

N E W S R E L E A S E

News Release

No.: 15-15

Date: May 6, 2015

\$2.25 Million in Grants Available to Help Increase Employment of Hearing Impaired

SACRAMENTO: Grants totaling \$2.25 million are available to provide quality and easily accessible employment services for the California's Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing (DHH) population, according to the Employment Development Department (EDD).

"Improving services that bring the hearing impaired into the workforce benefits us all," said EDD Director Patrick W. Henning, Jr.

Public agencies or private non-profit corporations who outreach to the DHH population are encouraged to apply. California's employment officials increased this year's grant allotment by \$750,000 to keep pace with the state's growing use of DHH services and rising business costs.

There are seventeen [America's Job Center of CaliforniaSM \(AJCC\)](#) locations that provide specialized services in areas of California with large DHH communities. These services include counseling, interpretive services, job placement, follow-up services, advocacy, and training to become job-ready. The program also assists job-ready DHH individuals in obtaining and retaining employment by assisting in the interaction between an employer and the hearing-impaired employee. Services available through the DHH program provide translation and facilitation for hiring businesses.

Proposals seeking funding must target DHH individuals that are available for and seeking employment, and clearly demonstrate the ability to provide these services. Applicants may submit proposals to provide services for one or multiple sites, and/or provide services at multiple sites within a targeted geographical area.

Deadline: Applications are due no later than Tuesday, May 12, 2015 by 3 p.m.

Please refer to the [Solicitation for Proposal](#) on the [EDD website](#) for funding and requirement information, or contact Gil Barkley, Program Manager, at Gil.Barkley@edd.ca.gov.

If you are deaf or hard-of-hearing, you can receive interpretive, job placement, and follow-up services to help you find a job. Contact EDD by using the following TTY toll free numbers:

- Disability Insurance: (TTY) 1-800-563-2441
- Employment Tax: (TTY) 1-800-547-9565
- Unemployment Insurance (TTY) 1-800-815-9387