

**FISCAL NOTE**  
 LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

<b>ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES (See narrative for political subdivision estimates)</b>				
	<b>FY 2022-23</b>		<b>FY 2023-24</b>	
	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>REVENUE</b>
GENERAL FUNDS				
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS	\$500,000			
OTHER FUNDS				
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	\$500,000			

**Any Fiscal Notes received from state agencies and political subdivisions are attached following the Legislative Fiscal Analyst Estimate.**

This bill would provide \$500,000 in FY 2023 to the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing from the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund. The funds would be used for in-person interpreting in rural areas and legal communication access. The bill has the emergency clause

Although the funds are appropriated in FY 2023, it is unclear if the funds would be used for one year or over two as shown in the fiscal note from the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

The bill directs the use of a portion of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding available under the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF).

The following are the allowed uses of SLFRF funds:

- **Replace lost public sector revenue**, using this funding to provide government services up to the amount of revenue lost due to the pandemic
- **Respond to the far-reaching public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic**, by supporting the health of communities, and helping households, small businesses, impacted industries, nonprofits, and the public sector recover from economic impacts
- **Provide premium pay for essential workers**, offering additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical sectors
- **Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure**, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, to support vital wastewater and storm water infrastructure, and to expand affordable access to broadband internet

<b>ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY &amp; POLT. SUB. RESPONSE</b>				
LB:	1162	AM:	AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing	
REVIEWED BY:	Ann Linneman	DATE:	1-27-2022	PHONE: (402) 471-4180
COMMENTS: No basis to disagree with the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing assessment of fiscal impact. The total appropriation of \$500,000 is in FY2022-23. Technical Note: The language in LB 1162 does not provide the level of detail necessary to enact the appropriation intended. The maximum funding available under the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund is \$1.04 billion, of which only \$520 million is currently available. Appropriation of these funds must be balanced in aggregate in order to avoid over obligation				

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2022

LB<sup>(1)</sup> 1162

FISCAL NOTE

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: <sup>(2)</sup> Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Prepared by: <sup>(3)</sup> Jackie Novak/John Wyvill Date Prepared: <sup>(4)</sup> 1/26/22 Phone: <sup>(5)</sup> 402-471-3593

ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

	<u>FY 2022-23</u>		<u>FY 2023-24</u>	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
CASH FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
FEDERAL FUNDS	<u>250,000</u>	_____	<u>250,000</u>	_____
OTHER FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>250,000</u>	_____	<u>250,000</u>	_____

**Explanation of Estimate:**

Projected Costs:

Interpreting Services:	\$220,000 per year
Outreach/Community Engagement Specialist*:	\$30,000 per year

- Interpreting services contracts may vary on a case by case basis. Examples of such cost can include actual interpreting time, travel time, mileage, lodging, and meals.
- While it is anticipated that there will be no additional positions needed to process payments it is possible that there could be some associated overtime cost incurred during the startup of programs and processing of payments. Administrative cost to implement both programs will include creating of processes for payment or reimbursement for services provided including adjustments for on line process of payment request and associated cost for outreach to promote the program.

Contents and Background:

Through a **Rural Interpreting Service** initiative, rural communities would have access to quality, licensed sign language interpreting services for a variety of needs. NCDHH would oversee the allotted funds to provide payment or reimbursement for licensed sign language interpreting services in rural areas of Nebraska at **no cost to consumers or service providers in areas such as:**

Examples of community-related, short-term interpreting assignments that are eligible under this program include:

- Medical, mental health counseling and dental appointments
- Parent meetings and school events (not pre-K/grade 12 educational interpreters for students—those services are provided by school districts)
- Community classes and training programs
- Local government appointments
- Community events, meetings, and presentations
- Legal-related needs, such as police interviews, attorney-client meetings, or municipal court proceedings
- Financial appointments
- Work/employment functions

Though a Legal Communication Access fund, monies would be used to pay for interpreters or auxiliary aids and services by to access to the legal system outside the courtroom. Provision of communication access under this program would be at no cost to the consumer or attorneys. Under present system the Nebraska Supreme Court provides for access to the courtroom but not outside of the courtroom. Request for payments or reimbursement will be submitted to agency for payment

Examples of Communication Access fund use for the provision of auxiliary aids and services to ensure effective communication

- Meetings with lawyer in preparation for court hearing
- Communications between lawyer and all people who are deaf, including prospective clients, witnesses, and others whom the attorney may need to communicate with

**BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE**

**Personal Services:**

<b>POSITION TITLE</b>	<b>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</b>		<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>
	<b><u>22-23</u></b>	<b><u>23-24</u></b>	<b><u>EXPENDITURES</u></b>	<b><u>EXPENDITURES</u></b>
<b>Benefits</b> .....				
<b>Operating</b> .....			23,900	23,900
<b>Travel</b> .....			6,100	6,100
<b>Capital outlay</b> .....				
<b>Aid</b> .....			220,000	220,000
<b>Capital improvements</b> .....				
<b>TOTAL</b> .....			250,000	250,000