

Health and Human Services Function Summary

Expenditures by Agency	2017 Actuals	2018 Actuals	2019 Enacted Budget	2019 Revised Budget	2020 Recommended
Commission On The Deaf & Hard Of Hearing	493,573	500,346	603,178	636,745	693,338
Total Expenditures	493,573	500,346	603,178	636,745	693,338
Expenditures by Object					
Salary and Benefits	359,190	336,579	462,045	462,161	503,048
Contract Professional Services	68,817	88,279	61,108	106,308	99,608
Operating Supplies and Expenses	65,554	74,977	73,025	64,776	57,682
Subtotal: Operating	493,561	499,835	596,178	633,245	660,338
Capital Purchases And Equipment	12	511	7,000	3,500	33,000
Subtotal: Other	12	511	7,000	3,500	33,000
Total Expenditures	493,573	500,346	603,178	636,745	693,338
Expenditures by Source of Funds					
General Revenue	421,448	428,285	523,178	525,902	563,338
Restricted Receipts	72,125	72,061	80,000	110,843	130,000
Total Expenditures	493,573	500,346	603,178	636,745	693,338
FTE Authorization	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0

Agency Summary

COMMISSION ON THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

Agency Mission

To promote greater accessibility to services for the deaf and hard of hearing by developing awareness, communication access, and training programs to agencies, organizations, and businesses. To conduct an ongoing needs assessment to identify gaps and recommend changes to improve the quality of living for the deaf and hard of hearing populations in Rhode Island. To provide statewide centralized sign language interpreter referral services, including emergency referrals. To advocate for the enactment of legislation that will promote accessibility of services. To develop a statewide coordinating council to implement the comprehensive statewide strategic plan for children who are deaf or have hearing loss. To oversee state agency compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act regulations related to deaf and hard of hearing access issues through monitoring, training, and advocating. To work with federal, state, and local organizations and agencies to improve the quality of life for deaf and hard of hearing persons in Rhode Island. To coordinate sign language and equipment interpreter services between agencies and organizations with the goal of centralizing services.

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 200,000 deaf and hard 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 R.I. Gen. Law 23-1.8-2. The legislative mandates of the commission include engagement in advocacy to promote accessibility of services as well as providing 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

	2017 Actuals	2018 Actuals	2019 Enacted Budget	2019 Revised Budget	2020 Recommended
Expenditures by Program					
Central Management	493,573	500,346	603,178	636,745	693,338
Total Expenditures	493,573	500,346	603,178	636,745	693,338
Expenditures by Object					
Salary And Benefits	359,190	336,579	462,045	462,161	503,048
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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. [Notes: The 2019 target has been revised. Missing values appear as zeros in the measure.]

<i>Frequency: Annual</i>	<i>Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year</i>				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Target	86.00%	92.00%	95.00%	92.00%	92.00%
Actual	86.00%	80.00%	84.00%	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>				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Target	93.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Actual	93.00%	97.00%	95.00%	0.00%	

Personnel

Agency: COMMISSION ON THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

Central Management

	FY 2019		FY 2020		
	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	
Unclassified					
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	00822A	1.0	54,739	1.0	56,805
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS	00830A	1.0	53,187	1.0	68,781
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	00832A	1.0	85,117	1.0	88,330
PROGRAM MANAGER	00828A	1.0	76,340	1.0	79,222
Subtotal Unclassified		4.0	269,383	4.0	293,138
Subtotal		4.0	269,383	4.0	293,138
Total Salaries			269,383		293,138
Benefits					
FICA			20,813		22,631
Health Benefits			66,009		71,306
Payroll Accrual			1,569		1,711
Retiree Health			16,108		19,494
Retirement			76,361		83,171
Subtotal			180,860		198,313
Total Salaries and Benefits		4.0	450,243	4.0	491,451
Cost Per FTE Position			112,561		122,863
Statewide Benefit Assessment			11,918		11,597
Payroll Costs		4.0	462,161	4.0	503,048
Purchased Services					
Clerical and Temporary Services			47,000		30,000
Other Contracts			59,308		69,608
Subtotal			106,308		99,608
Total Personnel		4.0	568,469	4.0	602,656
Distribution by Source of Funds					
General Revenue			481,826		520,993
Restricted Receipts			86,643		81,663
Total All Funds			568,469		602,656

