

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

HB Section(s): 2.260

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Advocacy Program

Program is found in the following core budget(s): MCDHH

1a. What strategic priority does this program address?

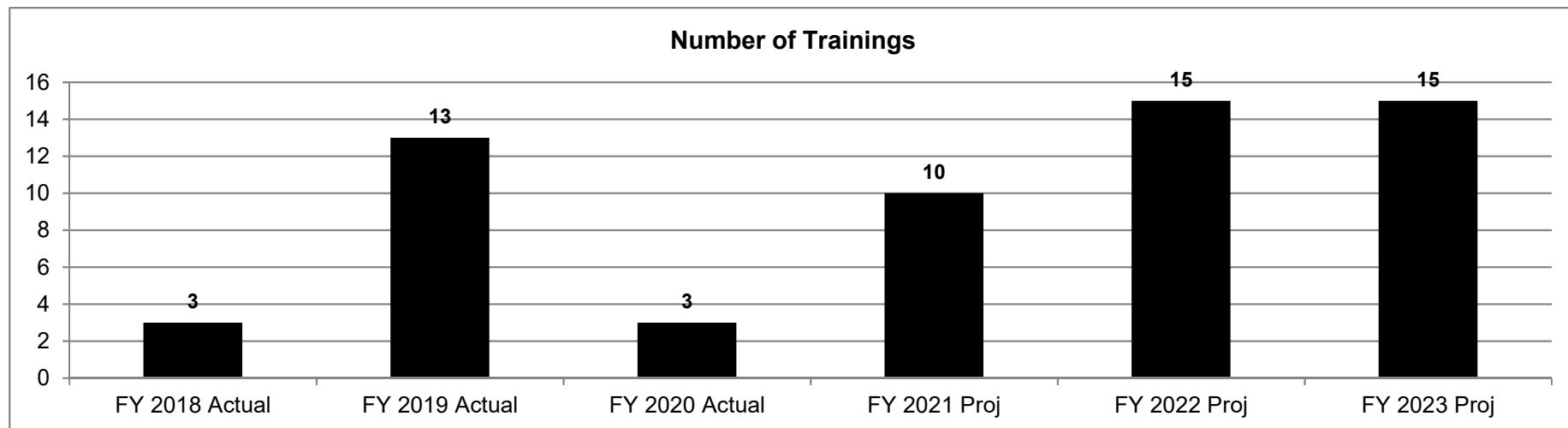
Advocate for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Missourians and build partnerships to educate about the needs of the community

1b. What does this program do?

Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing provides advocacy services and trainings to help Deaf and Hard of Hearing Missourians by making more resources available to them. MCDHH also initiates legislation beneficial to deaf and hard of hearing Missourians and advocates for its passage. MCDHH also assists the legislature and other state agencies in the development of non-statutory public policies positively affecting people with hearing loss. This year, we have also set up a clear mask distribution program (partially funded by the CARES Act) and ordered hand sanitizer to ensure the safety of our Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community, as they are likely to be overlooked by other resources available.

2a. Provide an activity measure(s) for the program.

MCDHH will begin tracking the number of requests for advocacy. We will also begin reporting the number of trainings we conduct; due to changes in staff, accurate and complete historical information is not available.



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2b. Provide a measure(s) of the program's quality.

Our greatest legislative accomplishments in FY 20 were the passage of two bills: one that establishes September as Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Month in Missouri, and one that allows Deaf drivers to obtain their CDL in Missouri. We have received much positive feedback from our community via telephone calls, social media, emails, and general conversation.

An unexpected advocacy project that arose in FY 20 was our clear mask distribution program. Clear masks are an essential piece of PPE that provide a safe barrier against germs, but do not create a communication barrier. While this project was primarily funded by the CARES Act, some GR funds were used towards supplies such as postage, envelopes, and labels.

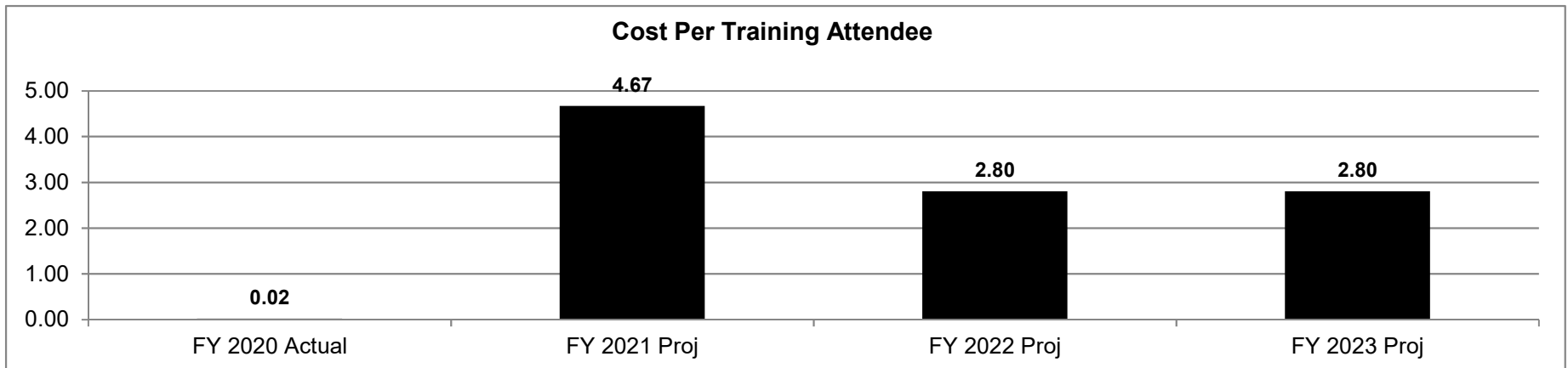
We have added a feedback form to our website and email signatures to solicit comments from individuals we serve. We received the following comments in FY 20:

"Emily responded very quickly. We desperately need the clear masks for the upcoming school year and she assured me that mine would be in the mail this week or next. They will greatly improve our ability to use facial expression and lip reading to augment signing with our students. Thank you Emily!"

2c. Provide a measure(s) of the program's impact.

Going forward, we will measure how many advocacy issues are resolved.

2d. Provide a measure(s) of the program's efficiency.



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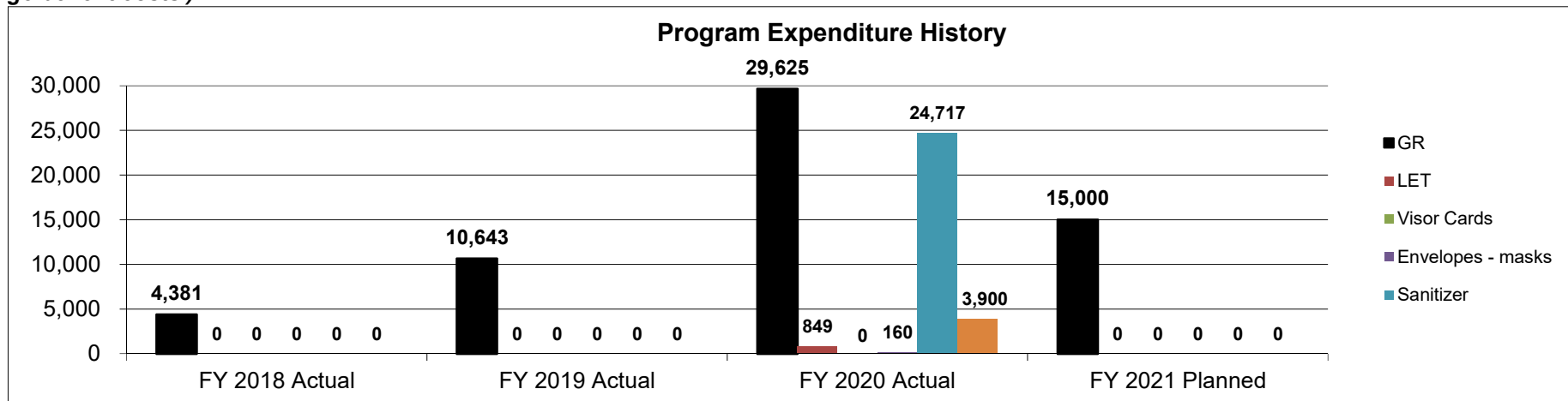
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3. Provide actual expenditures for the prior three fiscal years and planned expenditures for the current fiscal year. (Note: Amounts do not include fringe benefit costs.)



4. What are the sources of the "Other " funds?

N/A

5. What is the authorization for this program, i.e., federal or state statute, etc.? (Include the federal program number, if applicable.)

RSMo 161.405: The Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing functions as an agency of the state to advocate public policies, regulations, and programs to improve the quality and coordination of existing services for deaf and hard of hearing persons, and to promote new services whenever necessary. The commission shall promote deaf awareness to the general public and serve as a consultant to any public agency needing information regarding deafness.

Mission: Provide effective and efficient leadership, education, advocacy and programs to eliminate barriers and to meet the social, economic, educational, cultural and intellectual needs of Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf Blind Missourians.

6. Are there federal matching requirements? If yes, please explain.

No.

7. Is this a federally mandated program? If yes, please explain.

No.