

Office of State Budget and Management
Establish New, Receipt-Supported Positions
(G.S. 143-34.1)

Agency: DHHS

Division: Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Budget Code: 67425

Center Title: Telecommunication Relay Service - Wireless

Center Number: 6726

***** Position Information *****

Proposed Classification: Community Development Specialist I **Proposed Salary Grade:** 70

Salary Range: 40,125 **Proposed Effective Date:** 03 / 01 / 04

Number of Positions: 1

	<u>Authorized Budget</u>	<u>Current Request</u>
Total Budget	\$ 4,676,765	\$ 58,998
Receipts	<u>4,676,765</u>	<u>58,998</u>
Appropriation	\$ 0	\$ 0

Funding Source(s): Wireless Telecommunication Relay Service Funds

Justification for Position (including description of duties and responsibilities):

The Division of Services for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing (DSDHH) is under legislative mandate to provide Telecommunications access to people throughout the State of North Carolina. In 2003, Senate Bill 939 was passed, providing DHHS with the funds necessary to address the programmatic needs of deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind residents. One of the goals of this program is to develop and maintain telecommunications access to emergency alert and warning systems throughout the state.

The primary purpose of this position is to develop and maintain a comprehensive statewide system to provide emergency alerting and response services to deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind consumers throughout the State of North Carolina. Responsibilities will include utilizing and adapting existing telecommunications services and equipment where possible, as well as developing new and specific services for people with hearing loss. This is a new position that is being developed in response to Legislative and community initiative regarding documented unmet needs in the area of emergency alerting and response for this specific population in North Carolina.

We are currently requesting an additional Community Development Specialist I to work in the Central Office of DSDHH with the Statewide Programs Team. The primary responsibility of this position will be to develop a notification network that will allow deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind residents access to emergency warnings and alerts in times of weather warnings, natural disaster, and terrorist disasters. Many of the individuals who will benefit from this initiative are older adults. Without this position, DSDHH will not have the staff expertise needed to insure that State Emergency Response Team services and notification reaches our vulnerable citizens.

Statutory Reference for Request

Allyn Guffey

Presentation to be made by

Director, Budget and Analysis

Title

Linda Harrington

Agency Head Signature

State Budget Officer Signature