

Please share this information with my Access Subcommittee members:

The states within the US that do not collect state income tax (you only pay Federal income tax) are the following:

- Alaska
- Florida
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas

Nevada is very conservative when it comes to taxing its citizens. For example, when establishing the Interpreter/Cart registry, the legislators said if the department charged as little as \$5 to the registrants, they would shut down the entire program.

Money for Relay and the Centers for the Deaf comes from a specific funding stream, a telephone tax (in the form of a surcharge you can see on your phone bill) on all phones in Nevada. Wire and wireless. The surcharge is determined by the PUC based on program needs and requirements, (costs) *minus* what is in the reserve from the previous year.

This tax is determined by the stated program needs expressed in budget form. There is a reserve fund (PUC) that keeps money in it from unspent funds from the previous year.

The money covers the FCC ruling for equivalent communication, (7-1-1 Relay - not VRS or VRI per the Federal Communications Commission FCC) and in Nevada has more often than not been extended to advocacy missing in the state.

The program is still beholden to the state legislative budget process which has a "use it or lose it" component to it. If a budget analysis of the program is done from 2010 onward, it will provide a picture of what has gone where and when. You will be able to analyze the growth or lack thereof and identify the barriers preventing program growth and success.

If allowed access to the current budget, including line items, you may see funding going toward ineffective program "fixes" which may not meet the Deaf community's needs such as 2-1-1. and the concept of "self-advocacy".

Copy/paste link below to find information regarding the state's budgeting process, paying close attention to pages 43-45. It is a long process.

<https://budget.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/budgetnv.gov/content/Training/Intro%20to%20State%20Budgeting%20Training.pdf>

Also, I have requested further information from the Nevada Supreme Court Decision that gave more authority to the program to meet the needs of the community, I will report back when I know more information.

Finally, I have contacted personnel in other state programs and will report my findings to you when I get more information about how their programs function independently.

Sincerely,

Betty Hammond