: Annual</i>	<i>Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year</i>				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Target	95.00%	95.00%	92.00%	95.00%	95.00%
Actual	95.00%	86.00%	80.00%	0.00%	

Timeliness of Information Request Response

Individuals with hearing loss, parents, businesses, and other members of the general public regularly contact the office seeking resources and information. One of the Commission's legislative mandates (RIGL 23-1.8-2(4)) is to promote public awareness and to provide information and referral on the subject of deafness and hearing loss. The Commission aims to be Rhode Island's one-stop resource center for deafness and hearing loss-related inquiries. The figures below represent the percentage of information requests that receive a response within seven business days. [Note: Missing values appear as zeros in the measure.]

<i>Frequency: Annual</i>	<i>Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year</i>				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Target	90.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Actual	90.00%	93.00%	97.00%	0.00%	

Personnel

Agency: COMMISSION ON THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

Central Management

	FY 2018		FY 2019	
	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Unclassified				
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	1.0	53,003	1.0	53,003
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	1.0	82,418	1.0	86,539
PROGRAM MANAGER	1.0	73,919	1.0	81,311
STAFF INTERPRETER (RICDHH)	1.0	62,320	1.0	64,668
Subtotal Unclassified	4.0	271,660	4.0	285,521
Subtotal	4.0	271,660	4.0	285,521
Turnover		(85,929)		0
Total Salaries		185,731		285,521
Benefits				
FICA		20,546		22,047
Health Benefits		77,005		47,839
Payroll Accrual		1,551		1,585
Retiree Health		16,061		17,074
Retirement		69,827		63,134
Subtotal		184,990		151,679
Total Salaries and Benefits	4.0	370,721	4.0	437,200
Cost Per FTE Position (Excluding Temp. and Seasonal)		92,680		109,300
Statewide Benefit Assessment		11,280		13,134
Payroll Costs	4.0	382,001	4.0	450,334
Purchased Services				
Clerical and Temporary Services		55,000		12,000
Other Contracts		47,500		49,108
Training and Educational Services		500		0
Subtotal		103,000		61,108
Total Personnel	4.0	485,001	4.0	511,442
Distribution by Source of Funds				
General Revenue		405,301		478,942
Restricted Receipts		79,700		32,500
Total All Funds		485,001		511,442