

# Deaf Access Program

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*(Welfare and Institutions Code 10620-10629, 10559)*

The Deaf Access Program (DAP) was created by the Legislature in 1980 to ensure that California's public programs meet the communication needs of the state's deaf and hard of hearing individuals. The DAP allows them to access the public benefits and services to which they are entitled and helps them to achieve economic independence and fully participate in mainstream society.

The DAP is administered by the Office of Deaf Access, which contracts with eight private, non-profit, charitable agencies throughout the state to provide services. Most of these agencies have been providing DAP services since the program began. The program's budget for the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year is \$5.2 million dollars.

There are seven services mandated by the DAP:

- **Communication Services**, such as sign language interpreting, training in communication skills, captioning, document translation and providing information about assistive technology.
- **Advocacy Services**, to ensure equal access to employment, education and other services, both public and private.
- **Job Development and Placement Services**, such as the development of job openings, providing career information and assistance, and providing technical information to employers on accommodating deaf and hard of hearing employees.
- **Information and Referral Services**, which include providing information about deafness and hearing loss, identifying community resources and referring clients to accessible resources to help them in their particular situations.
- **Counseling Services**, such as individual and family counseling tailored to the cultural and communication needs of the deaf and hard of hearing, peer counseling and referral to community mental health services.
- **Independent Living Skills Instruction**, to teach clients the skills necessary to become more independent in their daily lives and achieve economic self-sufficiency.
- **Community Education**, which develops a greater awareness of deafness and hearing loss, and the specific issues and needs faced by deaf and hard of hearing persons.

During the 2014/2015 Fiscal Year, the DAP provided 174,048 services to approximately 82,000 people at 21 locations throughout the state.

STATE FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015  
YEAR END FINAL REPORTS

## DEAF ACCESS PROGRAM BUDGETS

SERVICE REGIONS	Administrative Costs	Communication Services	Counseling	Advocacy Services	Independent Living Skills Instruction	Job Development & Placement	Information and Referral	Community Education	TOTAL COST
Deaf Community Services of San Diego	\$ 50,612	\$ 7,210	\$ 16,067	\$ 70,797	\$ 5,267	\$ 5,438	\$ 79,797	\$ 90,045	\$ 325,233
Center on Deafness Inland Empire	\$ 51,048	\$ 198,947	\$ 47,750	\$ 14,907	\$ 17,218	\$ 2,127	\$ 159,033	\$ 19,461	\$ 510,491
Orange County Deaf Equal Access Foundation	\$ 28,882	\$ 114,721	\$ 18,775	\$ 10,762	\$ 28,276	\$ 4,492	\$ 56,713	\$ 26,211	\$ 288,832
Greater L.A. Agency on Deafness (GLAD)	\$ 111,477	\$ 461,929	\$ 116,666	\$ 113,646	\$ 104,904	\$ 8,964	\$ 155,320	\$ 41,867	\$ 1,114,773
GLAD-Tri County	\$ 21,008	\$ 64,171	\$ 18,916	\$ 20,707	\$ 7,958	\$ 3,318	\$ 46,242	\$ 27,749	\$ 210,069
Deaf & Hard of Hearing Service Center	\$ 140,846	\$ 162,376	\$ 78,303	\$ 29,452	\$ 78,155	\$ 31,704	\$ 51,145	\$ 78,583	\$ 650,564
NorCal Center On Deafness	\$ 97,445	\$ 386,627	\$ 88,457	\$ 106,866	\$ 113,953	\$ 96,279	\$ 42,824	\$ 42,089	\$ 974,540
Deaf Counseling, Advocacy & Referral Agency	\$ 275,302	\$ 147,416	\$ 77,524	\$ 94,751	\$ 94,751	\$ 25,841	\$ 394,119	\$ 25,614	\$ 1,135,318
<b>TOTAL:</b>	\$ 776,620	\$ 1,543,397	\$ 462,458	\$ 461,888	\$ 450,482	\$ 178,163	\$ 985,193	\$ 351,618	\$ 5,209,820
	15%	30%	9%	9%	9%	3%	19%	7%	

## ACTUAL NUMBER OF SERVICES PROVIDED

SERVICE REGIONS	Communication Services	Counseling	Advocacy Services	Independent Living Skills Instruction	Job Development & Placement	Information and Referral	Community Education	TOTAL
Deaf Community Services of San Diego (DCS)	2,040	148	2,110	211	132	5,690	2,476	12,807
Center on Deafness Inland Empire (CODIE)	8,606	2,066	645	745	92	6,881	842	19,877
Orange County Deaf Equal Access Foundation (OC-DEAF)	3,550	581	333	875	139	1,755	811	8,044
Greater L.A. Agency on Deafness (GLAD)	14,531	3,670	3,575	3,300	282	4,886	1,317	31,561
Tri County GLAD	4,410	1,300	1,423	547	228	3,178	1,907	12,993
Deaf & Hard of Hearing Service Center (DHHSC)	4,394	2,119	797	2,115	858	5,536	10,633	26,452
NorCal Center On Deafness (NORCAL)	8,947	2,047	2,473	2,637	2,228	12,393	12,173	42,898
Deaf Counseling, Advocacy & Referral Agency (DCARA)	2,119	1,189	1,643	1,496	274	7,999	4,696	19,416
<b>TOTAL SERVICES PROVIDED:</b>	48,597	13,120	12,999	11,926	4,233	48,318	34,855	174,048
	28%	8%	7%	7%	2%	28%	20%	

# Deaf Access Program Service Regions and Funding Limits

<i>Region</i>	<i>Counties Served</i>	<i>Funding Limits</i>
I	Imperial and San Diego	\$328,109
II	Inyo, Mono, Riverside and San Bernardino	\$515,018
III	Orange	\$289,978
IV	Kern and Los Angeles	\$1,119,322
V	San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura	\$210,182
VI	Fresno, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Monterey, San Benito and Tulare	\$650,564
VII	Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne, Yolo and Yuba	\$974,540
VIII	Alameda, Contra Costa, Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano and Sonoma	\$1,135,887
	<b>Total DAP Funding</b>	<b>\$5,223,600</b>

# DEAF ACCESS PROGRAM

## Service Regions



# ASSISTANCE DOG SPECIAL ALLOWANCE PROGRAM

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Assistance Dog Special Allowance (ADSA) Program provides a monthly payment of \$50 to disabled persons who live in California and use the services of a guide, signal, or service dog to help them with their disability-related needs. The allowance is to help pay for food, grooming, health care, and/or other cost incurred by caring for an assistance dog.

## PROGRAM HISTORY

In 1973, the Adult Program Management Bureau (APMB) established the Guide Dog Food Allowance (GDFA) program to help recipients of public social services under Chapter 3 of Part 3, Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) with the cost of dog food for their certified guide dogs. The APMB identified the necessary expense as a recurring special need of guide dog users under the Aid to the Blind (AB) program and established the \$18 allowance. When program eliminated the AB and created the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and State Supplementary Payment (SSP) program, the GDFA program remained as a special needs benefit of SSP.

Legislation in 1990 extended the program to cover signal and service dogs and increase the allowance from \$30 to \$50 monthly. The language also included allowing expenses for other costs associated with an assistance dog's care and maintenance. The GDFA program changed the name to the Assistance Dog Special Allowance Program, and in July 1995, the Department transferred ADSA to the Office of Services to the Blind.

February 1999, Senator Hughes introduced Senate Bill (SB) 858. The senate bill proposed adding Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) recipients who meet the federal poverty level and require an assistance dog for their daily living. In 2001, ADSA received the Notification of Approval of Certificate of Compliance for implementing SB 858. Program updated the regulations adding SSDI recipients as eligible persons with a \$35 monthly allowance, and removed the requirement for professional training.

In 2003, program amended the regulations again to implement the provisions of SB 1190 (Chapter 452, Statutes of 2001) this increased the monthly ADSA allowance for SSDI recipients from \$35 to \$50. Also, to implement the Department's existing policy-interpreting WIC, section 18941 specifying that recipients of the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) are categorically eligible for the ADSA allowance, program added CAPI to the regulations as eligible recipients.

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATIONS

To be eligible for the ADSA program a person must meet all four of the following criteria:

1. Have a disability
2. Is a recipient of SSI/SSP, IHSS, SSDI or CAPI
3. Is a user of a trained guide, signal or service dog
4. Live in California.

The ADSA program uses three applications, the ADSA1 for use by recipients of SSI/SSP, IHSS, and CAPI, the ADSA1B for use by recipients of SSDI, and the ADSA1A. All recipients are required to complete the ADSA1A annually. The ADSA1A allows program to check for any changes in eligibility.

## LAWS, FUNDING AND CASELOAD

The ADSA program is a state-funded program, governed by the WIC sections 12553 and 12554, and California Department of Social Service, Manual of Policy and Procedures section 46-430.

ADSA currently operates within a budget of \$554K annually and serves 909 recipients statewide. The ADSA caseload is divided into three groups that consist of, 397 guide dog users, 90 signal dog users, and 422 service dog users. The ADSA program budget will increase fiscal year 2016-2017 to \$566K.

## MOST RECENT CHANGES – POLICIES

May 2015, the ADSA program adopted as policy use of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) definition of "Service Animal", as a guide to establish eligibility for persons who require a service dog for mental or psychiatric disabilities. The ADA language excludes emotional support, companion and therapy dogs. The definition defines a Service Animal as a dog trained to do work or perform tasks that help to mitigate the limitations of an individual's disabilities.