

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

**Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**

**HB Section(s): 2.330**

**Deaf & Hard of Hearing Awareness Program**

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

**1a. What strategic priority does this program address?**

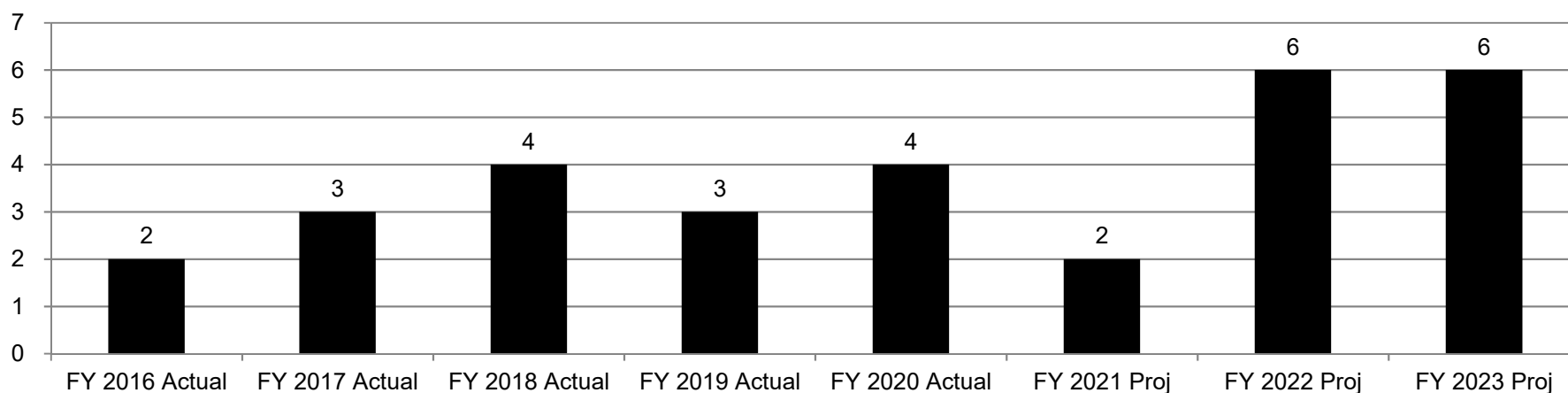
Raise awareness of Deaf and Hard of Hearing culture and issues surrounding hearing loss

**1b. What does this program do?**

Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing raises awareness of Deaf and Hard of Hearing culture and issues surrounding hearing loss in order to help Deaf and Hard of Hearing Missourians by creating a more accepting and accessible community.

This year, our Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Programs will look much different than they have in the past. The COVID-19 pandemic has prevented us from hosting in-person events. However, we hope to keep the spirit of the program alive with alternative programming. We were granted a huge opportunity to reshape our focus when Governor Parson signed House Bill 1682 into law this summer, which established September as Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Month in the State of Missouri. We are in the process of developing new, innovative ways to celebrate the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community in September without relying on large gatherings of people.

**Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Events (In-Person)**



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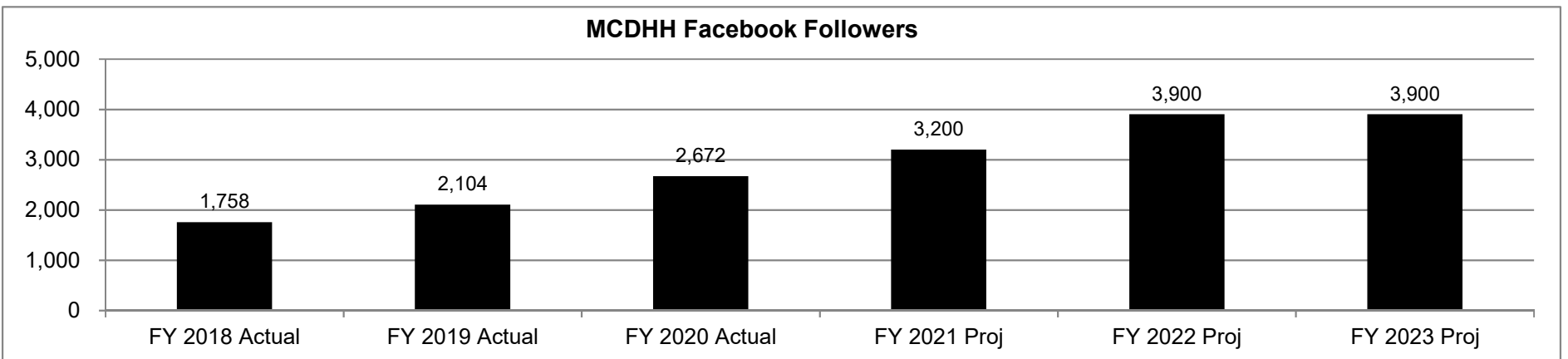
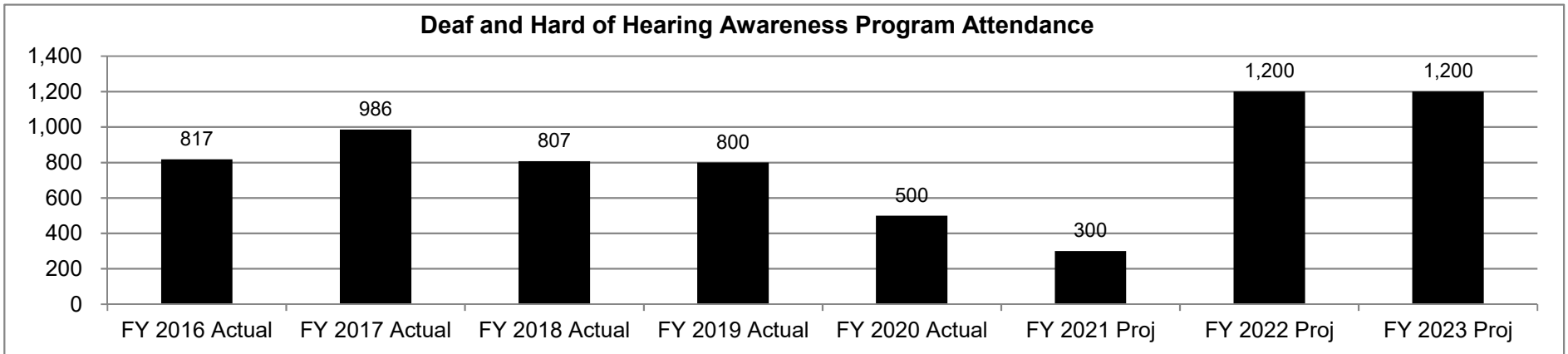
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**2b. Provide a measure(s) of the program's quality.**

The most obvious sign that our Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness events have been high-quality is the volume of inquiries about the status of our events for 2020. Our community values these events and looks forward to attending them annually. We do not have other measures of quality available for the past year because most of our events were cancelled due to the pandemic. Moving forward, we will develop new ways to gauge the satisfaction of attendees.

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



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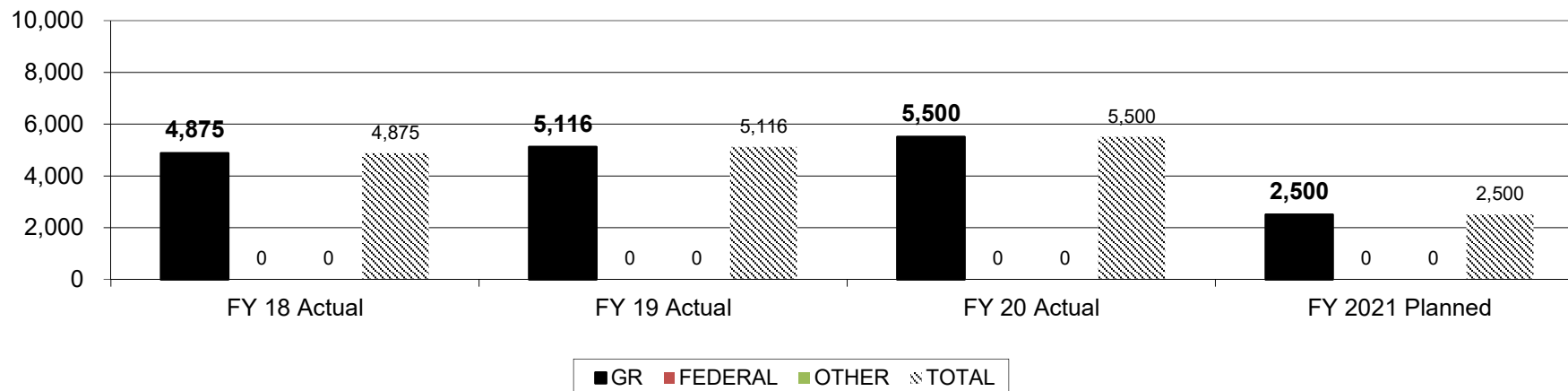
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**2d. Provide a measure(s) of the program's efficiency.**

We evaluate the efficiency of our awareness programs by looking at how many individuals are reached at events compared to the expenses and staff hours used to plan and attend them. Over the few years, we have been sending fewer staff members to our events, encouraging carpooling, and planning travel times to be the most cost effective in terms of both hotel costs and comp time earnings. As most of our recent events have been cancelled, there is no new data to provide. We will continue to consider the ratio of quality and impact to cost as we move forward in developing new Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness programs that are compatible with conditions during the pandemic.

**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.)**

**Program Expenditure History**



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**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.