

**POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR SERVING DEAF AND
HARD OF HEARING INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING PURCHASE OF
HEARING AIDS AND OTHER ASSISTIVE LEARNING DEVICES**

I. LEGAL AUTHORITY:

Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, in Title IV of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998; 34 CFR 361.48(j); 34 CFR 361.49(a)(2).

II. POLICY STATEMENT AND PURPOSE:

The Agency will maintain state-wide specialized caseloads to meet the complex rehabilitation needs of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals. Vocational considerations need to include not only communication but also cultural, educational and social dynamics. Rehabilitation counselor fluency in ASL and knowledge about communication strategies/technologies will be encouraged.

For the provision of ORS services, the Agency will arrange and pay for qualified interpreters except when a service provider is mandated by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, by ADA, or by state law to make interpreters available. Care will be taken to ensure specialized interpreter skills (medical, legal, CDI) are utilized in vocationally relevant situations.