

Communication Access Services – Program Report – 01/14/2021

Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Relay Nevada

Relay services continue to be provided in Nevada. Below are total number of calls for TRS and CapTel from July 2020 to November 2020.

TRS

07/2020	08/2020	09/2020	10/2020	11/2020
7304	6079	5124	5960	5146

CapTel

07/2020	08/2020	09/2020	10/2020	11/2020
4147	3502	3246	3033	3014

Communication Access Service Centers

The Communication Access Service Centers (CASC) are funded by ADSD through the TDD surcharge to provide specific services to the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Speech Impaired community in Nevada. These services are detailed in Nevada law, NRS 427A.797, and include telecommunications and assistive technology distribution and training, language acquisition, and assisting individuals with access to education, health, social and employment services. Deaf Centers of Nevada provided these services until December 30, 2020, at which time they closed their doors.

The Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) on December 21, 2020 seeking applications for these services. Applications are due by January 29, 2020. This CASC funding opportunity has been restructured from those in the past in order to address

historical challenges in service delivery. Funding has been allocated by region and by service, thereby providing the opportunity for multiple community partners to apply for these services, rather than a single partner. ADSD held an informational meeting for interested NOFO applicants on January 6, 2020. This meeting was well attended by a variety of organizations, which indicates interest in the provision of these services and the potential for multiple NOFO application submissions.

In the interim period before new partners provide these services, ADSD will hire temporary staff to continue services for the community until new community partners are awarded funding. The Communication Access Services team of ADSD will oversee the temporary staff and service delivery. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ADSD temporary staff will provide services remotely for the deaf, hard of hearing, and speech impaired community throughout Nevada.

Additional Information

CASC NOFO: http://adsd.nv.gov/Programs/Grant/Notices_of_Funding_Opportunities/

If you would like to subscribe to CAS mailing list for latest information and updates, please see link: [Communication Access Services Program Mailing List](#)

Interpreter Registry

We currently have a total of 223 Community interpreters and 111 Educational interpreters registered. This number includes some interpreters who are dual registered. We continue to receive an increase number of registered interpreters from out of state due to major need of remote interpreting.

Community Interpreters	Educational Interpreters
223	111

State Interpreters and Mentoring

During FY21, 24 mentees were served by our CAS interpreters/mentors.

1 st Quarter 7/2020-9/2020	2 nd Quarter 10/2020-12/2020
19	23

During FY21, interpreting hours provided by CAS interpreters totaled 19 hours.

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter
7/2020-9/2020	10/2020-12/2020
9	10

Additional Information

During FY21, 13 workshops and presentations have been provided statewide by the CAS team. This amounts to a total of 637 instructional hours to date. It is worth noting that the CAS team has already provided more instructional hours in FY21 than in all of FY20. Topics have included remote interpreting, interpreting in specialized settings, techniques for preparing for interpreting assignments, among others. A workshop on interpreting in Vocational Rehabilitation settings represents the first time CAS has worked with another State agency to provide professional development for interpreters. Feedback from participants indicates that there is considerable interest in more training on other VR-related topics, as well as similar workshops on interpreting at other State social services agencies.

Workshops have been taught at several school districts in both urban and rural counties on their districts' professional development and early release days, as well as in the community for all interpreters and interpreting students statewide. Workshops allow working interpreters to earn professional development hours required to renew with the State interpreter registry.

The CAS team also continues to provide consultation to school district interpreters and administrators on policies and best practices for educational interpreters. One of the CAS Interpreters is working closely with one of the school district's own interpreter mentors on the supervision of interpreters and interpreting-related policies. Following a meeting with a rural district's interpreters during the first of their district's Professional Learning Community days, they indicated a great need for standardizing the provision of interpreting services district-wide. To that end, the CAS team is assisting them in the development of a handbook or guidelines for interpreters to follow or for school site administrators and staff to understand the role of the interpreter.

The CAS Interpreters continue to provide interpreting services for the Governor's press conferences in Carson City, Las Vegas, and remotely.