



UTAH STATE OFFICE OF REHABILITATION

SOCIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
STAFF: STEPHEN JARDINE

BUDGET BRIEF

SUMMARY

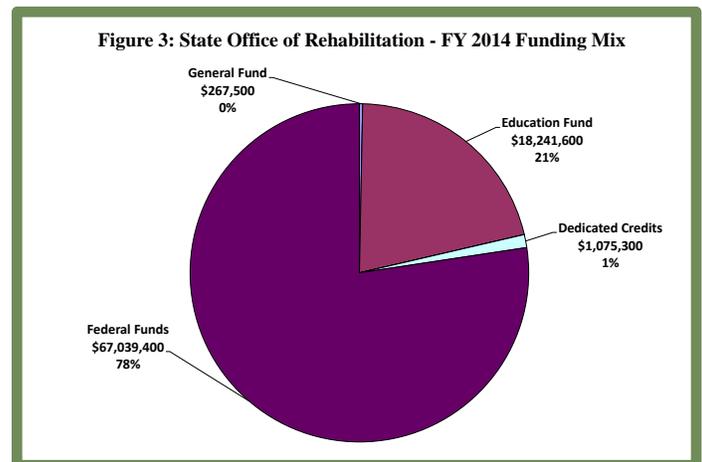
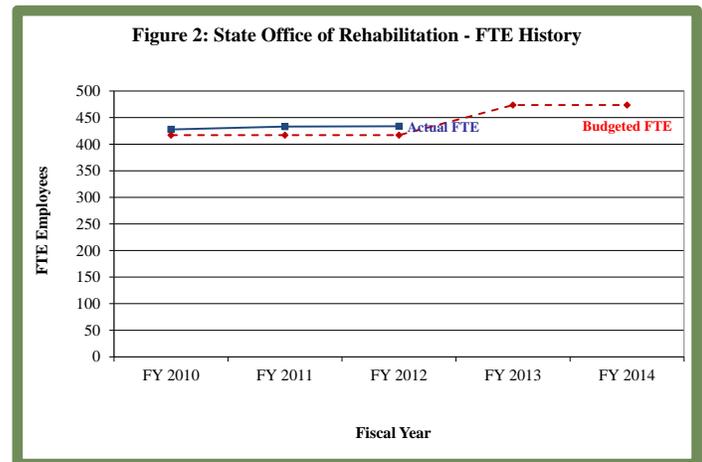
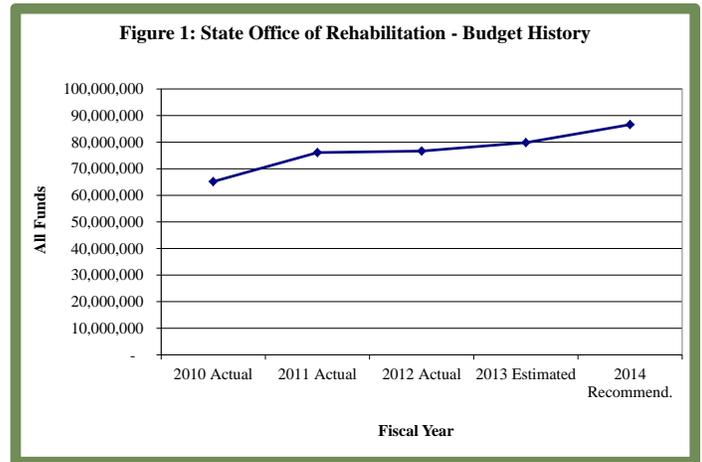
The Fiscal Analyst’s FY 2014 recommended budget is \$86,623,800 for the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation (USOR). This recommendation is \$6,800,000 higher than the FY 2013 revised budget. This funding level supports 474 FTE. This brief highlights some issues in the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation as well as some uses of the funding provided. The Subcommittee annually reviews each base budget to propose any changes and to vote to approve it. The Fiscal Analyst recommends that the Subcommittee approve the \$86,623,800 FY 2014 recommended budget.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

1. For the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation, the Fiscal Analyst recommends a FY 2014 budget of \$86,623,800 as shown in Table 1 on page 4.
2. The Fiscal Analyst further recommends the subcommittee authorize the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation to accept federal funds for FY 2014 and the increase in the estimate of federal funds for FY 2013 presented in the issue brief *Utah State Office of Rehabilitation Federal Funds* as referenced on page 3. In conjunction with this action, also direct the Fiscal Analyst to include the authorized federal funds and associated federal programs in the annual appropriations act for final approval by the Legislature. UCA 63J-5-201 states, “Each legislative appropriations subcommittee shall review the federal funds request summary and may recommend that the agency accept the federal funds or . . . not accept the federal funds or not participate in the federal program for the fiscal year under consideration.”

OVERVIEW

The Utah State Office of Rehabilitation (USOR) operates programs designed to assist individuals with disabilities to prepare for, obtain, and maintain employment and increase their level of independence. USOR provides tailored services focusing on the needs, interests, abilities, and informed choices of the individuals served. The agency partners with other agencies and community service and resource providers to offer services statewide.



The Utah State Office of Rehabilitation includes the following divisions:

Executive Director's Office – provides administration to all programs within the agency under the direction of the State Board of Education.

Rehabilitation Services – provides services to assist individuals with disabilities to prepare for and obtain employment. These services include counseling and guidance, assessment of need, assistive technology, job training, job placement, and post-employment follow-up.

Disability Determination Services – adjudicates Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) cases for individuals that apply for disability benefits under the federal Social Security Program.

Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing – the division provides educational classes, counseling, assistive technology, information and referral, hard of hearing support services, and outreach to individuals with hearing impairments. The division also provides interpreter training and services.

Blind and Visually Impaired – assists the visually disabled to obtain employment and increase their independence through services such as orientation and mobility training, low vision services, assistive technology, and visual screening.

For additional detailed information on USOR, see the Compendium of Budget Information prepared for the 2013 General Session at: http://le.utah.gov/lfa/reports/cobi2013/agcy_399.htm.

ISSUES

FY 2014 Budget Adoption

Adoption of the FY 2014 budget enables the programs to continue for the next fiscal year at the level outlined. Some changes in the budget may occur, namely non-state fund increases or decreases (i.e. federal funds, transfers, dedicated credits and non-lapsing balances) and program shifts within a line item.

Department Requests for Consideration

USOR requests the following actions from the subcommittee:

1. ***Request for \$250,000 in one-time Education Fund for Assistive Technology.*** This request is to assist individuals with disabilities to receive assistive technology to be more independent in their homes and communities. Many individuals with severe disabilities need items such as wheelchairs for mobility, ramps to get into their homes, grab bars to transfer to the toilet, and hand bars to drive a car. These items and other similar items are considered to be Assistive Technology. They help a person overcome a functional barrier of some type. Insurance may help with some items like a manual wheelchair but won't purchase ramps, lifts, shower benches, specialized seating systems, and many other items. USOR estimates 104 individuals with disabilities will be served through this funding. Guidelines for the program restrict it to individuals of all ages and all disabilities but who have incomes below 130 percent of the federal poverty level. A public, private partnership between USOR and six Centers for Independent Living will be the mechanism for service. USOR uses the state purchasing system to allow for equipment to be purchased at the lowest cost. The network of Centers for Independent Living, located throughout the state, has the ability and experience to identify people and to evaluate technology needs that people with disabilities have in order to be more independent. An individualized plan is developed for all participants. The Governor recommends funding this request with \$100,000 one-time Education Fund for FY 2014. *Should additional resources become available to the Subcommittee, the Fiscal Analyst would recommend an increase of \$100,000 one-time from the Education Fund for this request*
2. ***Request for \$153,000 in ongoing Education Fund for three paraprofessional rehabilitation technicians to Client Service Delivery Enhancement for Vocational Rehabilitation.*** This request addresses increasing caseloads for vocational rehabilitation counselors. USOR would like to address that caseload increase by hiring three paraprofessional rehabilitation technicians. Over the past several years USOR has reclassified staff working directly with clientele into *professional* and *paraprofessional*. USOR feels paraprofessionals can assume much of the managerial aspects of client service delivery required in providing comprehensive rehabilitation services. USOR believes that the managerial aspect is the "greater portion of the workload coming with the growth in

caseloads.” USOR has determined it can use one paraprofessional to assist every three to four rehabilitation counselors. The Governor recommends funding this request with \$153,000 FY 2014 ongoing Education Fund.

3. ***Request for \$300,000 in ongoing Education Fund to restore Independent Living Center staff reductions.*** This request will pass through \$300,000 to the state’s six independent living centers to restore staff lost over the past four years. Utah’s six independent living centers provide statewide coverage for individuals with disabilities of all ages and all types of disabilities. Independent living centers serve individuals who often have attempted to access other services but have been unsuccessful or who have exhausted all other resources. Independent living center staff assist these individuals to obtain essential services and resources needed to maintain or improve independence. Each direct serve staff person has a statewide average caseload of 178 individuals. The Governor recommends funding this request with \$100,000 FY 2014 ongoing Education Fund.
4. ***Request for \$100,000 in ongoing Education Fund to restore Assistive Technology at Utah State University and Independent Living Centers.*** This request is to restore ongoing funding lost over the past four years that provided assistive technology to individuals with disabilities. The funding will be passed through to the six independent living centers (\$70,000) and the Utah Assistive Technology Foundation (UATF) at Utah State University (\$30,000). The UATF portion of the funding is intended to provide min-grants of \$250 or less to individuals with disabilities who do not qualify for other funding but who have income at or below the federal poverty level. The remaining \$70,000 passed through to the independent living centers will be used to restore staffing reductions in their assistive technology programs over the past four years. The Governor does not recommend funding this request.
5. ***Request for \$100,000 in ongoing Education Fund to pay for a certified traveling rehabilitation teacher.*** This request is for a certified traveling rehabilitation teacher to serve the approximately 2,000 blind and visually impaired individuals living in the southern part of the state. This field teacher would be located in the Provo office but would serve individuals in Utah, Juab, Beaver, Iron, Carbon, Emery, and Grand counties. The teacher would provide skills training that would include cane travel, home management, adaptive computer technology, woodworking, and home repairs. The division is estimating this teacher could serve approximately 150 cases a year. The Governor does not recommend funding this request. The Governor does not recommend funding this request.
6. ***Request for \$50,000 in ongoing Education Fund to restore funds for Hard of Hearing Services.*** This request is to provide services to the hard of hearing. The division estimates that more than one third of seniors above age 65 have hearing loss. Because many individuals can’t afford hearing aids, they accept situations of being cut off from people and isolated due to hearing loss. Hard of hearing specialists and their trained assistants can show these individuals different technologies and communication strategies to keep them connected with people and involved with life activities. The division has two hard of hearing specialists located in Salt Lake and St. George. This request is to hire 10 hard of hearing assistants who would work part time providing assistance in the remainder of the state. The division estimates each assistant could serve an additional 400 individuals (4,000 total individuals) each year. The Governor does not recommend funding this request.

Federal Funds

UCA 63J-5-201 states, “The Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall submit a federal funds request summary for each agency . . . for review during each annual general session. Each legislative appropriations subcommittee shall review the federal funds request summary and may recommend that the agency accept the federal funds . . . or recommend that the agency not accept the federal funds. . . .” A detailed listing of the USOR request for federal funds authorization for FY 2014 is found in the issue brief *Utah State Office of Rehabilitation Federal Funds* (2013 General Session).

ACCOUNTABILITY DETAIL

For an eight year history of accountability measures used by USOR, see the issue brief *Utah State Office of Rehabilitation Performance Measures* (2013 General Session).

BUILDINGS

For a listing of buildings used by USOR, see the appendix in the budget brief Utah State Office of Rehabilitation FY 2012 found at: <http://le.utah.gov/interim/2011/pdf/00000406.pdf>.

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTERS

USOR also provides contracts to the Independent Living Centers (ILC) throughout the state. The ILCs work to increase the independence of individuals with significant disabilities through classes, counseling, assistive technology, and guidance for state services. For additional information on Independent Living Centers, see the issue brief *Independent Living Centers* (2013 General Session).

BUDGET DETAIL

The following table shows the budget history for the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation Services and its FY 2014 Recommended Budget. This proposed FY 2014 budget consists of the ongoing portion of FY 2013 state funds (Education Fund and General Fund) plus the most recent estimates of other funds (federal funds, dedicated credits collections and various transfer or carry over funds). Estimated expenditures are then proposed based upon available funding.

State Office of Rehabilitation						
Sources of Finance	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Appropriated	Changes	FY 2013 Revised	Changes	FY 2014* Recommended
General Fund	265,100	267,500	0	267,500	0	267,500
Education Fund	17,342,800	18,241,600	0	18,241,600	0	18,241,600
Education Fund, One-time	20,000	200,000	0	200,000	(200,000)	0
Federal Funds	58,135,000	60,039,400	0	60,039,400	7,000,000	67,039,400
Dedicated Credits Revenue	882,400	1,055,600	19,700	1,075,300	0	1,075,300
Transfers - Interagency	0	19,700	(19,700)	0	0	0
Total	\$76,645,300	\$79,823,800	\$0	\$79,823,800	\$6,800,000	\$86,623,800
Programs						
Executive Director	2,192,900	2,341,900	93,600	2,435,500	0	2,435,500
Blind and Visually Impaired	5,959,700	7,988,000	(1,526,000)	6,462,000	0	6,462,000
Rehabilitation Services	54,044,800	53,301,500	2,921,300	56,222,800	6,800,000	63,022,800
Disability Determination	12,104,400	13,880,300	(1,775,900)	12,104,400	0	12,104,400
Deaf and Hard of Hearing	2,343,500	2,312,100	287,000	2,599,100	0	2,599,100
Total	\$76,645,300	\$79,823,800	\$0	\$79,823,800	\$6,800,000	\$86,623,800
Categories of Expenditure						
Personnel Services	31,533,600	35,408,900	(1,534,300)	33,874,600	0	33,874,600
In-state Travel	209,300	161,200	48,100	209,300	0	209,300
Out-of-state Travel	70,700	65,300	5,400	70,700	0	70,700
Current Expense	6,316,200	5,864,900	466,800	6,331,700	0	6,331,700
DP Current Expense	844,400	1,165,300	(320,900)	844,400	0	844,400
DP Capital Outlay	55,100	16,000	39,100	55,100	0	55,100
Capital Outlay	14,500	84,600	(70,100)	14,500	0	14,500
Other Charges/Pass Thru	37,601,500	37,057,600	1,365,900	38,423,500	6,800,000	45,223,500
Total	\$76,645,300	\$79,823,800	\$0	\$79,823,800	\$6,800,000	\$86,623,800
Other Data						
Budgeted FTE	417	454	20	474	0	474
Actual FTE	434	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles	35	35	0	35	0	35

*Does not include amounts in excess of subcommittee's state fund allocation that may be recommended by the Fiscal Analyst.

Table 1