

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Department of Elementary & Secondary Education

HB Section(s): 2.375

MO Interpreter Certification Service

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

1a. What strategic priority does this program address?

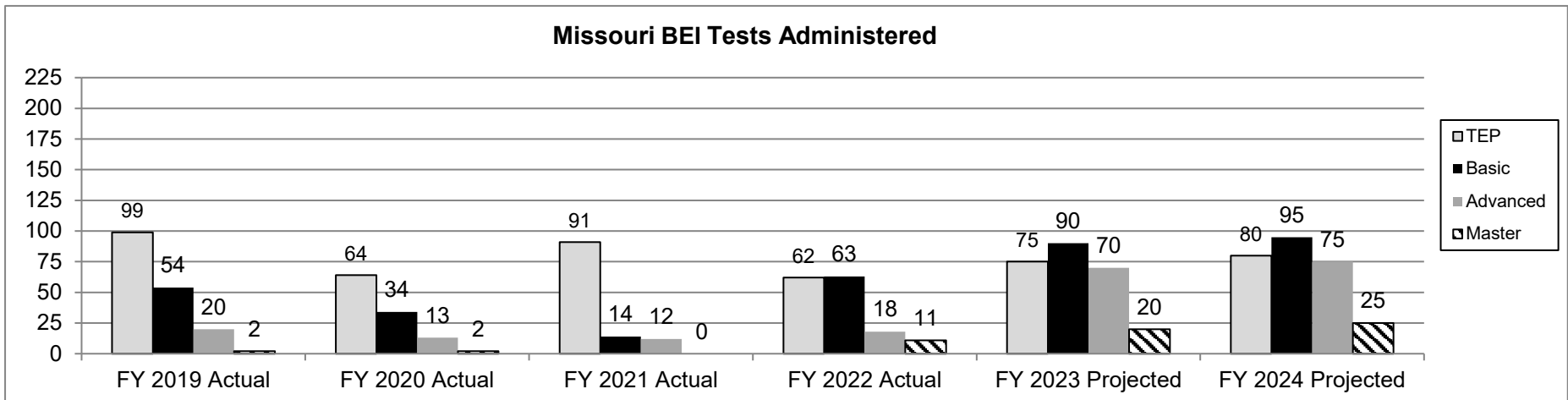
Coordinate a certification system for sign language interpreters

1b. What does this program do?

Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH) coordinates a certification system for sign language interpreters to ensure Deaf and Hard of Hearing Missourians have access to quality interpreting services. The Missouri Interpreter Certification Service (MICS) measures and evaluates sign language interpreter proficiency using an empirically-based system. This system is measured according to standards of minimum competency set by certified and practicing interpreters, language and testing specialists, and language evaluators. The test originated in Texas and is currently used in Texas, Illinois, Michigan and Missouri. Due to COVID-19, interpreter testing was limited for most of FY 2021.

The cost of the testing program includes a \$10,000 annual lease to the State of Texas for written and performance testing materials. This cost is partially offset by fees charged to interpreters who take these tests, which are seen as some of the premier indicators of interpreter ability in the country. The BEI (Board for Evaluation of Interpreters) test used is highly respected around the country, and a number of other states are considering adopting it as their standard.

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



*TEP (Test of English Proficiency)

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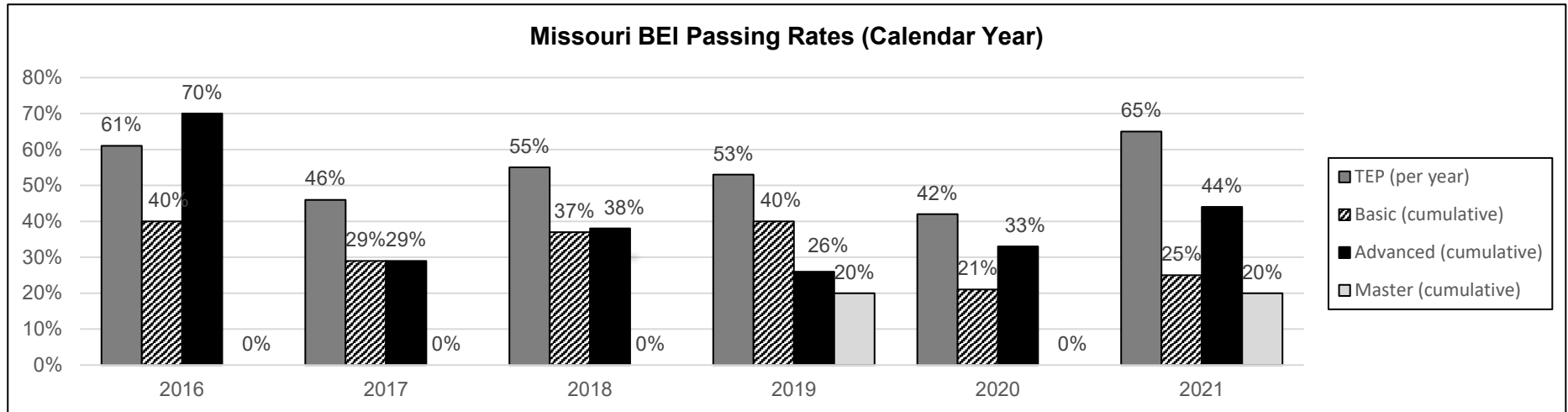
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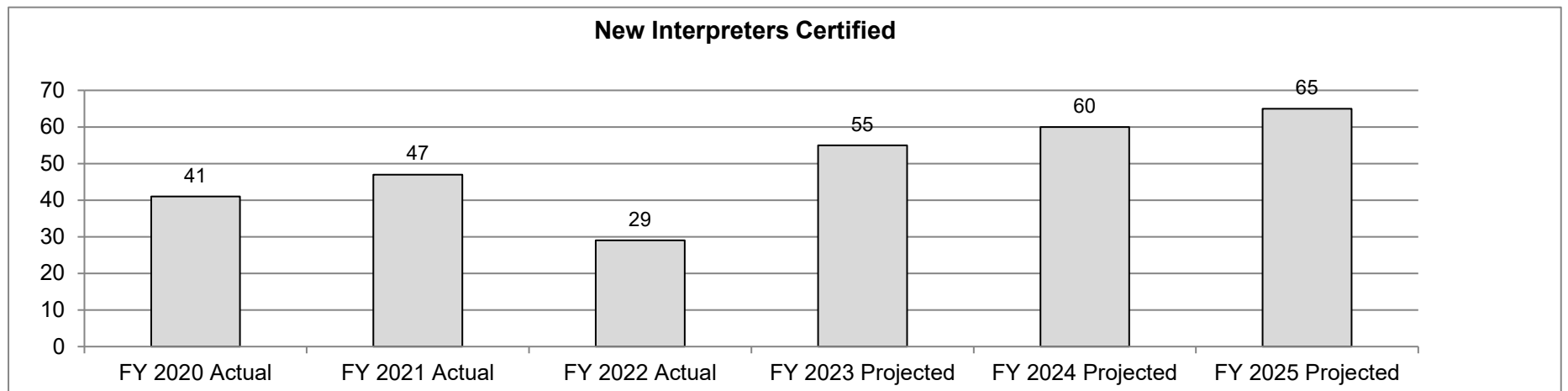
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2b. Provide a measure(s) of the program's quality.



NOTE: 2022 Missouri BEI Passing Rates will be available in January, 2023.

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



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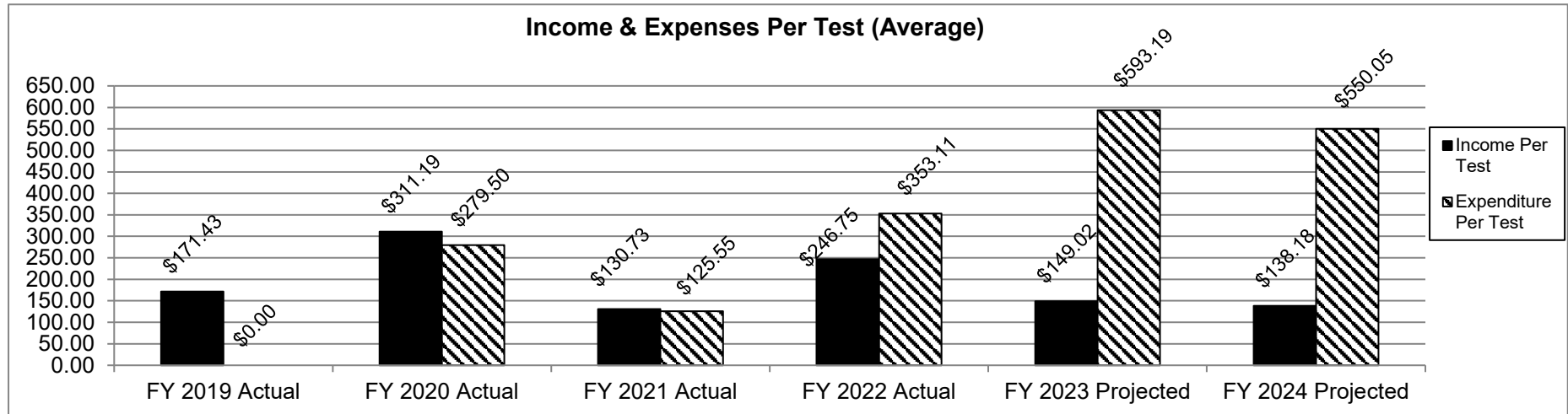
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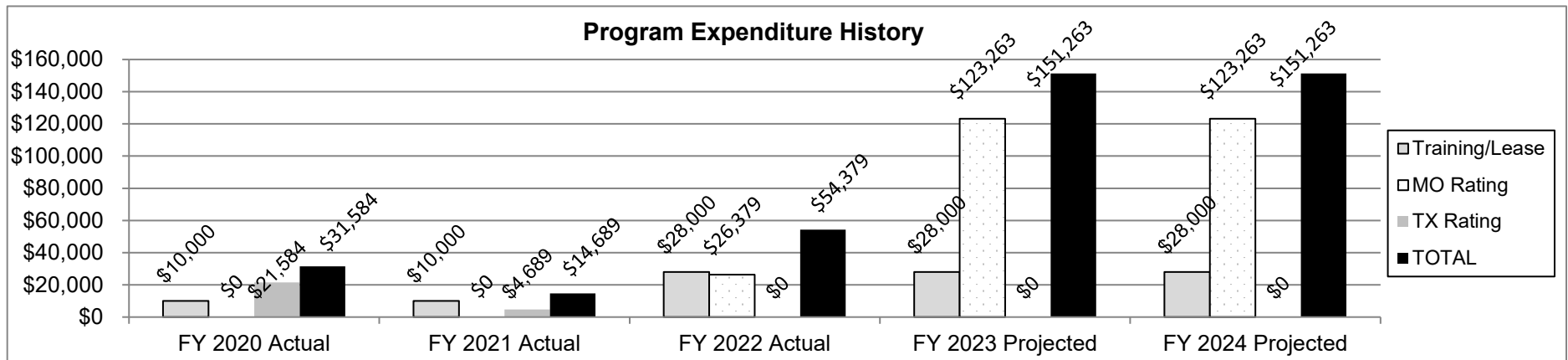
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2d. Provide a measure(s) of the program's efficiency.



Note: Expenses include BEI Testing Lease, Rater Training, Rater Mileage, Rater Meals, Rater Lodging, Rater Compensation, Texas BEI Rating Services. Expenses do not include costs of staff, facilities, or equipment.

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.)



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

The cost of this testing is partially offset by fees charged to interpreters to take the written and performance versions of the test. In Missouri, MCDHH is the sole entity contracted to administer this test, and it is considered the performance standard of excellence for sign language interpreters around the country. MCDHH offers it to Missouri interpreters as well as those who come from out of state in order to take this test, which is currently only offered in four states nationally.

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

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules 161.405 - Commission to function as agency of state - purpose - powers and duties.

The commission shall function 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:

- (1) Develop a system of state certification for those individuals serving as interpreters of the deaf by:
 - (a) Conducting evaluations

209.292 Board's powers and duties - evaluation team to be appointed, qualifications, expenses-removal from team, procedure.

The board shall, with the approval of the commission :

- (1) Develop acceptable professional development activities to maintain certification
- (2) Investigate and implement the most appropriate testing model for interpreter certification

209.302 Eligibility for evaluation. - An evaluation shall be available to the following, including, but not limited to:

- (1) New interpreters;
- (2) Uncertified, qualified interpreters;
- (3) Certified interpreters, advancing to another certification level;
- (4) An interpreter who is certified by a certification system other than the commission;
- (5) Uncertified interpreters who have not interpreted for one year or more; and
- (6) Interpreter trainers.

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