

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



October 30, 2001

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-90-01

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

Reason For This Transmittal

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order or Settlement Agreement
- Clarification Requested by one or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: DEAF ACCESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The purpose of this Notice is to provide information to the County Welfare Departments (CWDs) on the Deaf Access Assistance Program (DAP) administered by the California Department of Social Services' (CDSS) Office for Deaf Access (ODA).

In providing this information, the CDSS hopes to achieve two goals. First, to promote awareness of the DAP and how it assists clients who are deaf and hard of hearing. Second, to encourage CWDs to become involved with their local DAP agencies in order to better serve deaf and hard-of-hearing clients.

Following is a brief introduction to the DAP and its services.

Program Intent

The DAP was created in 1980 to ensure that state and local government services are routinely adapted to meet the communication needs of the 2.9 million California deaf and hard-of-hearing persons and to enable deaf and hard-of-hearing children, adults, and families to receive all the benefits and services to which they are entitled.

Service Delivery

DAP services are provided through a statewide network of eight regional, nonprofit corporations with 33 district offices contracted and supervised by the State through CDSS' ODA. In awarding these DAP service contracts, the State gives special consideration to the extent to which deaf and hard-of-hearing persons are included in the service provider's staff and on the boards of directors. This method of helping deaf people to help themselves was found to be more effective than the traditional medical model where hearing professionals "take care of" deaf people.

Program Services

Following is a listing and description of the services provided by the DAP. These services are provided for in Welfare and Institutions Code Section 10621, and Section 65-110 of the CDSS Manual of Policies and Procedures:

1. Communication Services – Provides qualified sign language interpreters to meet a client's or agency's needs. Also includes providing emergency 24-hour, seven-days-a-week sign language services to meet medical, legal, or civil emergencies. In addition, provides translation of documents for deaf clients with low language skills.
2. Advocacy – Provides assistance in crisis situations by intervening to ensure all public services – including social, health, and safety services – are available to the deaf and hard-of-hearing population. Also includes intervention to protect deaf children's communication rights.
3. Job Development and Placement – Assists deaf clients in obtaining employment-related services.
4. Information and Referral – Directs clients to appropriate organizations and programs for social and health care needs. Answers questions about deafness or hearing loss.
5. Counseling – Provides intervention in crisis situations, such as spousal, child, or adult abuse. Also teaches clients how to effectively cope with deafness or hearing loss.
6. Independent Living Skills Instruction – Assists deaf clients in acquiring skills to live independently of public institutions and programs.
7. Community Education – Increases public awareness and understanding of deaf and other hard-of-hearing people's needs. Also, addresses health and safety issues because of deafness.

Recipient Characteristics

The DAP provides services to an estimated 2.9 million deaf and hard-of-hearing persons in California. Recipients include children, adults, and families where deafness or other hearing loss of some type is involved. The Rubella epidemic of 1964 resulted in several hundred adult clients today who have multiple handicaps in addition to their deafness.

The fastest growing portions of the DAP client population in California include persons over the age of 65 who are experiencing hearing loss for the first time in their lives, the Hispanic population, which often relies on Mexican Sign Language to communicate, and the Refugee population, which often needs to first learn American Sign Language to communicate.

Program Eligibility

There are no income-eligibility requirements in the DAP. Services are available to anyone with any degree of hearing loss including hearing individuals or agencies that have any concerns about hearing loss.

Funding

The eight regional agencies operate on a combined budget of \$5.8 million. The \$5.8 million is divided among each of the eight agencies according to the population of deaf and hard-of-hearing served in that area.

Contacting the DAP Agency in Your Area

We encourage you to learn more about your local DAP agency and work with them on determining the best way to assist deaf and hard-of-hearing clients in your area. Attachment 1, "Deaf Access Assistance Program," is a pictorial representation of the DAP service regions statewide. Attachment 2, "Deaf Access Assistance Program Headquarters Offices and Counties Served," is a listing of the regional DAP headquarters office locations, the counties served by each, and how to contact them.

If you have any questions regarding the DAP, please contact Ms. Lisa Bandaccari, Chief of CDSS' ODA, at (916) 651-6243 (V) or (916) 654-1453 (TTY).

Sincerely,

***Original Document
Signed By***

JEANNE RODRIGUEZ
Deputy Director
Office of Human Rights and Community Relations

Attachments

c: CWDA

DEAF ACCESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



SERVICE REGIONS

- REGION I - Deaf Community Services**
(619) 398-2441 V (619) 698-2440 TTY
- REGION II - Center on Deafness Inland Empire** (909) 359-5200 V/TTY
- REGION III - Orange County Deaf Equal Access Foundation** (714) 826-9793 V/TTY
- REGION IV - Greater Los Angeles Council on Deafness** (323) 478-8000 V/TTY
- REGION V - Tri County** (805) 487-4523 V/TTY
- REGION VI - Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Center**
(559) 225-3323 V (559) 225-0415 TTY
- REGION VII - NorCal Center on Deafness** (916) 921-1045 V/TTY
- REGION VIII - Deaf Counseling, Advocacy and Referral Agency**
(510) 483-0753 V (510) 483-6914 TTY

Deaf Access Assistance Program Headquarters Offices and Counties Served

REGION I

Tom Galey (DCSOFSD@aol.com)
Chief Executive Officer
Deaf Community Services of San Diego, Inc.
3930 Fourth Avenue, Suite 300
San Diego, CA 92103
(619) 398-2441 V, (619) 398-2440 TTY
(619) 398-2444 Fax
Counties served:
Imperial and San Diego

REGION III

Ed Kelly (EDKOCDEAF@aol.com)
Executive Director
Orange County
6022 Cerritos Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
(714) 826-9793 V/TTY
(714) 826-9813 Fax
Counties served:
Orange

REGION V

Mark Splittstoesser (SPLITZ@aol.com)
Executive Director
Tri County GLAD
132 South A Street, Suite B
Oxnard, CA 93030
(805) 487-4523 V/TTY
(805) 487-4954 Fax
Counties served:
San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura

REGION VII

Sheri Farinha-Mutti (SFMXO@aol.com)
Chief Executive Officer
1820 Tribute Road, Suite A
Sacramento, CA 95815
(916) 921-1045 V/TTY
(916) 921-1177 Fax
Counties served:
Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Tuolumne, Yolo and Yuba

REGION II

Seymour Bernstein (SSBCODIE@aol.com)
Executive Director
Center on Deafness Inland Empire
7344 Magnolia Avenue, Suite 140
Riverside, CA 92504
(909) 359-5200 V/TTY
(909) 359-5112 Fax
Counties served:
Inyo, Mono, Riverside and San Bernardino

REGION IV

Sheri Farinha-Mutti (SFMXO@aol.com)
Interim, Chief Executive Officer
Greater Los Angeles Council on Deafness
2222 Laverna Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90041
(323) 478-8000 V/TTY
(323) 550-4025 Fax
Counties served:
Kern and Los Angeles

REGION VI

Rosemary Diaz (DHHSC@aol.com)
Chief Executive Officer
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Center
5070 N. 6th Street, Suite 169
Fresno, CA 93710
(559) 225-3323 V
(559) 225-0415 TTY
(559) 225-0116 Fax
Counties served:
Fresno, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Monterey, San Benito and Tulare

REGION VIII

Rob Roth (Rob.Roth@dcara.org)
Chief Executive Officer
Deaf Counseling, Advocacy and Referral Agency
14895 E. 14th Street, Suite 200
San Leandro, CA 94578
(510) 483-6914 V/TTY
Counties served:
Alameda, Contra Costa, Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and Sonoma