



**DeafBlind Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS)
Funding Request - \$300,000 annually, short-term
(amendment to the Budget Reconciliation Bill)**

Please note this funding request is separate from the \$192,000 for Support Service Provider (SSP)

What is the difference between SSP and HCBS ?

HCBS help DeafBlind individuals with independent living skills around their home and community.

SSP - relay visual and environmental information, act as sighted guide and facilitate communication for people who are DeafBlind.

Examples of SSP (long-term funding necessary)

- Facilitates environmental and visual communication access
- Provides mobility/travel, communication in conducting errands, enables person to participate communicatively in community events and any other direct activities
- Provides text access/translation by reading client's mail (correspondence and bills) and signs in the environment as well as assists clients with completing forms

Examples of HCBS (proposed short-term funding as a stopgap until ALTCS can provide)

- Assist clients in telephonic communication and assistive technology, providing assessments and training as necessary
- Provide technical assistance and case management to consumers
- Provides independent living skills development
- Orientation and Mobility training
- Provides self-advocacy training

Talking points:

- Current ALTCS qualification is a barrier for DeafBlind individuals -- they cannot receive services from ALTCS.
- This funding will help DeafBlind gain independence and keep them from being institutionalized.
- Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is the only state service available for Deafblind – if they are ready for employment. Not all DeafBlind are employment ready and many are older adults.
- Funding will allow time for the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing (ACDHH) to address barriers with AHCCCS/ALTCS and create long-term solutions.

CONTACT: Representative Shooter, DShooter@azleg.gov, 602-926-4139 and ask him to support this
Email info@acdhh.az.gov for additional info