

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

HB Section(s): 2.260

Support Service Providers (SSP) Grant Program

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

1a. What strategic priority does this program address?

Provide Missouri SSP Program and DeafBlind Scholarship for Independence and Education to benefit DeafBlind Missourians

1b. What does this program do?

Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing provides the Missouri SSP Program and DeafBlind Scholarship for Independence and Education grants to empower DeafBlind individuals to live more independently and access more resources in their communities.

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

In the program's first full year (FY 19), there were 25+ individuals served and 50+ trained as SSPs. In FY 20, 22 individuals utilized direct services and 24 SSPs were used for these appointments; DeafBlind individuals used nearly 800 service hours. These numbers would have likely been higher if not for the pandemic. Moving forward, we will be measuring the number of SSP hours used and the number of applicants for the SPIE scholarships.

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

Satisfaction surveys are distributed to both DeafBlind participants and SSPs at the end of each fiscal year. This year, all respondents said they would recommend the program to a friend or family member. Here are some of the comments we've received:

"It has provided so much independence for me to be able to do my own shopping, attend activities, go out to eat, etc. It has also been a great big asset for me here at home with things that I needed visual help with, and to get a clear understanding of what I needed to do. I am so richly blessed to have this service available to me, and all I can say is that whoever would qualify for this service would be richly blessed to do just that." –DeafBlind Consumer from the Eastern Region

"Not only have I learned so much knowledge and improved my sign language skills but I have loved every minute of SSP work. SSP work is always something that I look forward to doing. There is always a new experience and people to meet, things to do. The DB individuals I have worked with are amazing. I've learned so much about their lives and they continue to inspire me every day." –SSP from the Central & Northeastern Region

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

Satisfaction surveys are distributed to both DeafBlind participants and SSPs at the end of each fiscal year. Here are some of the comments we've received:

"The Missouri SSP program has allowed me a measure of freedom that I had previously not been able to experience. Living in a very rural area it is not easy to access the services and programs I need to be able to actively participate in my community. The MO SSP Program provides me with the ability to do more and live a fuller life." –DeafBlind Consumer from the Central & Northeastern Region

"The Missouri SSP Program has allowed me to be independent in my community. I can go to doctor, audiologist, and dental appointments without needing my husband to take off work." –DeafBlind Consumer from the Northwest Region

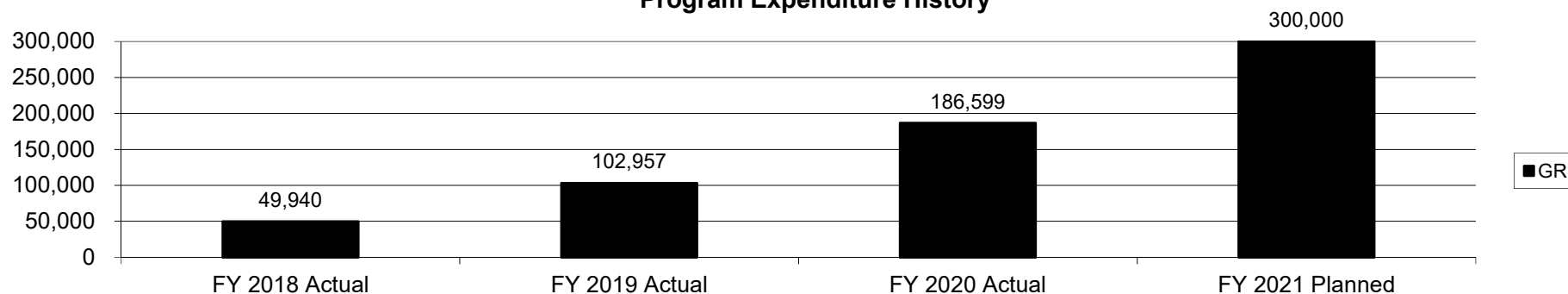
"The SSP program has allowed me to get more involved in the community and has been instrumental in helping me achieve my goals." –DeafBlind Consumer from the Southeastern Region

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

Our initial measure of efficiency is total cost per service hour. That includes all SSP program expenses (payments to SSPs, training, grant administration, transportation, etc.). For FY 20, this came out to \$201.17 per hour. There were many unforeseen expenses this fiscal year--including administrative expenses to handle a major change in transportation policy--and a lower number of service hours used, due to the pandemic. We expect the cost per service hour to decrease significantly in the next fiscal year.

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?

There are no other funds for this program.

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

161.412 RSMo as stated below:

1. Subject to appropriations, the Missouri commission for the deaf and hard of hearing shall provide grants to:

(1) Organizations that provide services for deaf-blind children and their families. Such services may include providing family support advocates to assist deaf-blind children in participating in their communities and family education specialists to teach parents and siblings skills to support the deaf-blind children in their family;

(2) Organizations that provide services for deaf-blind adults. Such grants shall be used to provide assistance to deaf-blind adults who are working towards establishing and maintaining independence; and

(3) Organizations that train support service providers. Such grants shall be used to provide training that will lead to certification of support service providers in Missouri.

2. The commission shall use a request-for-proposal process to award the grants in this section. Organizations that receive grants under this section may expend the grant for any purpose authorized in this section. The total amount of grants provided under this section shall not exceed three hundred thousand dollars annually.

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, and DeafBlind Missourians.

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

N/A

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

This program is not federally mandated, although Section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act requires that sign language interpreters and other accommodation be made available as requested to provide access around the state.