

## Communication Access Services (CAS) – Second Quarter (October 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025) Program Report – 02/11/2026

Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

### Relay Nevada

The FCC released its long-anticipated Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on November 20, 2025, proposing major changes to analog 711 TTY relay services, including making state-run landline relay programs non-mandatory and establishing a national “safe harbor” provider. Nevada’s ADSD has no plans to discontinue its 711 program, citing the state’s unique frontier conditions and the ongoing need for intrastate relay services. CAS is preparing formal comments for the proceeding, gathering community input on TTY use and broadband access, and participating in a NASRA ad hoc committee to coordinate responses with other states.

During this period, CAS also continued collaborating with Reach Nevada on the transition to the new equipment distribution program, which aims to expand access to broadband-capable devices and support consumers in moving from outdated landline systems to modern internet-based communication services such as smartphones, VRS, and IP-CTS.

### Communication Access Service Centers

**ASL Courses:** CSD Works NV continues to receive enrollment for ASL courses across both virtual and in-person offerings. Virtual Session 2, running from September 29 to November 23, enrolled 37 ASL 1 students. Virtual Session 3 began on December 1, enrolling 28 ASL 1 students and 33 ASL 2 students with a waitlist of 27 for in-person sessions.

**Language Mentoring:** CSD Works NV distributed its registration form for language mentoring services and is now adding interested families to the waitlist while working to identify qualified Deaf Mentors who can support families with children ages 0–5. Recruitment of mentors is underway to ensure the program can match families with appropriate language models as soon as placements become available.

**Access to Services (ATS):** CSD Works NV received three referrals through ATS during this period, all related to resource navigation and case management. Staff continue to support individuals by connecting them with appropriate programs, services, and community resources to address their communication access needs.

**Telecommunication Equipment Distribution:** Reach Nevada focused on building the core operational foundation needed to launch statewide services, including developing intake processes, advancing partnership agreements, and establishing a full digital presence through its website and social media platforms. The program processed 9 active client referrals and began service delivery following the official signing of the TelTex agreement for equipment inventory and distribution. Their staffing

positions are now filled, and although equipment distribution and new client services have not yet begun, all operational systems are in place for a January 2026 launch.

**Nevada Hands and Voices (NVHV) Youth Program:** NVHV conducted 634 direct services to 72 families and all their staffing positions are now filled. NVHV hosted a wide range of family and community events during this period, including Infant & Toddler Language Play Groups in Reno, ASL-interpreted story times at the Charleston Library in Las Vegas, and festive Trunk-or-Treat events in both Las Vegas and Reno. Virtual literacy programming continued through the Growing Book by Book series, featuring *Monster Hands* in October and *The ABCs of Inclusion* in November, alongside statewide virtual trainings on special education rights for Deaf and hard of hearing students. Additional activities included the Hands & Voices New Year 5K and attending the National Hands & Voices Leadership Conference in Florida and the Engagement Conference in Las Vegas. They also participated in the Elko County School District Parent Connection Summit in Elko and hosted Signing Santa events in both Elko and Reno. NVHV also launched an updated website to improve access for families.

## State Interpreters and Mentoring

The CAS interpreter/mentors continue to work on improving the quality of ASL-English interpreters in Nevada to meet the Commission's State Plan - Recommendation #3: Quality Interpreters. The CAS mentorship program includes one-on-one mentoring, certification study groups, school district professional development, and workshops. The CAS interpreters also provide interpreting services for State public events, when able.

### One-on-one Mentoring

Current total mentees: 6 between 2 mentors

Location – Urban: 4, Rural: 2

Setting – K-12: 2, Community: 3, Not working: 1

### Certification Study Groups

The 2025 CASLI Generalist Performance Exam Practice Group concluded on December 2.

9 participants successfully completed the group. We look forward to their reporting on exam results.

Dates have been set for future study/practice groups (subject to change):

CASLI Generalist Knowledge Exam Study Group March 23 – May 18, 2026

EIPA Performance Test Practice Group June 23 – December 2, 2026

### Former Mentees' Registration Status (As of January 13, 2026)

Former mentees are individuals who participated in the CAS mentorship program one-on-one mentoring for at least six months and/or successfully completed one or more of the credential testing study groups.

The CAS mentorship program officially began in the summer of 2019. Successful completion means the individual did not miss more than two study group meetings.

Total individual participants to date: 87

Currently not registered: 24 (27.6%)

Currently Registered: 63 (72.4%)

### **Reflective Practice Collective**

CAS commenced its next iteration of the Reflective Practice Collective (RPC) this quarter, in collaboration with the Interpreter Registry. As reported previously, RPC provides a venue for interpreters to gather in a safe and confidential environment to discuss challenges they have experienced in their everyday work, using the framework of Demand Control Schema (DC-S). The group will continue to meet through May 2026. There has been robust attendance. Interest has been so high that there is currently a waiting list to join the group.

### **School District Professional Development Days**

CAS mentors continue to meet with Carson City School District interpreters to facilitate their bi-weekly Professional Learning Community days. The interpreters are bringing thought-provoking cases to discuss.

### **Interpreting**

Q2	Totals	North	South	Rural	Virtual
<b>Requests received</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Requests accepted</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Hours of interpreting services provided*</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Requests declined</b>	0	0	0	0	0
• <b>Non-State entity</b>	0				
• <b>Non-public event</b>	0				
• <b>Scheduling</b>	0				
• <b>Conflict of interest</b>	0				

North: Washoe, Carson City, Storey, Lyon, and Douglas counties

South: Clark County

Rural: All other counties

Virtual: Online, available statewide

Please note that the hours of interpreting services provided are calculated per CAS interpreter (for example, a 2-hour event interpreted by 2 CAS interpreters will be included as 4 hours). In addition, the CAS program provided 1 instance of information and referral related to interpreting services.

## Nevada Interpreter/CART Registry

Below is the data report for the Registry as of January 2, 2026:

Registration type	In State	Out of State	Totals
<b>Community</b>	50	331	381
<b>Provisional Community</b>	19	5	24
<b>Educational</b>	4	8	12
<b>Provisional Educational</b>	21	4	25
<b>Community &amp; Educational</b>	69	28	97
<b>Provisional Community &amp; Educational</b>	10	1	11
<b>Totals</b>	173	377	550

## Additional Information

Kim Nash, who manages the Nevada Interpreter/CART Registry, presented to interpreting students at the College of Southern Nevada and Nevada State University in November. The presentations included information on credential and education requirements for registration, renewal requirements, and responsibilities of registered interpreters.

The CAS team participated in the Engagement Conference on December 13-14, 2025, where they hosted a vendor table and shared information about available programs and services.

Additional information about the CAS program and services can be found on the website:

<https://adsd.nv.gov/Programs/Physical/ComAccessSvc/CAS/>