

USOR – Other Fund Balances and Functions:
November 2015

Below are the answers to your questions for each of the listed funds. Please let me know if we can provide additional information.

Thank you,
Stacey Cummings
Deputy Director, USOR

1) FUND : 2345 (PED) Utah Community Center for the Deaf Fund

- for all funds with an ending balance, why is there unused money in the fund? Do you have (and what are your) plans to use the balance in future years? This fund is made up of donations and is used for events and activities sponsored by DSDHH. Although not established as a true 'trust fund' it has been treated in a similar manner. The Division has chosen to carry a balance as donations are unpredictable and there is an ongoing need for funds each year.

- do you have any suggested changes to any of the funds below for the consideration of policy makers? No, not for this fund

- describe how funds were used during the most recent past fiscal year (FY 2015). Funds were used for activities and events for individuals in the deaf/hard of hearing community. Examples include registration fees to trainings and workshops for individuals who are deaf and low income/seniors and purchasing of supplies and food for community events.

- with regard to Fund 2345, the Utah Community Center for the Deaf Fund, is this referring to the Sanderson Center? If so, why have we not put it “on budget?” Or is this fund under the control of a different subcommittee of the Legislature (like Public Education)?: This is a fund managed by the Director of the Division for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. To my knowledge it is not under the control of a different subcommittee. I do not know why it has not been put 'on budget' in the past. That would seem appropriate, I will have a discussion with our Finance Director and the DSDHH Director about adding it.

2) FUND : 2355 (PED) Visually Impaired Fund

- for all funds with an ending balance, why is there unused money in the fund? Do you have (and what are your) plans to use the balance in future years? This is a long standing fund made up of donations of many types. Until the recent audit USOR believed it to be a Trust Fund and it has been treated/managed as such. Traditionally only the interest from the fund has been expended with the exception of SFY 2014 when funds were used to assist multiple vocational rehabilitation clients who were blind or visually impaired with services to help them become employed. In SFY 2016 USOR has approved some small grants for consumer groups to provide services to individuals who are blind or visually impaired. The total of these grants should not exceed the interest collected for the year for the fund. USOR is currently having discussions with consumers and the DSBVI advisory council about how and when the fund should be used going forward compared to past years. Final decisions have not been made.

- do you have any suggested changes to any of the funds below for the consideration of policy makers? USOR does not

suggest any changes at this time. We would like time to obtain input from all stakeholders before changes are made by USOR. Some suggestions were made for policy makers in the recent OLAG audit. USOR will wait to see if any recommended action is taken before moving forward with what USOR believes are necessary internal changes as these may be affected by legislative action etc.

- describe how funds were used during the most recent past fiscal year (FY 2015). No funds were expended in 2015.

3) FUND : 7355 (PED) Visually Impaired Vendors

- for all funds with an ending balance, why is there unused money in the fund? Do you have (and what are your) plans to use the balance in future years? Yearly contributions to this fund vary based on the earnings of contributing businesses and have been on a downward trend. Because businesses need ongoing support from this fund it seems prudent to carry a balance to cover yearly support and possible emergencies.

- do you have any suggested changes to any of the funds below for the consideration of policy makers? No

- describe how funds were used during the most recent past fiscal year (FY 2015). Funds were used in a variety of ways to support vending and cafeteria businesses owned by individuals who are blind. Examples include new equipment for businesses as well as replacement and repair of older equipment, management services and benefit assistance to business owners/managers.