REHABILITATION SERVICES FACT SHEET

PURPOSE:
- To support the safety, well-being, and self-sufficiency of adults and families by working with individuals with a disability to achieve increased independence and/or gainful employment.
- To provide services to assist individuals with disabilities to cope with disability related issues, to recognize their strengths, to identify their needs and opportunities in order to become economically self-sufficient.
- To help individuals with a disability to live and function more independently within their home or community through supporting major life activities of self-care, receptive and expressive language, self-direction, and economic self-sufficiency.

SERVICE PRIORITIES:
1) Supportive Guidance Counseling Services: This service provides supportive counseling to persons with a disability to achieve or maintain an independent life. Services include disability related adjustment counseling, skill building, case management and coordination, management of emergency and financial issues, prevention of domestic violence, prevention of substance abuse, and general counseling. For persons with a hearing loss communication access with a counselor/case manager who is fluent in American Sign Language.

2) Interpreting Services: This service is provided to persons who are deaf or deafblind who use American Sign Language. Interpreting service relies on “independent contractors” who are nationally certified. Funds for this program support the needs of non-profits who are unable to provide access to Deaf persons using American Sign Language. This will include homeless and domestic violence shelters, non-profits providing skill training and other entities unable to provide communication access.

DEMOGRAPHICS:

General Disability National Data: Harris Poll (9/2010)
- 79% of all persons with a disability are not working as compared to 9.7% of persons without a disability.
- 17% of persons who are disabled do not complete high school as compared to 11% of able bodied persons.
- 34% of persons with a disability are living in poverty as compared to 13% of persons without a disability.
- 34% of persons with a disability have transportation problems as compared to 16% of persons.
- More than 30,000 veterans returned home with service-connected disabilities (e.g., amputations, burns, post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and traumatic brain injuries); PTSD, brain injuries and hearing loss are on the rise.

Hearing Loss
Hearing loss is the highest disability group at 11% of the acknowledged disability population. Hearing loss includes persons who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deafened or DeafBlind.
- 59% of students of deaf youth exit high school without a diploma; 50% read less than a 4th grade level.
- 76% of persons with a hearing loss are unemployed.
- 85% of persons with a hearing loss earn less than $10,000.00 per year.
- 35% of persons with a hearing loss also have a secondary disability.
• 45% of deaf persons report that service providers do not provide communication access
• 75% of service providers have no trained staff in the area of “hearing loss”

UNMET NEEDS

• Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons from minority and ethnic background and women have lower rates of diploma graduation, higher rates of unemployment, do not participate in vocational programming and post secondary options—achieving lower rates of independent living outcomes.
• Little access is available with current providers to address the unique needs of Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons who have no place to obtain support for personal, family, employment or child rearing issues.
• Order of Selection is still occurring with an estimated 3,000 people on a waiting list for VR services

FUNDING

Currently only 3 state-funded programs specifically support persons with a disability.
1) Vocational Rehabilitation (to become economically independent):
   In March 2009, DES’ Vocational Rehabilitation office stopped all new services and began the Order of Selection, which requires that clients who are most significantly disabled to be served first.
2) Division of Developmental Disabilities
   • No state funded dollars for persons eligible for DDD services unless determined Title 19 eligible (long-term care through AHCCCS).
   • 10% cut in all services.
   • State only funded “persons” on hold for employment services.
3) Behavioral Health:
   • 17,000 seriously mentally ill adults in Arizona face dramatic reductions in services if federal matching funds are not restored in 2011.
   • 6,600 people losing substance abuse services

GAPS

• Systems in Arizona are fragmented and driven by eligibility. Currently if you have a hearing loss there is no funding to support your needs unless you are eligible for Behavioral Health services or Title 19 eligibility (long term care) under the Division of Developmental Disabilities.
• Only 2% of families of “students with a hearing loss” learn American Sign language. This results in significant gaps in understanding social cues, emotional resilience, independent living skills and educational skills.
• 35% of all deaf persons have a secondary disability and are in need of on-going support in living and employment with no funding that supports this need.
• Social services lack equal accessibility to persons with a hearing loss with no trained staff and systems unable to support the communication and cultural needs of persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.
• Only one service provider in Pima County provides counseling services and other comprehensive services with accessible communication to persons who have a hearing loss.

SERVICE PROVIDERS

Beacon, Direct Center on Independence, SAVVI, Goodwill, Direct Center on Independence, SAVVI, Goodwill Industries of Southern Arizona, Community Outreach Program for the Deaf, Adult Loss of Hearing Association, Community Partnership of Southern Arizona (CPSA), COPE Community Services CODAC, La Frontera, DKA Advocates, Inc