



UTAH STATE OFFICE OF REHABILITATION - FOLLOW-UP ON PREVIOUS INTENT LANGUAGE

SOCIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
STAFF: STEPHEN JARDINE

ISSUE BRIEF

SUMMARY

This report summarizes Utah State Office of Rehabilitation intent language passed by the Legislature during its 2012 General Session and provides an agency response regarding the status of each piece of passed intent language.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

1. No action is required by the Legislature regarding this issue brief. It is provided as information only, but may inform Legislative action taken on intent language during the 2013 General Session.

UTAH STATE OFFICE OF REHABILITATION:

House Bill 2, Item 102 (for FY 2013):

The Legislature intends the Department of Health, the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation and the Utah State Office of Education (Special Education) use funds previously transferred to support the UDDC information and referral phone/website to instead provide direct client services to individuals with disabilities. The Legislature further intends the Utah Developmental Disability Council (UDDC), as a federally-established and federally-governed agency, use its federal funds to support its information and referral phone/website.

Agency Response:

The Utah State Office of Rehabilitation (USOR) ceased funding the Access Utah Program at the UDDC on June 30, 2012, which was the date the contract expired. Following the end of the 2012 General Session of the Legislature, USOR and the Utah State Office of Education (Special Education) jointly issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to provide direct outreach and referral of transition aged school students with disabilities, including those students in Special Education, those students with a Sec. 504 Plan, and those students covered by a special health care plan from the school system to Vocational Rehabilitation. RFP went out on 4/23/12. The Utah Parent Center was awarded the contract. The contract was finalized and signed on 8/20/12. The program is called - Child Outreach: Utah's Referral, Information, & Educational Resource (COURIER). The actual contract is between USOR and the Utah Parent Center. USOE (Special Education) funds come to USOR via an interdepartmental transfer. The contract is for \$53,000 annually.

The scope of the work includes:

- a. Create a fully accessible website that provides a one stop information and referral source for transition aged youth with disabilities and/or their parents.
- b. Create, staff, and maintain an accessible toll free phone line providing information and referral for transition aged youth with disabilities and/or their parents.
- c. Design, implement, and carry out an aggressive outreach program in public and charter schools to identify and locate special education students, students covered under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and children with special health care plans to provide information, referral, and educational resources regarding the availability of programs under USOR.
- d. Facilitate increased interaction between USOR's Vocational Rehabilitation Program and transition aged youth with disabilities and/or their parents through coordinated outreach, referral, and information services.

The Legislature intends the Department of Health, the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation and the Utah State Office of Education (Special Education) use funds previously transferred to support the Access Utah program to instead contract with a private human services directory database entity to provide a free information and referral service statewide for individuals with disabilities.

Agency Response:

The Utah State Office of Rehabilitation, in addition to what is listed above, is coordinating with 211 Utah and has assigned an Administrative Liaison to the program.