

DHHSC Annual Report for the year of 2018
(prepared December 2018)

Accomplishments

Our primary funder, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS)-Office of Deaf Access, funds our seven core services, which include Communication Assistance, Counseling, Advocacy, Independent Living Skills Instruction, Job Development and Placement, Information and Referral, and Community Education. As part of our contract with CDSS, we set goals for each of the seven service categories regarding the number of clients we will serve. At the end of each fiscal year, we then provide CDSS with an End-of-Year Report. We are pleased to report that we either met or exceeded the goals for six of the seven categories for the most recent year, with percentages ranging from 61% to 481%, with the majority of categories exceeding 100%. The one category for which we only achieved 61%, Counseling, we believe is due to an increase in the length of appointment times and clients needing more of the other services.

We also successfully completed nine grant-funded programs in 2018:

Our **Family Services Program** was a program, funded by Whitney Foundation, that included at-home American Sign Language instruction (ROCK program), employment preparation for Deaf and Hard of Hearing high school students (YES! program), IEP advocacy, and literacy development. This grant made it possible for us to bring back a DOR fee-for-service LEAD (Language, Employment, Assessment and Development) program on a trial basis. The goal was to see if the LEAD program can become self-sustaining and we are thrilled to share that it is still being offered today. We are grateful to Whitney Foundation for this “seed” money and the opportunity to bring back a valuable service to our Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community. Our Fresno Headquarters, South Valley Outreach, Central Coast Outreach, and Merced Outreach offices implemented the Family Services Program successfully. During spring 2018, we hosted our 3rd Annual Family Day event, with 52 people in attendance, and more than 40 Deaf and Hard of Hearing middle and high students from local schools participated in our 7th Annual YES! Job Awareness Fair.

We successfully met our goals with this program.

United Way of Tulare County funded our **Deaf Youth Program**, facilitated by a Deaf Mentor, which provided American Sign Language (ASL) literacy development, tutoring, and Deaf mentorship, all of which support a path to success for Deaf and Hard of Hearing youth. Through this program, it has been our ongoing goal that more Deaf and Hard of Hearing youth graduate from high school with a diploma, obtain a degree from college, and secure gainful employment, all leading to independent and successful lives.

We successfully met our goals with this program.

United Way of Merced County funded our **Deaf and Hard of Hearing Wellness program (D-Well)** for our Merced Outreach office. This program provided monthly workshops on health-related topics, which greatly benefited our community. Our community members obtained up-to-date information and resources on current health issues.

We successfully met our goals with this program.

We completed another contract year with Employment Development Department that allows us to offer **employment assistance services** to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at an EDD location in Fresno. This contract funds one full-time Employment Specialist and one full-time Staff Interpreter. During 2018, they relocated to the Workforce Connection office at Manchester Mall, which is a more central location in Fresno and a bus hub, more accessible for our Deaf and Hard of Hearing clients.

We successfully met our goals with this program.

Deaf Access was a program based in the Central Coast Outreach office in Salinas, funded again by Harden Foundation, providing primarily systems advocacy for our community. Our focus was on improving accessibility for Deaf and Hard of Hearing community members at various organizations and businesses, such as hospitals, law centers, police departments, and more. In addition to systems advocacy, we provided a self-advocacy workshop.

We successfully met our goals with this program.

We completed our first year of the **ASL 4 Kids program** in Merced County, funded by First 5 of Merced County. This program, which is funded for several more years, provides ASL instruction to any children between the ages of 0 and 5, regardless of whether they are Deaf or hearing. Priority is given to families with Deaf and Hard of Hearing children, but the program is also open to hearing kids with the goal of teaching these kids about ASL and their Deaf peers to reduce communication and cultural barriers. Giving these kids a positive perspective on their Deaf peers and exposure to another language is another way to benefit our community.

We successfully met our goals with this program.

Central California Women's Conference again awarded us funding for our **deSIGN Artists United** program, an art-oriented workshop series we host in Fresno for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community. Unlike other local classes, our deSIGN Artists United workshops are facilitated in American Sign Language, providing our clients with a very accessible environment for creating art. This version of the program focuses on women and children, to honor the terms of the grant funding.

We successfully met our goals with this program.

Our **Our Deaf Culture, Our Deaf History** program in the Central Coast area, funded by the donor-advised Doolittle Fund of Community Foundation of Monterey County, provided both group and

one-on-one study sessions and art lessons that incorporated Deaf Culture and Deaf History to Deaf and Hard of Hearing high school students. We successfully showcased works of art created by Deaf and Hard of Hearing students at a local high school in Salinas to raise awareness of our Deaf Community and its unique history and culture. While teaching our students Deaf identity development, which included developing pride in self as a whole individual who is a member of a linguistic and cultural minority, it was also our goal to instill a deeper appreciation for the contributions of Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals throughout history. For some of the lessons, we brought in a guest instructor, Brian Berlinski, who taught the students how to create masks that express their cultures. It was these masks that were featured in the showcase and each included a description of the student's journey.

We successfully met our goals with this program.

In 2018, we completed another grant year of our Communication Access Program (CAP) which was funded by Monterey Peninsula Foundation. This program funded both interpreting services for our Client Services Specialist in the Central Coast Outreach office and also Communication Assistance services to our local Deaf Community there. Additionally, we provided Terp Time workshops for aspiring interpreters. Having more access to an interpreter allowed our Deaf staff to be able to serve families without the added communication barrier.

We successfully met our goals for the program, but the interest in the Terp Time workshops was minimal. For this reason, we decided not to include the series in our next application.

We began five new grant-funded programs this year:

We applied for and successfully received another year of funding from United Way of Merced County for a new version of our **D-Well program**, which we call **D-Well Video Series**. This program, focusing on monthly health-related videos instead of workshops, began its new year in July and is proving to be a successful one for our community.

We applied for a third year contract with the Employment Development Department to continue providing employment services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Our first two years were successful, and we aim to do even better during our third year. We are thrilled to once again receive the Wagner-Peyser funding, and our community continues to utilize the valuable services at EDD.

We were awarded not one, but two more years of funding for our **Communication Assistance Program (CAP)** from Monterey Peninsula Foundation. We are thrilled to be able to continue with the program!

We applied for and successfully received another year of funding from United Way of Tulare County for our **Deaf Youth Program**. We know the youth we serve and their families join us in our appreciation of this funding to continue these services!

Fansler Foundation awarded us funding again for our **Deaf Thrive** program, which they previously funded. This program, very similar to the Family Service Program, provides ASL

communication-building sessions (ROCK program), employment preparation classes for Deaf and Hard of Hearing youth (YES! program), and literacy services. Our Fresno, South Valley Outreach, and Merced Outreach offices are now implementing this program. Our annual Family Day event and YES! Career Awareness Fair will both be included in the program this year as well.

Other examples of our success in 2018

We had many successful events in 2018. Three in particular were our Martha's Vineyard in the Valley, 7th Annual YES! Job Awareness Fair, and 29th Annual Valley Deaf Festival, for which the theme was May the Deaf Force Be With You.

The purpose of our annual YES! Job Awareness Fair is to introduce Deaf and Hard of Hearing middle and high school students to different Deaf and Hard of Hearing professionals while exposing them to the employment search process, available career paths, and the importance of pursuing higher education. Students created their very own resumes and personal/business cards and learned about different occupations that are now available; in this rapidly changing world, new jobs emerge while others disappear.

We had an incredibly large turnout, 1,375 paid attendees, for our 29th Annual Valley Deaf Festival! Peter Cook was our special entertainer for the event and was very popular with college/university students majoring in Deaf Education, Deaf Studies, and Interpreting. Many were familiar with his work and wanted to see him in action. Instead of having both a silent auction and raffle prizes, we decided to do only raffle baskets and draw winners every half hour. This new approach was very successful, which we will implement again next year.

Due to an expensive and unexpected necessity of replacing the roof of our Fresno Headquarters, Central California Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (CCRID) partnered with DHHSC in kicking off the Raise the Roof campaign. In one year's time, we raised \$41,549.25! We are almost done with paying off the roof, and we are so touched and humbled by the outpouring of support. It was crucial we continue providing a safe, dry, and healthy environment for our staff, Board of Directors, advisory council members, clients, community members, and all who enter our building, and we are thankful for all the donors who made this possible. Thank you!

Visalia Chamber of Commerce hosts an annual Christmas Tree Auction for nonprofit organizations, and we are grateful to Jessica Logano-Delgado and Visalia Podcast for sponsoring DHHSC's Christmas tree. They sponsored \$500 and the tree brought in \$1,000! The theme of the tree was vintage Americana, and our proud sponsors plan to go for a bigger tree next year to bring in more funds. We will be using the money to host a town hall/pizza social for our Visalia Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community to plan new events and activities for 2019.

Another fundraiser that DHHSC hosted in 2018 was at Adventure Park in Visalia, and our Visalia staff raised \$95. The funds will be used to cover expenses not normally included in our budget.

Heartfelt Thanks

As always, we are grateful to our primary funder, California Department of Social Services-Office of Deaf Access, for their continued support of our core services. Without CDSS, we would not be able to provide as many services as we do.

During 2018, California legislature approved a \$4.0 million budget augmentation for Deaf Access Program (DAP), and the funds were apportioned among the eight sister agencies. The new funding is continual, not a one-time lump sum, and was the first increase for DAP in approximately 20 years. We were facing yet another budget cut in July 2018 and was then awarded a budget augmentation, which meant hiring new staff to serve Deaf and Hard of Hearing clients in linguistically isolated households and from other countries. We are deeply grateful for Assembly Speaker pro Tempore Kevin Mullin for sponsoring this budget request on behalf of California Coalition of Agencies Serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCASDHH) and Fresno's very own Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula for supporting this request. They truly made a difference for our sister agencies and all the local Deaf and Hard of Hearing Communities we serve!

We would also like to express our heartfelt gratitude to funders of our grant programs for 2018: Levine W. Levine Foundation, Fansler Foundation, United Way of Merced County, First Five of Merced County, Monterey Peninsula Foundation, Harden Foundation, Whitney Foundation, Central California Women's Conference, Visalia's Citizens Advisory Committee, and the Dolittle Fund of Community Foundation of Monterey County. Your support of our programs has been such a blessing for our Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community!

We were also blessed to receive continued support from United Way Combined Federal Campaign, which paid for materials and curriculum for staff to use for DHHSC's many programs. We are fortunate to receive such support from all of you!

Furthermore, we would like to thank Sorenson Communications and Educational Employees Credit Union for their continued support of our annual events, such as our 29th Annual Valley Deaf Festival. We also had a new sponsor, sComm, for VDF, and we were thrilled to have them as part of our biggest event of the year.

A big thank you to Sign & Sew Guild (SSG) for their annual quilt fundraiser for DHHSC. This year, the quilt raised \$1,359.00! SSG will soon decide how they would like DHHSC to use the funds.

We are grateful to Martha Coletti for her continued support and loyalty to DHHSC. She has donated \$4,110 for our Raise the Roof campaign. She also donated \$1,000 towards the cost of new window blinds for the Fresno Headquarters.

A big thank you to Valley Deaf Seniors for matching the other needed \$1,000 for the window blinds for the Fresno Headquarters and donating a VDF raffle basket. They also supported our 10th Annual Holiday Luncheon, and we appreciate their ongoing support of our community events.

Mary J. Pigott generously donated a total of \$7,000 to DHHSC, \$6,000 for the painting of the exterior of the Fresno Headquarters and \$1,000 for our General Fund. We are grateful for her ongoing support of our work and desire to improve the appearance of our building.

Other donors that we want to publicly acknowledge and appreciate for their contributions are:

● Yellow Brick Road Benefit House	\$3,000.00
● V Town Derby Dames & Delta Theta Tau Philanthropist Sorority	\$2,300.00
● Network for Good	\$1,639.57
● Fig Garden Rotary Foundation	\$1,500.00
● Central California RID	\$1,275.00
● United Way California Capital Region	\$1,150.97
● Kimberly Arvanigian	\$1,000.00
● United Way Federal Campaign	\$754.46
● Anonymous Donor	\$350.00
● North Fresno Lions	\$500.00
● Exchange Club of Fresno	\$500.00
● Sheila Lynch	\$500.00
● United Way of Greater Philadelphia	\$475.00
● Ashlee Miknuk	\$473.16
● Joan F. Creighton	\$400.00
● Jessica Marie Lozano-Delgado	\$350.00
● Target Corporation	\$320.00
● Renee Garcia	\$300.00
● Kathleen Marie Doerksen	\$290.00
● Rosemary R. Wanis	\$260.00
● Fishman, Larsen, Goldring & Zeitler	\$250.00
● Buckman-Mitchell, Inc.	\$250.00
● United Way Fresno/Madera Fed Cam	\$207.72
● Dave Allread	\$205.00
● Centene Management Company LLC	\$200.00
● Gary Lueng	\$200.00
● Dr. Paul Ogden	\$200.00
● Sew Big Fabrics, LLC	\$176.84
● David and Linda Hammer-Brown	\$125.00
● Greta J. Souza	\$125.00
● Rosa Strobel	\$105.00
● Amazon Smile Foundation	\$102.99
● Carol Brautigam	\$100.00
● Susan Coulter	\$100.00
● Debora Louise Rines	\$100.00
● Helen Siporin	\$100.00

- Kelly Venegas

\$100.00

Finally, we want to acknowledge each of you who volunteered or donated to DHHSC in 2018. We are so appreciative of every hour of volunteer work you do for us and for every donated dollar that supports DHHSC's services and programs, such as for our two #GivingTuesday campaigns: Family Services Program and Helping Hands. Your efforts and financial support make possible for us to achieve as many goals as we can for the community we so passionately serve.

As always, we express our deep gratitude for our Board of Directors for their time serving on the board. We are thankful to have every hour of support you offer through our fundraising efforts and our events! We also appreciate our Board of Directors for donating funds towards our Raise the Roof campaign.

Your continued support is needed

Every day, each DHHSC service provider shows commitment to providing quality services to our community. We believe in providing the best services possible, and we know that our efforts do make a difference. We deeply care about the community we serve, including each Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf Blind, and Late-Deafened supporter and caring individuals, like you, who well understand the vast needs of our community.

Your support is welcome, whether it is a donation of your time or money. If you would like to donate your time in volunteering, please visit your local DHHSC office today and ask how you can contribute.

If you would like to donate money online for DHHSC's services, you can easily do so at this link:

<http://www.dhhsc.org/donations-page>

We also welcome donations in person at any of our four offices, and of course, your donations are tax-deductible!