

Kansas State School for the Deaf

Review expenditures totaling \$668,864 SGF for Phase 3 and Phase 4 of the Language Assessment Program for FY 2023 prior to Omnibus identify alternative funding such as funding through KDHE, KSDE, or a fee for service model.

- The agency requests \$668,864 SGF to implement Phase 3 and Phase 4 of the LAP.
 - Phase 3: The agency requests \$466,658 for Phase 3, for FY 2023. This includes \$264,032 for salaries and wages expenditures for three specialists and one interpreter positions and \$202,626 for contractual services expenditures for assessment tools, training, travel, and technology. Phase 3 provides assessment of children ages birth to age three who are deaf or hard-of-hearing (D/HH).
 - Phase 4: The agency requests \$192,207 for Phase 4, which includes \$176,325 for salaries and wages expenditures and \$15,882 for contractual services expenditures for assessment tools, training, and technology. Phase 4 would expand assessments to all D/HH children from birth to five years old.
- The Governor does not recommend adoption of this enhancement request.
- The Senate Committee on Education recommends the Senate Committee on Ways and Means review the agency's enhancement request for Phase 3 and Phase 4 of the Language Assessment Program (\$668,864 SGF) and identify alternative means of funding the program such as funding from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the Kansas State Department of Education, or a fee-for-service model for FY 2023.

KSA 75-5397e established the LAP to be coordinated by the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH), a commission in the Department for Children and Families. The purpose of the program is to assess, monitor, and track language milestones, including English and American Sign Language, for children from birth to eight years old. KSA 75-5397e also states that these language assessments are to be provided through early intervention services in KDHE or through the school district, for children ages three and older. The advisory committee report to the Governor and the Legislature on January 31, 2018, included several recommendations, including a five-year phase-in of the LAP and designated KSSD as the lead agency for implementation due to staff expertise in deaf education.

As lead agency, KSSD began to establish and administer the LAP, including housing the database and having the KSSD specialists provide all assessments. Expenditures anticipated by the agency include various assessment tools, training of specialists and team members, database development and maintenance, salary costs for ten specialists, and travel costs related to the assessments. KSSD absorbed the \$210,722 to implement Phase 1 and Phase 2, with SoundBeginnings grant funding covering initial database costs.

KSSD requested \$466,658 to implement Phase 3 of the LAP in FY 2021 and FY 2022. The Legislature did not appropriate this funding, but the 2021 Legislature recommended KSSD, KDHE, KSDE, and the Children's Cabinet collaborate to determine how the LAP could be funded in the future without additional SGF moneys. KDHE and KSDE agreed to provide funding for Phase 3 in FY 2022.

The agency request includes \$668,864, all SGF, to implement Phase 3 (\$466,658) and Phase 4 (\$192,207) of the LAP. Phase 3 expenditures include \$264,032 for salaries and wages, \$19,939 for assessment tools, \$23,701 for training, \$15,000 for database costs, \$128,096 for travel costs, \$6,120 for technology costs, and \$5,000 for promotional expenses. Phase 4 expenditures include \$176,325 for salaries and wages, \$2,971 for assessment tools, \$5,310 for training, and \$7,600 for technology costs.

Children Assessed Per Phase:

- Phase 1 of the LAP included those children, from birth to three years old, served through Sound START in FY 2019 (10 children);
- Phase 2 expanded the LAP to KSSD children ages three to eight years old and outreach evaluation to children ages three to eight years old in FY 2020 (66 children) and continued in FY 2021 (81 children);
- Phase 3 expanded the LAP to all D/HH children up to three years old beginning in FY 2022 (with an estimate of assessing 250 children);
- Phase 4 would expand the LAP to all D/HH children up to five years old beginning in FY 2023 (with an estimate of assessing 400 children); and
- Phase 5 would expand the LAP to all D/HH children up to eight years old beginning in FY 2024 (with an estimate of assessing 772 children).