

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

**Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**

**HB Section(s):** 2.375

**Support Service Providers (SSP) Grant Program**

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

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

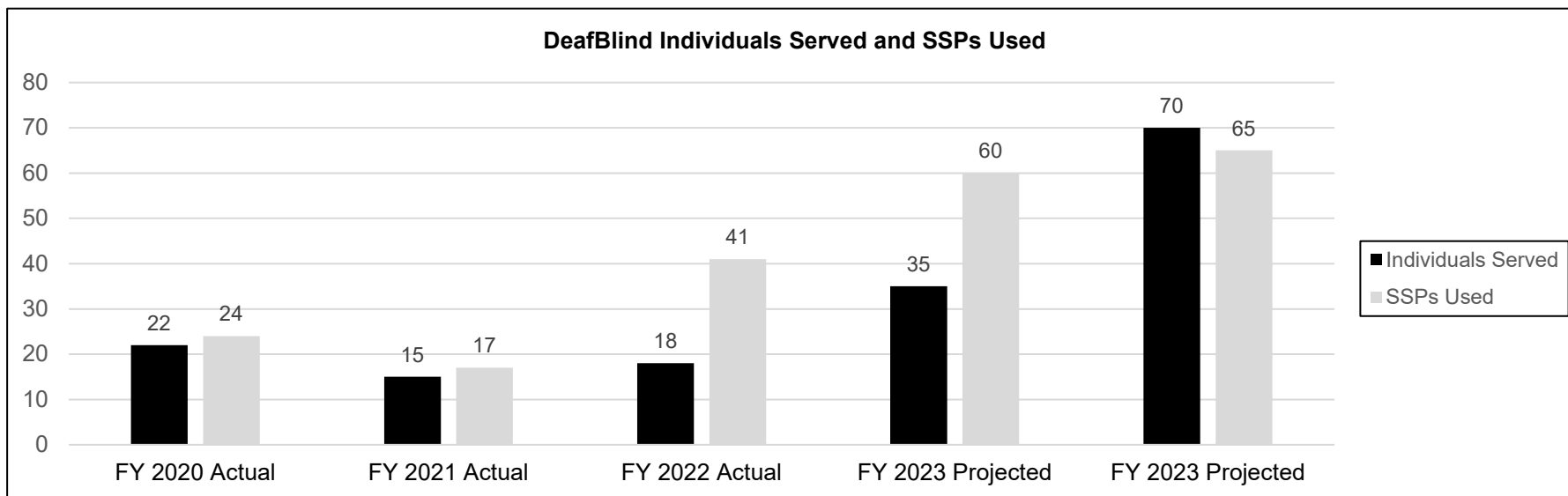
Provide Missouri SSP Program and DeafBlind Scholarship for Independence and Education to benefit DeafBlind Missourians

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

Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH) provides the Missouri Support Service Providers (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.**

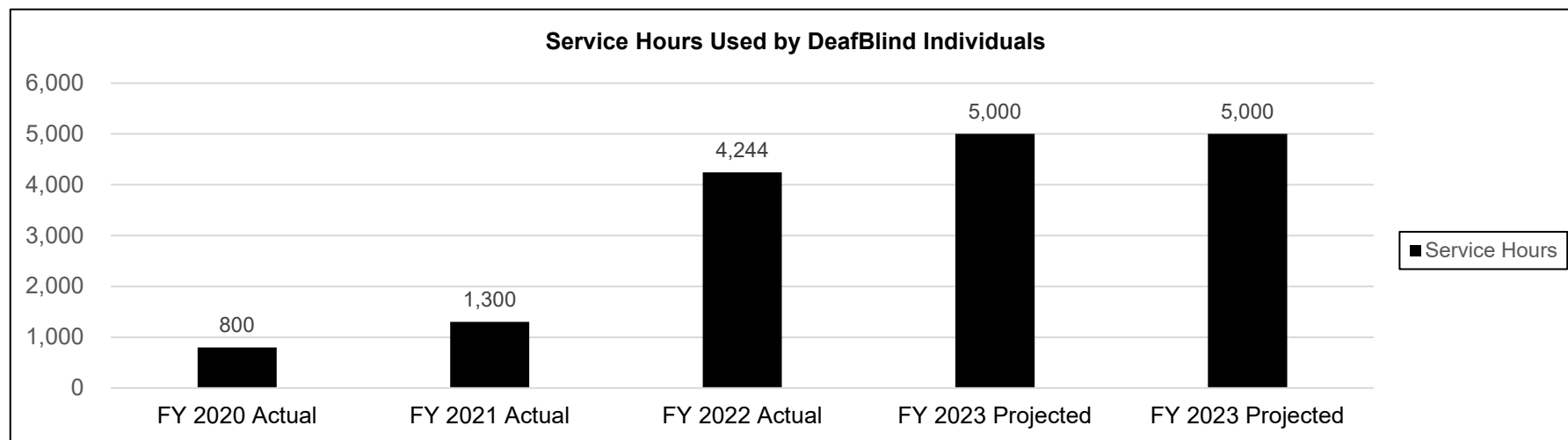
In FY 2022, 38 individuals utilized direct services and 56 SSPs were used for these appointments; DeafBlind individuals used more than 1,300 service hours. These numbers would have likely been higher if not for the pandemic. Moving forward, we will be measuring the number of SSP hours used and the number of applicants for the Scholarship for Independence and Education (SPIE).



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**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, the majority of respondents said they would recommend the program to a friend or family member. Here are some of the comments we've received:

*The Vancro SSP Program has helped me live a fuller and more enjoyable. It has provided additional means for me to live independently and reconnect with the community. I am able to do many things whether necessary for daily living such as shopping, reviewing documents and mail, or recreational things such as going to shows or festivals. Or meeting friends over lunch. There is no longer a barrier between me and other people when I interact with them. If I don't hear something I have help. If I don't see something I have help. There is absolutely nothing to stop me from experiencing life FULLY because the SSP bridges the gap between my hearing loss and what I want to hear, my vision loss and what I want to see.*

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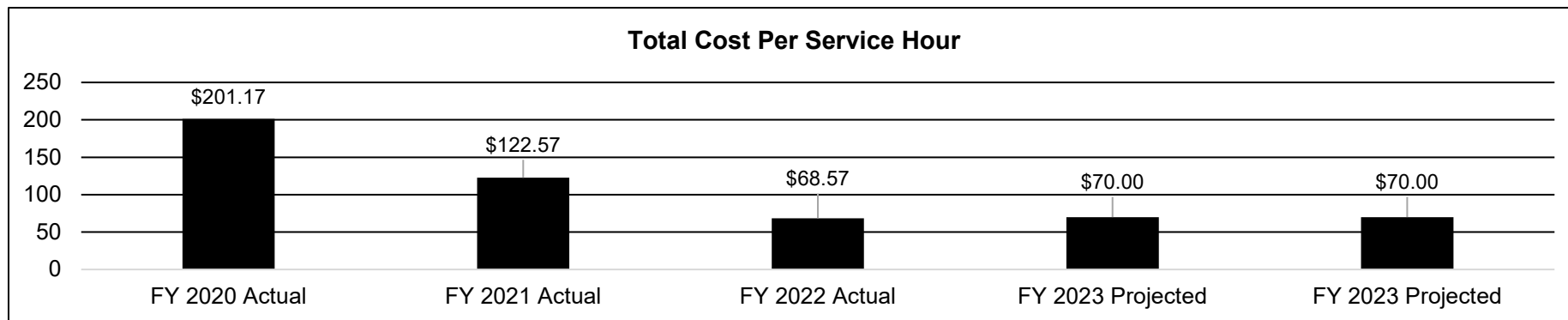
**2c. Provide a measure(s) of the program's impact.**

Satisfaction surveys are distributed to both DeafBlind participants and SSPs at the end of each fiscal year. Here is a comment we've received from a DeafBlind participant:

*"I can honestly say that I am really blessed to be working with all of you [Vancro]. The program seems to be very very good, and this is what we really needed, with some good leadership behind it."*

**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.).



*Note: Expect costs to decrease post pandemic.*

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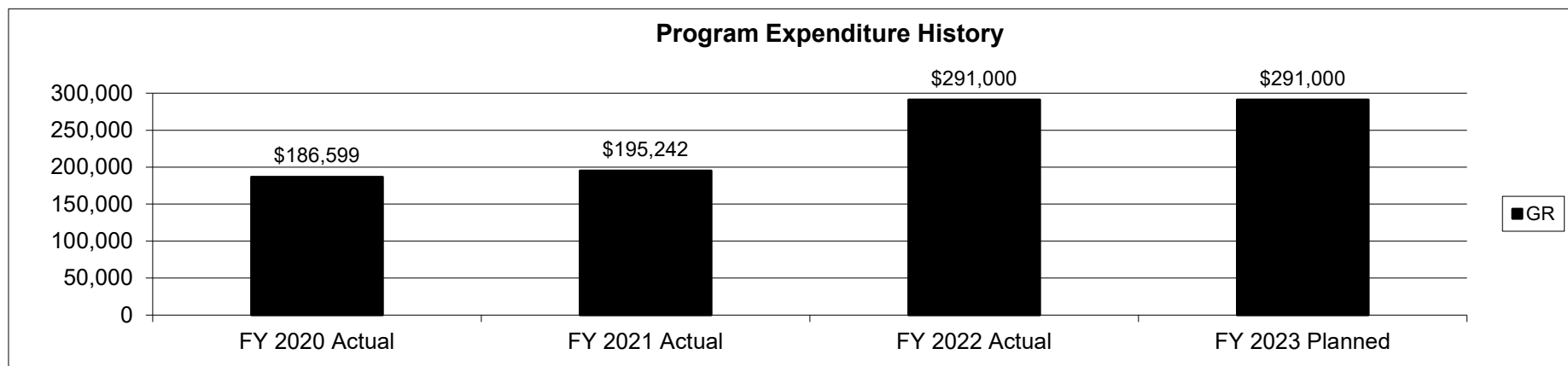
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3. Provide actual expenditures for the prior three fiscal years and planned expenditures for the current fiscal year. (Note: Amounts do not include fringe benefit costs.)



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

There are no other funds for this program.

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**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.**

No

**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.