

**FY 2010 BUDGET REDUCTIONS - SUMMARY OF ISSUES
COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND THE HARD OF HEARING**

ALL NON-GENERAL FUNDS

FY 2010 All Non-General Funds Budget (less Federal Funds) 4,409,900

AGENCY REDUCTION TARGET - ALL NON-GENERAL FUNDS (w/o Federal Funds) \$661,500

Fund	Reductions Amount	Percent Reductions
Telecommunication Fund for the Deaf	\$661,500	100.0%
Issue Total	\$661,500	
All Non-General Funds Total as a Percentage of Agency Non-GF Reduction Target		100%

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**FY 2010 BUDGET REDUCTIONS - SUMMARY OF ISSUES
COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING**

TELECOMMUNICATION FUND FOR THE DEAF

FY 2010 All Non-General Funds Budget (less Federal Funds) 4,409,900

AGENCY REDUCTION TARGET - ALL NON-GENERAL FUNDS (w/o Federal Funds) 661,500

Priority	Issue Title¹	Reductions Amount
1	Rulewriting Services	\$11,000
2	Meeting/ Concierge Services	\$8,400
3	Tuition Cost Sharing	\$10,000
4	Presenters for Workshops	\$20,000
5	Library Replacements/Expansion	\$6,000
6	Community View	\$180,900
7	Personnel Services and ERE	\$19,600
8	Document Storage Services	\$36,900
9	Public Relations/Contractual	\$100,000
10	DVD Development	\$50,000
11	Relay Reduction	\$14,900
12	Demonstration Sites for Equipment Distribution Program	\$48,300
13	Interpreter Services	\$27,000
14	Equipment for Equipment Distribution Program	\$128,500
		\$661,500
	Fund Total as a Percentage of Non-General Fund Reduction Target	100%

¹ Please complete the attached Description and Impact Statement for each issue.

STATE OF ARIZONA
FY 2010 BUDGET REDUCTIONS - ISSUE DESCRIPTIONS
COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

Issue Title: Rule writing Services

Issue Priority: 1

Reduction Amount:

Telecommunication Fund for the Deaf: \$11,000

Total: \$11,000

Issue Description and Statement of Effects

At the Governor's small boards and commissions meeting in September, we learned that rule writing has been suspended through FY 10. As a result, we are removing this expenditure for this fiscal year.

There are changes that must be made to the rules for Interpreter Licensure and the Arizona Telecommunication Equipment Distribution programs. We are required to prepare rules for the American Sign Language teacher certification as well.

In addition, an ACDHH Sunset Review is currently being conducted. It is too early to ascertain if rules changes will be required as a result of that review.

STATE OF ARIZONA
FY 2010 BUDGET REDUCTIONS - ISSUE DESCRIPTIONS
COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

Issue Title: Meeting/Concierge Services

Issue Priority: 2

Reduction Amount:

Telecommunication Fund for the Deaf: 8,400

Total: \$8,400

Issue Description and Statement of Effects

The Executive Director's assistant plans/oversees the planning of all Board meetings for the Commission. Board meetings must be held six times each year at alternate locations, due to space and other limitations at our agency or other State sites. There are accessibility requirements for board members, staff and public attendees, such as FM systems (assistive listening devices), acoustical enhancements, real time captioning and teams of interpreters (8 total interpreters) at each meeting.

In FY 09 we utilized a State meeting/concierge services contract to secure locations and to obtain/organize necessary accessibility for meetings. Since half of the Board members must travel for these meetings, locations must meet State travel requirements as well. The process is arduous; the meeting services contractor made contacts and viewed locations that the Executive Director's assistant was not able to make. With the contractor's assistance, meetings were planned well in advance, were well organized, and met all travel and accessibility requirements for the board, staff and public attendees.

Reducing meeting/concierge assistance will require the assistant to make arrangements herself for half of the meetings scheduled for this fiscal year; it will compress her work schedule and possibly compromise timely scheduling of meetings and the accessibility required for those meetings.

STATE OF ARIZONA
FY 2010 BUDGET REDUCTIONS - ISSUE DESCRIPTIONS

ARIZONA COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

Issue Title: Tuition Cost Sharing

Issue Priority: 3

Reduction Amount:

Telecommunication Fund for the Deaf: \$10,000

Total: \$10,000

Issue Description and Statement of Effects

The goal of the tuition cost sharing program is to assist employees in developing abilities to perform their jobs to a greater degree or to qualify for other jobs in their career paths.

Our agency mission is very specialized and we currently require employees to work daily in a second language; as a result, recruitment and retention of employees becomes extremely important to the agency.

One manager and one staff member planned professional development through the tuition cost sharing program this year.

ACDHH is a very small agency and is not able to provide internal professional development for its employees. Any program that offers professional development gives ACDHH an important advantage above other employers.

With this reduction, we lose the advantage of development opportunities to retain the expertise of good State employees.

STATE OF ARIZONA
FY 2010 BUDGET REDUCTIONS - ISSUE DESCRIPTIONS

ARIZONA COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

Issue Title: Presenters for Workshops

Issue Priority: 4

Reduction Amount:

Telecommunication Fund for the Deaf: \$20,000

Total: \$20,000

Issue Description and Statement of Effects

ACDHH planned to provide one mini workshop this fiscal year for developing interpreters, one for hard of hearing Arizonans, and one for deaf seniors.

Presenters would offer interpreters pertinent information on preparing for the National Interpreter Certification (NIC) test. Presenters could offer other workshops that would provide deaf and hard of hearing, for example, with information on hearing aids, coping with family issues, lifestyle adjustments, living wills, and planning for retirement.

There are very few opportunities for interpreters to learn how to prepare for the NIC test and for hard of hearing and deaf seniors to learn how to cope with different challenges in their lives. Without these funds, they must find other resources or continue to go without the support workshops would provide.

STATE OF ARIZONA
FY 2010 BUDGET REDUCTIONS - ISSUE DESCRIPTIONS

ARIZONA COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

Issue Title: Library Replacements/Expansion

Issue Priority: 5

Reduction Amount:

Telecommunication Fund for the Deaf: \$6,000

Total: \$6,000

Issue Description and Statement of Effects

ACDHH has maintained a community loaner library for approximately 15 years. Topics are: American Sign Language (ASL), ASL finger spelling, deaf culture, hard of hearing issues, and various training for developing interpreters, to name a few.

While we normally replace a few unreturned or aging items each fiscal year, ACDHH planned to review contemporary materials to determine how best to expand the library. With this reduction, that effort is on hold indefinitely.

STATE OF ARIZONA
FY 2010 BUDGET REDUCTIONS - ISSUE DESCRIPTIONS

ARIZONA COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

Issue Title: Community View

Issue Priority: 6

Reduction Amount:

Telecommunication Fund for the Deaf: \$180,900

Total: \$180,900

Issue Description and Statement of Effects

Community View has been the longest-running (approximately 30 years) weekly television show in the nation for the deaf and hard of hearing. The taping and airing of shows was suspended in April last fiscal year. However, we planned to continue Community View this fiscal year and recently completed the schedule for taping and airing.

Community View is important as it provides equal access to educational and informational topics for the deaf and hard of hearing. Viewers rely on Community View to stay abreast of issues and resources; shows are presented in viewers' languages, whether it is signed or voiced, with captioning for hard of hearing. Shows have varied in topic: cultural, social, health and wellness, political/legislative, educational, consumer issues, advocacy and entertainment. Community View, because of its content and delivery, has a significant impact on the quality of life and independence of deaf and hard of hearing viewers.

Viewership has been approximately 1,600 to 2,400 for each show. The termination of Community View will affect approximately 83,200 to 124,800 viewers this fiscal year alone.

The demise of Community View definitely will affect quality of life issues for years in the future.

STATE OF ARIZONA
FY 2010 BUDGET REDUCTIONS - ISSUE DESCRIPTIONS

ARIZONA COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

Issue Title: Personnel Services and ERE

Issue Priority: 7

Reduction Amount:

Telecommunication Fund for the Deaf: \$19,600

Total: \$19,600

Issue Description and Statement of Effects

ACDHH staff is comprised of hearing, deaf and hard of hearing individuals. Each staff member conducts his/her daily tasks in a second language (deaf staff in English and hearing staff in American Sign Language). Further, the work accomplished by ACDHH is very specialized.

Retention of trained staff is extremely important due to our specialized work; recruiting qualified employees who also communicate in ASL is a challenge.

The personnel services and ERE noted above was to provide staff increases (an average 5%).

Conscious of the State's circumstances and those of other State employees, we have abandoned this effort.

STATE OF ARIZONA
FY 2010 BUDGET REDUCTIONS - ISSUE DESCRIPTIONS

ARIZONA COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

Issue Title: Document Storage Services

Issue Priority: 8

Reduction Amount:

Telecommunication Fund for the Deaf: \$36,900

Total: \$36,900

Issue Description and Statement of Effects

ACDHH set aside \$36,900 this fiscal year for document storage services. Although other information also requires storage, our greatest need results from AzTEDP (the equipment distribution program), which has approximately 11,250 active paper files.

With our very limited storage space, we reviewed pertinent records retention schedules. The above records must be retained for a period of five to six years, depending on specified circumstances. It becomes a "rolling" schedule as we add approximately 1,400 additional applicant files each year.

Without this service, we will need to purchase additional storage space very soon.

STATE OF ARIZONA
FY 2010 BUDGET REDUCTIONS - ISSUE DESCRIPTIONS

ARIZONA COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

Issue Title: Public Relations/Contractual

Issue Priority: 9

Reduction Amount:

Telecommunication Fund for the Deaf: \$100,000

Total: \$100,000

Issue Description and Statement of Effects

With our public relations position remaining unfilled, ACDHH has relied on public relations assistance under a State contract.

These funds were designated for: posting E-news; news feeds and events/calendar; preparing scripts and assisting with video blog productions; preparing and posting numerous surveys on our website; preparing bimonthly new stories for our website and various printed publications, and expanding the Spanish component on our website.

With our limited staff and this reduction, we will be unable to accomplish the above projects until there is further funding.

STATE OF ARIZONA
FY 2010 BUDGET REDUCTIONS - ISSUE DESCRIPTIONS

ARIZONA COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

Issue Title: DVD Development

Issue Priority: 10

Reduction Amount:

Telecommunication Fund for the Deaf: \$50,000

Total: \$50,000

Issue Description and Statement of Effects

With reductions in staff resources and in travel funds, ACDHH planned to develop and produce educational/informational DVD's that could be provided to organizations frequently requesting presentations or trainings on deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing issues. The DVD's could frequently replace attendance by a staff person.

Some examples of planned DVD's:

Americans with Disabilities Act
Self-Advocacy
How to Secure Medical, Dental and Legal Services with
Effective Communication
How to Use Interpreters Effectively
Hospital Access
How to Access Police/Legal System
Training for Healthcare Providers, Police, and
Judicial Representatives

Without these tools, staff time will be limited for presentations in person and travel funds will be strained for continued and needed travel throughout the State.

STATE OF ARIZONA
FY 2010 BUDGET REDUCTIONS - ISSUE DESCRIPTIONS

ARIZONA COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

Issue Title: Relay Reduction

Issue Priority: 11

Reduction Amount:

Telecommunication Fund for the Deaf: \$14,900

Total: \$14,900

Issue Description and Statement of Effects

Federally mandated, the Arizona relay provides communication for deaf, hard of hearing, speech impaired, and deaf-blind. A variety of devices are utilized: for example, TTY's for the deaf, voice carryover for speech impaired, captioned telephones for hard of hearing, etc. The devices are normally obtained through Arizona's equipment distribution program.

With the planned reduction in distributed equipment (see Priority 14), we anticipate a correlating decrease in relay use. The captioned funding merely captures that expected decrease.

STATE OF ARIZONA
FY 2010 BUDGET REDUCTIONS - ISSUE DESCRIPTIONS

ARIZONA COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

Issue Title: Demonstration Sites for Equipment Distribution Program

Issue Priority: 12

Reduction Amount:

Telecommunication Fund for the Deaf: \$48,300

Total: \$48,300

Issue Description and Statement of Effects

ACDHH contracted with Northern Arizona University to provide five equipment demonstration sites and Augmentative Assistive Communication (AAC) device assessments for applicants of the Arizona Telecommunication Equipment Distribution Program (AzTEDP). That contract, however, was suspended in April of last fiscal year.

Discussions have been underway to reinstate the contract. As a result of the Governor's request for a 15% appropriation reduction for FY 10, this program has again come under review.

The \$48,300 reduction in funding here will remove four of the five equipment demonstration sites. The contract will be amended to provide one demonstration site and AAC device assessments only. Equipment demonstrations will still be provided upon request but wait times for demonstrations will likely be extended.

STATE OF ARIZONA
FY 2010 BUDGET REDUCTIONS - ISSUE DESCRIPTIONS

ARIZONA COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

Issue Title: Interpreter Services

Issue Priority: 13

Reduction Amount:

Telecommunication Fund for the Deaf: \$27,000

Total: \$27,000

Issue Description and Statement of Effects

ACDHH partners throughout the year with organizations serving the same constituency – deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind – by contributing interpreter services and real time captioning for stakeholders and participants at various meetings and events. Some examples of the organizations are: Hearing Loss Association of America, Hands and Voices, TDI (formerly known as Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing) and Disability Expo.

This reduction will preclude those partnering efforts. The organizations must find other partners to provide similar assistance or assume the financial burden of providing accessibility themselves.

STATE OF ARIZONA
FY 2010 BUDGET REDUCTIONS - ISSUE DESCRIPTIONS

ARIZONA COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

Issue Title: Equipment for Equipment Distribution Program

Issue Priority: 14

Reduction Amount:

Telecommunication Fund for the Deaf: \$128,500

Total: \$128,500

Issue Description and Statement of Effects

A.R.S. 36-1947, Subsection A, directs ACDHH to establish and administer a statewide program to purchase, repair and distribute telecommunication devices to residents who are deaf or severely hearing or speech impaired.

ACDHH, through the Arizona Telecommunication Equipment Distribution Program (AzTEDP), provides assistive equipment for eligible applicants who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind and speech impaired. The current program is a voucher system, whereby residents apply for and receive "vouchers" to purchase specified devices. Primary and secondary devices are distributed under this program as well; each resident is eligible to receive one of each device.

While augmentative assistive communication (AAC) devices are provided through a different process, the distributed equipment statistics below include AAC devices as well.

Assistive equipment provides equal telecommunication access to deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind and speech impaired and provides equal access to public and educational information. Without equal access, there would be a significant impact on quality of life and independence; in addition, these individuals are more vulnerable without an ability to contact 9-1-1, poison control and fire/rescue.

This reduction represents approximately a 26.8% funding decrease. It will impact approximately 161 persons/month, 1,932 persons/year. Those individuals who do not receive equipment will not have equal

telecommunication access and, of utmost importance, they will be unable to contact emergency services if needed.

An alternative for providing equipment might be outsourcing and using one vendor to provide a very limited selection of devices. (Generally, however, one or two devices will not serve all individuals.) Additionally, it would be possible to revise the program rules to require co-payments from applicants, or to establish an income level to qualify for the program.

We have already reduced the number of devices available for consumer selection. Both solutions, however, would place a much greater administrative burden on ACDHH/ AzTEDP.

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