

**VOLUME II: HEALTH AND HUMAN  
SERVICES**

**COMMISSION ON THE DEAF AND  
HARD OF HEARING**

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## Agency Summary

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### Commission on the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

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#### 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. General Laws 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 R.I. General Laws § 23-1. 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 RIGL § 39-1-42(d) and § 23-1.8-4.

# Budget

## Commission on the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

	2022 Actuals	2023 Actuals	2024 Enacted Budget	2024 Revised Budget	2025 Recommended
<b>Expenditures by Program</b>					
Central Management	815,340	874,944	868,675	893,222	914,184
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>815,340</b>	<b>874,944</b>	<b>868,675</b>	<b>893,222</b>	<b>914,184</b>
<b>Expenditures by Object</b>					
Salary and Benefits	527,959	403,967	537,179	561,773	564,420
Contract Professional Services	198,285	323,512	201,200	201,200	201,200
Operating Supplies and Expenses	89,096	147,466	130,296	130,249	148,564
Subtotal: Operating	815,340	874,944	868,675	893,222	914,184
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>815,340</b>	<b>874,944</b>	<b>868,675</b>	<b>893,222</b>	<b>914,184</b>
<b>Expenditures by Source of Funds</b>					
General Revenue	863,783	738,910	764,208	766,497	782,651
Federal Funds	(3,916)	0	0	0	0
Restricted Receipts	(44,527)	136,034	104,467	126,725	131,533
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>815,340</b>	<b>874,944</b>	<b>868,675</b>	<b>893,222</b>	<b>914,184</b>
<b>FTE Authorization</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>

# Personnel Agency Summary

## Commission on the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

	FY 2024		FY 2025	
	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Unclassified	4.0	330,588	4.0	330,588
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>330,588</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>330,588</b>
<b>Total Salaries</b>		<b>330,588</b>		<b>330,588</b>
<b>Benefits</b>				
Contract Stipends		844		497
FICA		25,291		25,291
Health Benefits		75,821		82,162
Payroll Accrual		1,931		1,921
Retiree Health		14,942		13,027
Retirement		99,298		97,876
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>218,127</b>		<b>220,774</b>
<b>Total Salaries and Benefits</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>548,715</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>551,362</b>
<b>Cost Per FTE Position</b>		<b>137,179</b>		<b>137,841</b>
Statewide Benefit Assessment		13,058		13,058
<b>Payroll Costs</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>561,773</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>564,420</b>
<b>Purchased Services</b>				
Clerical and Temporary Services		112,952		112,952
Other Contracts		88,248		88,248
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>201,200</b>		<b>201,200</b>
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>762,973</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>765,620</b>
<b>Distribution by Source of Funds</b>				
General Revenue	4.0	640,715	4.0	643,373
Restricted Receipts	0.0	122,258	0.0	122,247
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>762,973</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>765,620</b>

# Personnel

## Commission on the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

### Central Management

	FY 2024		FY 2025		
	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	
<b>Unclassified</b>					
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	0822 A	1.0	63,014	1.0	63,014
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS	0830 A	1.0	86,372	1.0	86,372
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	0832 A	1.0	93,320	1.0	93,320
PROGRAM MANAGER	0828 A	1.0	87,882	1.0	87,882
<b>Subtotal Unclassified</b>		<b>4.0</b>	<b>330,588</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>330,588</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>4.0</b>	<b>330,588</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>330,588</b>
<b>Total Salaries</b>			<b>330,588</b>		<b>330,588</b>
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## Performance Measures

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### Commission on the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

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#### Central Management

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##### Timeliness of Fulfilled Interpreter Requests

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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 percent of interpreter requests received more than five business days in advance that are filled.

	<i>Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year</i>				
<i>Frequency: Annual</i>	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Target</b>	87.5%	95.0%	80.0%	80.0%	80.0%
<b>Actual</b>	91.1%	83.7%	85.9%	--	--

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##### Timeliness of Information Request Response

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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 percent of information requests that receive a response within seven business days.

	<i>Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year</i>				
<i>Frequency: Annual</i>	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Target</b>	100%	95%	95%	95%	95%
<b>Actual</b>	94%	94%	95%	--	--

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##### Agency Interpreter Requests Fulfilled

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The Commission is the primary provider of interpreter services for RI state government agencies. Agencies relying on this service include EOHS, the Governor's Office, and the Judiciary. The goal of the metric is to ensure that agency requests for interpreters are being fulfilled. The figures represent the percent of state agency interpreter requests that were successfully fulfilled. [Note: This performance measure was established in FY 2024 and historical targets and actuals are not available.]

	<i>Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year</i>				
<i>Frequency: Annual</i>	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Target</b>	--	--	--	85%	85%
<b>Actual</b>	--	--	--	--	--

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