

Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities
 REHABILITATION COMMITTEE
 FACT SHEET
 DRAFT

NEED	DESCRIPTION
<p>Transition</p> <p>\$723,500</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To achieve successful transition for students with disabilities, the VR counselor has become substantially more involved with the schools than in the past. • Transition counselors are responsible for a number of tasks in addition to those performed on a general VR caseload: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend individual education plan meetings • Provide services over a long period of time • Consult with special education staff • Coordinate services and provision of funding with individual schools and students • Due to new unfunded federal mandate significant increases in new referrals for transitional services are anticipated. • With this funding 1,000 additional Special Education students across the state will be served in the coming year.
<p>Independent Living</p> <p>\$150,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centers for Independent Living (CILs) provide services such as: independent living skills training, individual and systems advocacy, community integration, assistive technology assessment and procurement, information and referral and peer support as well as other comprehensive, individuals services that enable individuals with disabilities to live as independently as possible in their communities. • Last year Utah's six CIL's served a total of 3,937 people with significant disabilities. • Thirty one percent or 1,232 individuals receiving Independent Living (IL) services reside in rural areas which are outside the county where their CIL is located. • Providing IL services to the consumer in their home setting is far more effective than in a center outside the fabric of their community. • There has been a 25% increase in demand for service in rural and remote areas over the past three years. • The funds requested will address the increased demand for CIL services in Utah's rural and remote areas.

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<p>Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DSDHH)</p> <p>\$71,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sanderson Community Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing was constructed in 1992 and has been serving individuals with hearing impairments since that time. • One of the services provide at the Center is individual counseling. For counseling to be effective it must be provided by a counselor who understands the Deaf culture and is fluent in sign language. • The number of individuals who have received counseling has increased from 212 in 2003 to 525 in 2006. • It is anticipated that at a minimum 100 additional people will request this specialized counseling service. • DSDHH is requesting additional \$52,500 of funding to address this growing need. • The DSDHH currently employs 3.5 Trainers/Interpreters. • These employees provide services for legal proceedings, medical appointments DSDHH staff and the Vocational Rehabilitation program. • When DSDHH interpreters can not meet the demand for interpreter services DSDHH must pay for private sector interpreters. • DSDHH is requesting \$18,000 in funding to address the shortage in interpreter services.
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<p>Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DSBVI)</p> <p>\$132,865</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to a recent study by the American Foundation of the Blind, there are an estimated 2,200 visually impaired individuals living in the rural areas of Utah who have not received services from DSBVI. • Due to distance, transportation and time these individuals find it difficult to avail themselves of the comprehensive services provided in Salt Lake City. • These services include Braille, orientation and mobility training, computer education and other daily living skills. • These services are necessary for increased independence and competitive employment opportunities. • Funding is requested to fund six part-time current DSBVI consumers who are skilled in those areas, to serve an additional 72 individuals in their own rural communities. • Currently DSBVI employs one Technology Specialist. • This position's responsible for evaluating the needs of each visually impaired consumer, training them in the use of that technology, and setting up technology at job sites. • This position is capable of serving 70 individuals per year. • Funding is requested to hire one additional Technology Specialist to address the increasing need for this service.
<p>Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities</p> <p>\$37,050</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With a 3.2% unemployment rate, Utah is considered fully employed yet thousands of qualified people with disabilities are still unemployed or underemployed. • By increasing our exposure in the media, we can educate the public and change negative attitudes and discriminatory hiring practices. • Greater success in our promotion efforts increases employment opportunities for qualified individuals with disabilities. • Ultimately this results in a) greater client independence and financial self sufficiency, b) less client dependence on Medicaid, General Assistance, TANF, and other public assistance, c) a superior talent pool for Utah businesses, d) increased tax advantages for those businesses, and e) added economic growth for the state. • Three Public Service Announcements (PSA's) for radio have been produced at no cost. The Salt Lake and Ogden/Weber Chambers of Commerce donate in-kind advertising through their websites and publications. We seek an ongoing increase of \$37,050 to increase public awareness of the benefits of hiring people with disabilities.

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<p>Assistive Technology</p> <p>\$500,000 One-Time</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is a higher demand for AT devices and services from people with disabilities because of improved outreach services and better informed consumers.• Without adequate funding for AT, consumers will experience isolation, increased health costs and safety risks.• AT devices and services provided are critical in ensuring access to basic public health, safety, and overall community integration.• The demand and costs for AT devices and services have risen substantially. Each year, funds for AT are depleted well before on half of the State fiscal year ends.• Without the requested \$500,000 in one time funding, the waiting list would grow to approximately 153 consumers.
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