

# The Agency

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## **Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

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### **Agency Operations**

The Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing advocates and coordinates the promotion of an environment in which deaf and hard of hearing persons in Rhode Island are afforded equal opportunity in all aspects of their lives. The commission develops policy and recommends appropriate programs and legislation to enhance cooperation and coordination among agencies and organizations now serving, or having the potential to serve, the deaf and hard of hearing. The commission also provides direct services in its operation of the Sign Language Interpreter Referral Service, and general information and referrals. The commission is composed of 13 members, of whom nine are deaf and hard of hearing consumers.

### **Agency Objectives**

To promote greater accessibility to services for the deaf and hard of hearing by developing awareness programs.

To conduct an ongoing needs assessment to identify and prioritize the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing populations in Rhode Island.

To provide 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, teletypewriters, and interpreters.

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.

### **Statutory History**

R.I.G.L. 23-1.8 includes provisions relating to the Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The current commission results from the 1992 restructure of the former Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired, originally established in 1977.

# The Budget

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## Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
<b>Expenditures By Object</b>				
Personnel	192,968	210,821	298,473	312,435
Other State Operations	23,518	25,796	26,403	20,507
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal: Operating Expenditures</b>	<b>\$216,486</b>	<b>\$236,617</b>	<b>\$324,876</b>	<b>\$332,942</b>
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$216,486</b>	<b>\$236,617</b>	<b>\$324,876</b>	<b>\$332,942</b>
<b>Expenditures By Funds</b>				
General Revenue	216,486	236,617	279,540	287,606
Federal Funds	-	-	45,336	45,336
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$216,486</b>	<b>\$236,617</b>	<b>324,876</b>	<b>332,942</b>
<b>FTE Authorization</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>Agency Measures</b>				
Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	-	-	-	-
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%	30.0%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	100.0%	67.0%	67.0%	67.0%
<b>Program Measures</b>				
Percentage of Interpreter Requests Filled with at Least 72 Hours Notice	81.0%	93.0%	90.0%	90.0%
Percentage of Information Requests Responded to with Relevant Information or Referral within One Week	76.0%	82.0%	95.0%	95.0%
Percentage of Legislation Affecting Deaf and Hard of Hearing Citizens Favorably Disposed	50.0%	67.0%	75.0%	75.0%