

# AGING AND LONG TERM SUPPORT ADMINISTRATION



## Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution

### 2015-17 BIENNIAL BUDGET

Request	FY15	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE	0	0	0	0
GF-State	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>

#### DECISION PACKAGE SUMMARY

The Aging and Long Term Support Administration (AL TSA), Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) requests federal funds authority to participate in the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP) for Washington. ODHH will distribute specialized customer premises equipment (CPE) to low-income individuals who are deaf-blind. These individuals need specialized CPE to effectively access telecommunications service, internet access service, and advanced communications.

#### PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Aging and Long Term Support Administration (AL TSA), Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) requests federal funds authority for participation in a program called the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP) for Washington. ODHH will distribute specialized customer premises equipment (CPE) to low-income individuals who are deaf-blind. These individuals need specialized CPE to effectively access telecommunications service, internet access service, and advanced communications. The Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 requires the Federal Communications Commission to take certain steps to ensure that individuals with disabilities have access to emerging communications technologies in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Most communications-related statutes and regulations have not specifically addressed the communications needs of the deaf-blind population.

#### PROPOSED SOLUTION

The ODHH needs federal funds authority of \$200,000 beginning in Fiscal Year 2015 and each year thereafter to claim federal reimbursement for expenditures associated with this pilot program. No additional GF-State funding is requested to execute the requirements of this pilot.

#### EXPECTED RESULTS

The budget request supports DSHS Goal 4: Quality of Life – Each individual in need will be supported to attain the highest possible quality of life. The decision package is essential to implementing AL TSA Strategic Objective 4.5: Remove barriers to telecommunications by providing current and emerging telecommunication services for people who are deaf,



#### DSHS VISION

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#### DSHS MISSION

To transform lives

#### DSHS VALUES

Honesty and Integrity • Pursuit of Excellence • Open Communication • Diversity and Inclusion • Commitment to Service

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### 2015-17 BIENNIAL BUDGET



hard of hearing or deaf-blind. This package supports Results Washington Goal 4: Healthy and Safe Communities – Fostering the health of Washingtonians from a healthy start to a safe and supported future.

#### STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

This budget request would be supported by all stakeholders, including deaf-blind individuals, Washington State Deaf-Blind Citizens (WSDBC), Deaf-Blind Service Center (DBSC), Northwest Helen Keller National Center (NW HKNC), Seattle Lighthouse for the Blind, and the Federal Communications Commission.



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