

Utah State Office of Rehabilitation Funding Requests

1	Increased Facility Expenses	\$ 25,000.00	The Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DSDHH) operates out of two buildings - one in Taylorsville (state owned) and the other in St. George (leased commercial property). Prior to 2016, the St. George office space was shared with another state program which has now vacated the adjacent space. The full cost of the space must now be funded by DSDHH, which requires \$25,000 in additional funding. DSDHH could choose to relocate when their lease ends in November of 2016 and try to find a cheaper/smaller location. However, DSDHH has invested over \$30,000 installing a hearing loop system at their current location. The system uses Induction Loop Technology to transmit sounds directly to a hearing aid's built-in wireless T-coil receiver and has significantly increased the ability of individuals attending classes and functions to hear the presentations and participate in the activities held there. Since most of the cost was for building wiring then the majority of that investment would be lost if they were required to relocate. DSDHH would prefer to remain at the established location.
2	Assistant Attorney General	\$ 175,000.00	At its meeting on 8 January 2015, the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) reprioritized the increased funding requests for the USOR, making an Assistant Attorney General dedicated to USOR its second priority. The justification for this request is that the two current Assistant AGs assigned to the Utah State Board of Education and USOR do not have sufficient capacity to handle all of the legal issues in their portfolios. This work includes: legal guidance and opinions, pre-litigation measures (risk management), litigation, contracting/MOUs, policies and procedures, legal research, human resources, privacy, administrative hearings, consulting with Internal audit (on legal matters concerning fraud, waste, and abuse), compliance with regulations/laws/rules, etc. Additionally, USOR is undergoing significant change as a result of new federal statute (WIOA) and regulations, which requires legal review.
3	Compliance Officer and VR Policy Coordinator	\$ 280,000.00	Budget and management failures of recent years were in part caused by systemic weaknesses that include inadequate compliance, risk management, and federal grants management capacity, which both these positions are intended to help mitigate. The Compliance Officer will have the responsibilities of legal and regulatory compliance, risk identification and mitigation, and grant evaluation and management. The Policy Coordinator will assume the primary responsibilities to develop, implement, maintain and evaluate policies and procedures that will ensure agency compliance with federal regulations and State rules governing the Vocational Rehabilitation program. <i>The Governor's proposed budget recommended funding the Compliance Officer position at a cost of \$150,000.00.</i>
4	Independent Living Center Increased Services	\$ 300,000.00	The funding will be used to increase center personnel and ancillary costs (\$225,700), fund transportation (\$27,900), provide additional center support such as interpreters and supplies (\$36,900), and increase funding for the assistive technology loan bank (\$9,500).The \$300,000 building block request will be divided, per formula, amongst the six Independent Living Programs. <i>The Governor's proposed budget recommended funding the \$300,000.00 with one-time funds.</i>
5	Independent Living Assistive Technology	\$ 500,000.00	The IL AT Program is requesting \$ 700,000 (\$200,000 ongoing funding and \$500,000 one-time funding) to assist individuals with disabilities to live more independently in their homes and communities. "There is currently a waiting list of 67 individuals with disabilities needing 74 devices at a cost of \$172,636. It is anticipated that by July 1, 2016 there will be 156 individuals needing approximately \$403,595 of AT." <i>The Governor's proposed budget recommended funding this request.</i>
6	Blind Business Opportunity Micromarkets	\$ 240,000.00	These funds would be used to establish four revenue-generating micro-market locations to be managed/operated by individuals who are blind. The Business Enterprise Program has traditionally set up machine vending and cafeteria style locations. These are becoming outdated and micromarkets have the potential to provide a wider variety of products including healthier options which will increase location traffic and profits.
7	Update Interpreter Certification Materials	\$ 60,000.00	State law (UCA Title 53A Chapter 26a) requires DSDHH to test and certify American Sign Language interpreters for the state of Utah. Part of this process requires development of stimulus materials to evaluate the interpreting skills of applicants. The current stimulus material is on VHS or poor quality copies of VHS to DVDs. New filming with digital technology and with updates in terminology and deaf culture changes is necessary and overdue. These funds will be used to create 240 video modules. <i>The Governor's proposed budget recommended funding this request.</i>

8	Older Blind Specialist and Cane Travel Instructor	\$ 225,000.00	These positions provide services to older blind individuals in their homes. Currently, there are more than 4,500 older blind individuals who are eligible for these services. Without this position, those older blind individuals will not receive services that can enhance independence and help them improve their quality of life. The Cane Travel Instructor teaches students proper cane techniques, how to cross lighted intersections, use public transportation, find businesses and travel independently in various other surrounds. Each instructor works with approximately 36 new students each year. Currently, there are an insufficient number of instructors to meet the numbers of students.
9	Hard of Hearing Rural Outreach	\$ 50,000.00	The hard of hearing adjustment training program for people who live in rural areas offers very specialized information, an assistive technology loaner program, and classes addressing the emotional impact of hearing loss. This program was funded with one-time money in 2013. When the funding ended DSDHH was unable to find ongoing funding to maintain the outreach program. They did find partial funding to maintain 2 of the part-time specialists (compared to the 10 positions funded by the one-time money) who are currently providing 40 hours a month of outreach services to hard of hearing individuals. Because of increased costs in other areas, DSDHH does not believe that they will have the funding to maintain those 2 positions beyond SFY 2016. If the program is not funded then those services will end in June of 2016.
10	Targeted Public Relations Outreach/HB 112	\$ 30,000.00	This request [is] for one-time funding to assist with educating the public of the changes they can expect when HB112 [Hearing Instrument Specialist Amendments, 2015 GS] is successfully implemented. HB112 requires licensed hearing instrument specialists/audiologists to educate consumers about how hearing aids can connect with ADA compliant assistive listening systems. An educational advertising campaign directed at individuals with hearing loss will be conducted with the assistance of a public relations firm. The Public Service Commission's Relay Utah program serves the same population as DSDHH. They have committed to match funds for a collaborative outreach effort. Increasing the awareness of how hearing aids work with assistive listening systems will help to reduce isolation.
USOR ONE-TIME		\$ 1,105,000.00	