



Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Bulletin November 2012

VISION

Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, in concurrence with the Colorado Department of Human Service vision, seeks to become the nation's leader in empowering Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals, families, and communities to become safe and independent.

MISSION

To promote the interests of our constituents and to work to ensure the quality of communication access for individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing living in the state of Colorado.

Awarded Grantees

Six out of 20 grant applications were selected for fiscal year 2013. Six applications (summarized below) were approved for funding for a total of \$47,847.50, while 20 applications totalling \$176,990.50 were considered. This was by far the toughest evaluation for the Grant Program Subcommittee and the Department of Human Services. Organizations who applied for a grant with the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing are to be commended for their good intentions and well-presented applications.

The following applications are recommended for approval:

Name: Aurora Public Schools

Amount: \$6,727.50

Project: Family Engagement Project

This project will build connections between parents of deaf and hard-of-hearing children and parents within the school personnel system. It will include home visitation and training and language-appropriate educational materials so parents can be informed members of their children's team and children can have a stronger foundation to make larger academic gains. It will also allow for materials and resources to be shared on the district website so they can be accessed by anyone who might wish to provide training for parents of deaf/hard-of-hearing children in school. Families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing often feel disconnected and isolated from other families with similar experiences due to the low incidence of this unique population.

Name: Center for Independence-Grand Junction

Amount: \$10,000

Project: To expand services for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals in the Grand Junction area

This project will 1) expand assistive technology demonstration equipment where individuals, especially the hard of hearing, have access to communication at the center, 2) add an AmeriCorps Intern who is American Sign Language proficient, 3) increase outreach to other counties with internet-based video relay interpreting, 4) offer community and in-house ASL training, and 5) increase the quality of services to the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities. The Center for Independence, one of ten independent living centers in the state, has been committed to serving the deaf and hard-of-hearing population, but has not had sufficient funding to expand their services for this population.

Name: Colorado Families for Hands and Voices

Amount: \$10,000

Project: Inspiring Change: Conflict and Collaboration in Deaf Education

The grant will be used to create an intensive two-day seminar along with a written survey to spark discussion among diverse decision makers. Participants will learn about four state educational systems that have undergone recent significant systems change, whether through intention or political action. The Colorado Department of Education's current achievement data, as well as clarification as to what the state monitoring system can and cannot do to improve outcomes, will be part of the discussion. These events will lay the foundation for future systems change in the educational setting.

Name: Colorado Public Television CPT12

Amount: \$10,000

Project: Closed caption services

This will ensure people who are deaf and hard-of-hearing have full access to all aspects of life reflected in the Channel 12 services. Colorado Public Television (CPT12) has a 35-year history of promoting Coloradans' quality of life and learning through high quality programming – local, national and international news, arts, culture and more. CPT12 helps keep Coloradans informed about issues of the day and gives them a chance to express their opinions through regular programming and web and social media services. CPT12 is a non-profit broadcasting organization.

Name: Hearing Loss Association of America – Western Colorado Chapter

Amount: \$1,120

Project: Remote CART for HLAA WCO chapter meetings

The Western Colorado Chapter of HLAA, a non-profit organization in Grand Junction, was granted recognition as a chapter by the national headquarters in the Spring of 2011. Since Spring 2011, the chapter has held meetings and educational programs, and all programs are free and open to the public. This very moderate grant will enable the chapter, as a second-year organization, to provide remote CART service at eight HLAA WCO educational chapter meetings during the fiscal year and meet its objective of providing communication access to deaf and hard-of-hearing people attending meetings.

Name: Helen Keller National Center

Amount: \$10,000

Project: Support Service Providers

Making Support Service Providers (SSPs) available is the most pressing issue for Coloradans who are deaf-blind. Currently, there are zero agencies who formally offer this accommodation in the state. Trusted with confidential information, SSPs are trained professionals, who are sensitive to the cultural and communication needs of deaf-blind individuals, and are available to drive and assist them with medical appointments, grocery shopping, reading mail, filling out job applications, etc. The Helen Keller National Center Rocky Mountain Regional office, in collaboration with the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Independent Living Centers across the state, is prepared to launch a pilot project to demonstrate the use and positive impact of SSPs for the deaf-blind community.

AT&T Relay Colorado

..is excited to be a guest at the upcoming

Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

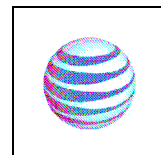
December 6, 2012

(see the Commission meeting and forum details below)

We thank CCDHH for allowing us the opportunity to introduce ourselves as the new Colorado Relay provider, and to share our plans for community outreach.

Please join us for refreshments and to learn more about Relay Colorado's investment in the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing community

We look forward to meeting you!



relaycolorado.com

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Commission Meeting and Community Forum

The next Commission meeting and community forum will be held at the Goodwill Industries of Denver. It will be held from **4 p.m. to 7 p.m.** on **Thursday, December 6, 2012**. The address is:

**6850 N. Federal Blvd.
Denver, CO 80221**

Our meeting notice and agenda are also posted at
<http://www.coloradodeafcommission.com/commission/agenda.aspx>.

The CCDHH meetings and forums are always open to the public. You are more than welcome to come and be part of the informative and interactive sessions.



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