

Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee

2016 General Session Budget Requests
Utah State Office of Rehabilitation

15 December 2015

Utah State Office of Rehabilitation

*There is **no** increased funding request for Vocational Rehabilitation case services, unlike the past two General Sessions.*

- USOR is adjusting to a lower base budget to reduce its dependence on one-time federal and state funding
- The Vocational Rehabilitation program remains on an Order of Selection (client waiting list), but has opened one of the three categories, Most Significantly Disabled
- Other cost cutting measures (e.g. eliminating 40+ FTEs, etc.) have had the intended effect, but more will need to be done in order to live within the SFY2017 base budget

Utah State Office of Rehabilitation

Some of these increased funding requests would help to implement the recommendations of the *OLAG Performance Audit of USOR's Budget and Governance*. Others have been identified as important agency needs.

All of these have been set and prioritized by the Utah State Board of Education.

USOR Ongoing Needs

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|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. Increased facilities expenses for St. George and Sanderson Community Center of the Division of Services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DSDHH) | \$ 60,000
25,000 |
| 2. Addition of an agency Compliance Officer and a Vocational Rehabilitation Policy Coordinator (2 FTEs) | 280,000 |
| 3. Independent Living Center services to individuals with disabilities (pass-through funding) | 300,000 |

USOR Ongoing Needs

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|--|------------|
| 4. An Older Blind Specialist and a Cane
Travel Instructor (2 FTEs) for Division of
Services to the Blind and Visually
Impaired (DSBVI), which have remained
unfilled due to budget constraints | \$ 225,000 |
| 5. DSDHH hard of hearing outreach and
adjustment training for rural Utahns | 50,000 |
| 6. Independent Living assistive technology
program | 200,000 |

USOR Ongoing Needs

7. Open the Most Significantly Disabled	\$1,500,000
Category of service for Vocational	0
Rehabilitation case services	
8. Dedicated Assistant Attorney General (1 FTE)	175,000
Revised total of all ongoing requests	<hr/> \$ 1,255,000

USOR One-time Needs

1. Independent Living assistive technology program	\$ 500,000
2. Blind business equipment (establish micro-markets to adapt to market changes)	240,000
3. Updated American Sign Language interpreter certification training and testing materials	60,000
4. DSDHH outreach to consumers and audiologists/hearing specialists about hearing aids usability (Rep. Froerer)	30,000
Total of all one-time requests	<hr/> \$ 830,000