

June 29, 2005

To: The Parties interested in Docket 05-R510-01
From: The Public Service Commission
Subject: Request for Information

Pursuant to statutory changes effective in May, 2005, the Utah Public Service Commission is authorized to provide funds to “an institution within the state system of higher education listed in Section 53B-1-1-102 for a program approved by the Board of Regents that trains persons to qualify as certified interpreters or the Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for a program that trains interpreters.” Section 54-8b-10. The reference to certified interpreter means a person who is a certified interpreter under Title 53A, Chapter 26b, Interpreter Services for the Hearing Impaired Act. Section 54-8b-10. The Commission desires to implement the legislation in a manner that increases the number of certified interpreters in the State of Utah.

In order to assist the Commission in deciding how to use this new funding authorization, the Commission seeks additional information and comment on the current situation for certified interpreters in the State of Utah. This includes: what types of services are provided by certified interpreters, the supply and demand conditions for certified interpreter services throughout the State of Utah, the types of arrangements by which interpreter services are provided (e.g., personal employment, retainers, individual case service contracts, etc.); and difficulties in becoming a certified interpreter as well as difficulties in obtaining certified interpreter services thorough out the State of Utah. The Commission seeks to understand the current Utah circumstances regarding training for certified interpreters, the provision of certified interpreter services and what future goals or objectives can and should be pursued.

The Commission seeks information and comment on existing programs; their limitations, if any, in training persons to become certified interpreters; modifications which could be made to improve existing

programs' success in providing certified interpreters; and methods by which a given program's effectiveness, improvement and success could be measured or evaluated. The Commission seeks similar information and comment for any new programs which could be implemented to train persons to become certified interpreters.

Persons wishing to provide written comments and information may send their material to Julie Orchard, Commission Secretary at the Public Service Commission, Heber M. Wells State Building, 160 East 300 South, Fourth Floor, Salt Lake City, Utah or email comments to lmathie@utah.gov, on or before July 13, 2005. The Commission will also hold a public meeting to receive comments and information on July 13, 2005, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 427, Heber M. Wells Building, 160 East 300 South, Salt Lake, Utah.

Individuals wishing to participate by telephone should contact the Commission at least two to three days prior to the Hearing to make arrangements. On the day of the Hearing, participants must call in to (801) 530-6716 or call toll-free 1-866-PSC-UTAH (1-866-772-8824) at least five minutes prior to the beginning of the Hearing to ensure participation.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) during this meeting should notify Julie Orchard, Commission Secretary, at 160 East 300 South, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84111, (801) 530-6713, at least three working days prior to the hearing.

DATED at Salt Lake City, Utah, this 29th day of June, 2005.

Sincerely,

/s/ Julie Orchard,
Commission Secretary
G#44965