

Maynes, Shelly

From: Provost, Michelle
Sent: Friday, July 15, 2016 1:46 PM
To: Maynes, Shelly
Cc: Porter, Amy L.
Subject: FY 17 Budget Plan
Attachments: FY 17 Across the Board - Status Update.docx

The Department of Rehabilitation Services has implemented the programmatic changes outlined in our 5.75% across the board reduction plan and modified the holdbacks for FY 17 and does not anticipate any additional position or program eliminations or changes during FY 17. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Michelle Provost
Fiscal Administrative Manager 2
Department of Rehabilitation Services
Bureau of Organizational Support – Fiscal Services
55 Farmington Avenue, 12th floor
Hartford, CT 06105
860-424-4976 office
860-424-5849 fax



Department of Rehabilitation Services - FY 2017 Spending Plan

-\$500,000 Educational Services

Reduce funding for the provision of adaptive equipment, aids, braille and large print textbooks (not available through the BESB lending library), and other related materials for students.

School districts are responsible for ensuring students with disabilities are able to participate in their educational curriculum. This includes the provision of adaptive equipment, aids, braille and large print textbooks (not available through the BESB lending library), and other related materials.

6/14/16 Status Update:

The FY 17 appropriation for Educational Services (SID 12060) was reduced by \$513,518. In addition, there has been a \$40,402 allocated lapse identified, for a total reduction \$553,920.

C.G.S. Section 10-295(2)(b) was repealed and the following substitution was made effective July 1, 2016:

The Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services [shall] may use funds appropriated to said account [,first] to provide specialized books, materials, equipment, supplies, adaptive technology services and devices, specialist examinations and aids, preschool programs and vision-related independent living services, excluding primary educational placement, for eligible children. [without regard to a per child statutory maximum.]

The Department has already implemented cost saving measures and anticipates reducing the expenditures associated with the provision of Educational Services in the amount of \$553,920 for FY 17.

-\$448,197 Accessibility Services

Eliminate funding for the provision of sign language interpreter services to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, by January 1, 2017.

Sign language interpreting services are available through the private sector.

6/14/16 Status Update:

The FY 17 appropriation for Accessibility Services (SID 12037) was reduced by \$99. In addition, there has been a \$14 allocated lapse identified, for a total reduction of \$113.

Effective, July 15, 2016, the department has eliminated the state-operated sign language interpreter services program, retaining the option for state agencies to hire interpreters either as their own employees or through other fee for service arrangements. State agencies will be able to maximize their use of private for-profit and private non-profit entities for the provision of American Sign Language interpreting services.

C.G.S. Section 46(a)-33b was repealed and the following substitution was made effective July 1, 2016:

Upon the request of any person or any public or private entity, the Department of Rehabilitation Services [shall] may provide interpreting services to assist such person or entity to the extent such persons who provide interpreting services are available. Any person or entity receiving interpreting services through the department shall reimburse the department for such services at a rate set by the Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services. The commissioner shall adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to establish the manner of rate setting.

The Department of Rehabilitation Services anticipates reducing expenditures associated with the provision of Accessibility Services resulting in savings to the State of Connecticut in excess of \$448,197 during FY 17.

-\$181,997 Independent Living Services

Eliminate funding for the provision of community inclusion activities for individuals who are deaf and blind living in institutions, group homes or cottage settings (36 clients).

Community inclusion services would be the responsibility of the institution/provider agency. In most instances community inclusion services are already being provided.

Funding is being preserved for community inclusion activities for individuals who are deaf and blind and not living in institutions, group homes or cottage settings (17 clients).

6/14/16 Status Update:

The FY 17 appropriation for Independent Living Services (SID 16078) was reduced by \$18,578 for FY 17. In addition, there has been a \$2,680 allocated lapse identified, for a total reduction of \$21,258.

The contracts associated with providing Independent Living Services will be modified accordingly to include the change in the provision of service. The Department of Rehabilitation Services anticipates reducing the expenditures associated with the provision of Independent Living Services in the amount of \$160,739, in addition to the \$18,578 appropriation reduction and \$2,680 holdback, for a total savings of \$181,997 during FY 17.

-\$44,570 Independent Living Services

Reduce funding for the provision of adaptive devices and aids to enable adults who are blind to remain independent in their homes and communities.

Funding is being preserved for the provision of adaptive devices and aids up to the amount necessary to meet the federal Older Blind and Independent Living Program match requirements and to preserve federal funding for these two programs.

This option does not require statutory change.

6/8/16 Status Update:

The FY 17 appropriation for Independent Living Services (SID 16040) was reduced by \$6,144. In addition, there has been an \$886 allocated lapse identified for a total reduction of \$7,030.

The Department of Rehabilitation Services has already implemented cost saving measures and anticipates reducing the expenditures associated with the provision of Independent Living Services in the amount of \$37,540, in addition to the \$6,144 appropriation reduction and \$886 holdback, for a total savings of \$44,570 during FY 17.