

Office of the
Legislative Fiscal Analyst

FY 2005 Budget Recommendations

Joint Appropriations Subcommittee for
Public Education

Utah State Office of Rehabilitation

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1.0 Utah State Office of Rehabilitation

Summary

The Utah State Office of Rehabilitation (USOR), under the direction of the State Board of Education, operates programs designed to assist disabled individuals prepare for and obtain gainful employment as well as increase their independence. USOR contains an Executive Director’s Office, and four operating divisions: Rehabilitation Services, Disability Determination Services, Services to the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing, and Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired. See section 3.0 of this document for individual division descriptions.

USOR provides tailored services focusing on the needs, interests, abilities, and informed choices of the individuals served. USOR works in concert with other community service and resource providers to offer rehabilitative services throughout the state.

To be eligible for services, patrons must have a physical or mental impairment that constitutes a substantial impediment to gainful employment. State law requires a financial needs test to determine the extent to which a client may receive services.

For FY 2005, the Analyst recommends \$49,634,800, of which \$18,383,100 is from state tax revenue.

	Analyst FY 2005 Base	Analyst FY 2005 Changes	Analyst FY 2005 Total
Financing			
General Fund	254,900		254,900
Uniform School Fund	18,128,200		18,128,200
Federal Funds	30,579,700		30,579,700
Dedicated Credits Revenue	672,000		672,000
Total	<u>\$49,634,800</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$49,634,800</u>
Programs			
Executive Director	1,407,400		1,407,400
Blind and Visually Impaired	5,357,300		5,357,300
Rehabilitation Services	33,645,200		33,645,200
Disability Determination	7,436,700		7,436,700
Deaf and Hard of Hearing	1,788,200		1,788,200
Total	<u>\$49,634,800</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$49,634,800</u>
FTE/Other			
Total FTE	404		404
Vehicles	41	0	41

2.0 Issues: Utah State Office of Rehabilitation

2.1 Rehabilitation Services – Vocational Rehabilitation

Vocational Rehabilitation projects an additional 430 clients above existing caseloads in the next fiscal year. Utah’s vocational rehabilitation counselors currently have a counselor caseload size of 223, well above industry average. Caseload size impacts counselor effectiveness, client progression, and the overall quality of services offered.

Recommendation

The Analyst recommends that the subcommittee discuss the impact of caseload size on the Vocational Rehabilitation Program. The Analyst suggests additional resources targeted specifically toward reducing the caseload size would be appropriate and any new revenue received should be restricted to additional counselors and case service costs. The minimum projected to address caseload size and case service costs would be roughly \$400,000. The subcommittee may wish to prioritize Vocational Rehabilitation caseload size with the other issues before the subcommittee.

2.2 Rehabilitation Services – Independent Living

The Independent Living Centers have identified over 1,200 underserved citizens. The increased use of Independent Living Center services and an increase in citizens seeking services have stretched the offerings of the six Independent Living Centers are able to provide.

The Analyst, through coordination with the Independent Living Centers, estimates that an additional \$20,000 to \$25,000 per center will greatly impact the centers ability to handle service growth needs. The subcommittee may wish to prioritize \$120,000 to \$150,000 for the Independent Living Centers with other needs within the education budget. Not included in the above figures is the additional stress increased populations have on the Assistive Technology program. The Legislature has provided additional one-time or ongoing funding for Assistive Technology when revenue is available.

Recommendation

The Analyst recommends that the subcommittee include the increased needs of the Independent Living Centers in its budget prioritization discussions.

2.3 Rehabilitation Services – Independent Living Cost of Living Adjustments

Last year, as in many preceding years the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee has considered allocating resources to the Independent Living Centers for employee cost of living adjustments. The Independent Living Centers receive funding from the State and Federal Governments, two of the centers are entirely state funded.

As private non-profit organizations in partnership with state government, the staff at the Independent Living centers are not classified as state employees and do not receive COLA adjustments like state employees. A one percent salary and benefit adjustment for Independent Living staff is approximately \$10,000.

Recommendation The Analyst recommends that the subcommittee include Independent Living COLA adjustments in its budget prioritization discussion and direct the Legislative Fiscal Analyst to provide an Independent Living COLA increase similar to that received by state employees when final employee salary and benefit decisions are made.

2.4 Deaf and Hard of Hearing – Specialist for the Deaf (Southern Region)

With rapid population growth in southern Utah, primarily Washington and Iron counties, the Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has difficulty providing needed services from its location in Taylorsville. These southern counties are heavily populated by older, retired adults. Hearing loss is one of the most common conditions affecting older populations. With the addition of a southern Utah specialist, the division can begin to meet the growing needs of the region. The cost associated with providing one deaf specialist in the southern region is estimated at \$59,500.

Recommendation The Analyst recommends that the subcommittee prioritize the need for a Southern Region Deaf Specialist among the other needs before the subcommittee.

3.0 Programs: Office of Rehabilitation

3.1 Executive Director’s Office

Recommendation The Analyst recommends \$1,407,400, including \$1,036,200 from the Uniform School Fund, for the Executive Director’s Office.

	2003 Actual	2004 Estimated*	2005 Analyst	Est/Analyst Difference
Financing				
Uniform School Fund	961,100	1,034,000	1,036,200	2,200
Uniform School Fund, One-time		2,200		(2,200)
Federal Funds	337,800	337,800	334,900	(2,900)
Dedicated Credits Revenue		36,300	36,300	
Transfers - Interagency	36,300			
Total	\$1,335,200	\$1,410,300	\$1,407,400	(\$2,900)
Expenditures				
Personal Services	935,800	1,010,900	1,008,000	(2,900)
In-State Travel	16,000	16,000	16,000	
Out of State Travel	6,500	6,500	6,500	
Current Expense	171,500	161,400	161,800	400
DP Current Expense	31,800	31,800	31,800	
Capital Outlay	34,500	34,500	34,500	
Other Charges/Pass Thru	139,100	149,200	148,800	(400)
Total	\$1,335,200	\$1,410,300	\$1,407,400	(\$2,900)
FTE/Other				
Total FTE	13	14	14	0

*Non-state funds as estimated by agency

Purpose The Executive Director’s Office supervises and coordinates the four operating divisions.

3.2 Rehabilitation Services

Recommendation The Analyst recommends \$33,645,200 for Rehabilitation Services, including \$12,118,900 from the Uniform School Fund and \$254,900 from the General Fund.

	2003	2004	2005	Est/Analyst
	Actual	Estimated*	Analyst	Difference
Financing				
General Fund	254,900	254,900	254,900	
Uniform School Fund	12,149,600	12,125,800	12,118,900	(6,900)
Uniform School Fund, One-time		26,600		(26,600)
Federal Funds	20,410,300	20,917,600	20,913,400	(4,200)
Dedicated Credits Revenue	35,500	358,000	358,000	
Transfers - Interagency	429,000			
Total	\$33,279,300	\$33,682,900	\$33,645,200	(\$37,700)
Expenditures				
Personal Services	10,906,000	11,263,700	11,227,600	(36,100)
In-State Travel	115,700	115,700	115,700	
Out of State Travel	6,800	6,800	6,800	
Current Expense	1,747,300	1,747,300	1,747,300	
DP Current Expense	294,700	294,700	294,700	
Capital Outlay	31,700	31,700	31,700	
Other Charges/Pass Thru	20,177,100	20,223,000	20,221,400	(1,600)
Total	\$33,279,300	\$33,682,900	\$33,645,200	(\$37,700)
FTE/Other				
Total FTE	226	226	226	0

*Non-state funds as estimated by agency

Purpose Rehabilitation Services provides two programs, Vocational Rehabilitation and Independent Living.

Vocational Rehabilitation Vocational Rehabilitation provides services directed towards the goal of employment. Services include counseling and guidance, assistive technology, job training, job placement, and post employment follow-up. Eligibility for vocational rehabilitation is based on the presence of physical or mental impairment that constitutes a substantial impediment to employment. Once determined eligible, an individual will work with a counselor to develop an individualized program that leads to employment.

Independent Living

Statewide Independent Living Centers enable people with disabilities to live independently. The Division of Rehabilitation Services works with the Independent Living Centers, the Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and the Utah Statewide Independent Living Council to coordinate services. Services provided include; peer support, skills training, recreation and community integration programs, and assistive technology.

Eligibility for the program is based on the presence of a disability coupled with the ability to benefit from services. All services are based individual need in accordance with an IL plan with specific goals and objectives. Services are time-limited and designed to assist consumers increase and maintain their levels of independence and community participation.

3.3 Disability Determination Services

Recommendation The Analyst recommends \$7,426,700 for Disability Determination Services. This amount includes \$10,000 from the Uniform School Fund.

	2003	2004	2005	Est/Analyst
	Actual	Estimated*	Analyst	Difference
Financing				
Uniform School Fund	2,900	10,000	10,000	
Federal Funds	7,189,400	7,442,100	7,426,700	(15,400)
Total	<u>\$7,192,300</u>	<u>\$7,452,100</u>	<u>\$7,436,700</u>	<u>(\$15,400)</u>
Expenditures				
Personal Services	3,969,300	4,202,200	4,188,400	(13,800)
In-State Travel	2,200	2,200	2,200	
Out of State Travel	2,200	2,200	2,200	
Current Expense	567,600	567,600	567,600	
DP Current Expense	66,700	66,700	66,700	
Other Charges/Pass Thru	2,584,300	2,611,200	2,609,600	(1,600)
Total	<u>\$7,192,300</u>	<u>\$7,452,100</u>	<u>\$7,436,700</u>	<u>(\$15,400)</u>
FTE/Other				
Total FTE	72	76	76	0

*Non-state funds as estimated by agency

Purpose Disability Determination Services funded primarily by the federal government, processes disability claims of Utah residents. The \$10,000 of Uniform School Funds supports the Disabilities Determination Services Advisory Council (UCA 53A-15-205).

This state administered federal program develops, adjudicates, and processes all disability claims of Utah residents under Title II and Title XVI of the Social Security Act. It refers disabled adults to the Division of Rehabilitation Services whenever the adult may benefit from vocational rehabilitation services. The determination of who may benefit is based on criteria developed by Social Security.

3.4 Services to the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing

Recommendation

The Analyst recommends \$1,788,200 for Services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. This amount includes \$1,597,600 from the Uniform School Fund.

	2003	2004	2005	Est/Analyst
	Actual	Estimated*	Analyst	Difference
Financing				
Uniform School Fund	1,564,600	1,598,800	1,597,600	(1,200)
Uniform School Fund, One-time		3,200		(3,200)
Dedicated Credits Revenue	190,600	190,600	190,600	
Total	<u>\$1,755,200</u>	<u>\$1,792,600</u>	<u>\$1,788,200</u>	<u>(\$4,400)</u>
Expenditures				
Personal Services	1,236,400	1,273,800	1,269,400	(4,400)
In-State Travel	18,800	18,800	18,800	
Out of State Travel	3,000	3,000	3,000	
Current Expense	336,100	333,600	333,900	300
DP Current Expense	69,800	69,800	69,800	
Capital Outlay	7,700	7,700	7,700	
Other Charges/Pass Thru	83,400	85,900	85,600	(300)
Total	<u>\$1,755,200</u>	<u>\$1,792,600</u>	<u>\$1,788,200</u>	<u>(\$4,400)</u>
FTE/Other				
Total FTE	30	32	32	0

*Non-state funds as estimated by agency

Purpose

Services to the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing helps increase productivity, independence, and community integration of individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. Program services provided through the Utah Community Center for the Deaf include: information and referral, educational classes, counseling services, recreation and leisure activities, telecommunication services for the deaf, repair and maintenance of assistive technology, interpreter services, and library services.

3.5 Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired

Recommendation The Analyst recommends \$5,357,300 for Services to the Visually Impaired. This amount includes \$3,365,500 from the Uniform School Fund.

	2003	2004	2005	Est/Analyst
	Actual	Estimated*	Analyst	Difference
Financing				
Uniform School Fund	3,308,600	3,359,600	3,365,500	5,900
Uniform School Fund, One-time		5,900		(5,900)
Federal Funds	1,796,600	1,913,200	1,904,700	(8,500)
Dedicated Credits Revenue	87,100	87,100	87,100	
Total	<u>\$5,192,300</u>	<u>\$5,365,800</u>	<u>\$5,357,300</u>	<u>(\$8,500)</u>
Expenditures				
Personal Services	2,505,400	2,678,900	2,670,400	(8,500)
In-State Travel	15,600	15,600	15,600	
Out of State Travel	3,800	3,800	3,800	
Current Expense	1,200,600	1,197,400	1,194,700	(2,700)
DP Current Expense	276,700	276,700	276,700	
DP Capital Outlay	150,200	150,200	150,200	
Capital Outlay	50,800	50,800	50,800	
Other Charges/Pass Thru	989,200	992,400	995,100	2,700
Total	<u>\$5,192,300</u>	<u>\$5,365,800</u>	<u>\$5,357,300</u>	<u>(\$8,500)</u>
FTE/Other				
Total FTE	53	56	56	0

*Non-state funds as estimated by agency

Purpose

Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired assists individuals who are blind or visually disabled to obtain employment and increase their independence. The division provides a variety of services that include orientation and mobility assistance, vocational counseling, vocation training, adaptive technology services, adjustment to blindness training activities, visual screening of children, and prevention of blindness training. The division also administers a Business Enterprise Program that includes cafeterias, gift shops, and convenience stores that are operated by the blind.

4.0 Additional Information: Utah State Office of Rehabilitation

4.1 Funding History

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Financing	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimated*	Analyst
General Fund			254,900	254,900	254,900
Uniform School Fund	15,676,800	17,620,300	17,986,800	18,128,200	18,128,200
Uniform School Fund, One-time				37,900	
Federal Funds	29,029,300	28,726,300	29,734,100	30,610,700	30,579,700
Dedicated Credits Revenue	514,200	305,500	313,200	672,000	672,000
Transfers - Interagency	127,600	452,400	465,300		
Beginning Nonlapsing	287,400	267,500			
Closing Nonlapsing	(267,500)				
Total	\$45,367,800	\$47,372,000	\$48,754,300	\$49,703,700	\$49,634,800
Programs					
Executive Director	1,436,000	1,334,200	1,335,200	1,410,300	1,407,400
Blind and Visually Impaired	4,265,000	4,660,500	5,192,300	5,365,800	5,357,300
Rehabilitation Services	31,520,300	32,871,400	33,279,300	33,682,900	33,645,200
Disability Determination	6,722,900	6,976,100	7,192,300	7,452,100	7,436,700
Deaf and Hard of Hearing	1,423,600	1,529,800	1,755,200	1,792,600	1,788,200
Total	\$45,367,800	\$47,372,000	\$48,754,300	\$49,703,700	\$49,634,800
Expenditures					
Personal Services	18,029,200	18,971,200	19,552,900	20,429,500	20,363,800
In-State Travel	195,400	163,900	168,300	168,300	168,300
Out of State Travel	61,600	41,100	22,300	22,300	22,300
Current Expense	3,394,600	3,783,000	4,023,100	4,007,300	4,005,300
DP Current Expense	722,900	767,600	739,700	739,700	739,700
DP Capital Outlay	71,600	95,900	150,200	150,200	150,200
Capital Outlay	78,100	104,900	124,700	124,700	124,700
Other Charges/Pass Thru	22,814,400	23,444,400	23,973,100	24,061,700	24,060,500
Total	\$45,367,800	\$47,372,000	\$48,754,300	\$49,703,700	\$49,634,800
FTE/Other					
Total FTE	392	404	394	404	404
Vehicles	31	32	41	41	41

*Non-state funds as estimated by agency.

4.1 Utah State Office of Rehabilitation: Federal Funds Detail

Federal Grant Name	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Authorized	FY 2005 Requested
Disabilitiy Determination	7,189,400	7,442,100	7,426,700
Social Security Trust Fund	146,900	146,900	146,900
System Change Project	455,800	455,800	455,800
Rehabilitation Support	20,925,000	21,548,900	21,536,200
Service to Migrant Workers	65,300	65,300	65,300
In Service Training	87,800	87,800	84,900
Independent Living Part A	499,000	499,000	499,000
Supported Employment	282,700	282,700	282,700
Other Grants	82,200	82,200	82,200
Total	\$29,734,100	\$30,610,700	\$30,579,700