About CCDHHDB

The mission of the Colorado Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind (CCDHHDB) is to be agents of change for a sustainable statewide network of resources, dedicated to cultural and linguistic equality. CCDHHDB’s programs and services include Auxiliary Services, Outreach & Consultative Services, Communications Technology Program, DeafBlind Services, System Advocacy, and a Grant Program.

CCDHHDB also coordinates the RISP Pilot, which provides:

- Sign language interpreting services in rural areas at no cost to those areas;
- Financial assistance for initial and advanced sign language interpreter training; and
- Outreach services.

A Note about the ADA

Entities have the obligation to provide “effective communication” under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The RISP Pilot is currently available to assist with fulfilling this obligation.

Interpreter Certification

Colorado’s Consumer Protection Act requires sign language “interpreters” to be certified by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID). Section 6-1-707(1)(e), C.R.S.

Requesting a Sign Language Interpreter

- Submit a request online via the RISP website at www.colorisp.com; or
- Fill out a hard copy of the form. Download a copy of a request form from the above website and email or fax it to CCDHHDB; or
- Call CCDHHDB for assistance.

Contact information

Email: ccddhhb_risp@state.co.us
Phone: 720-457-3679
Fax: 303-866-4831
Mailing address:
CCDHHDB
Attn: RISP
1575 Sherman St, Garden Level
Denver, CO 80203

Rev. 9.12.19
Pilot Project for Rural Coloradans

What counts as a “Rural” for RISP?

People living on the Front Range already have access to established sign language interpreting services. In contrast, rural areas have less access to quality interpreting services. Interpreting services in rural areas can be very expensive because sign language interpreters often must be contracted from the Front Range.

Thus, for the purposes of the RISP Pilot, “rural” is defined as areas outside of the Front Range. Pueblo and Grand Junction will be treated as rural.

Sign Language Interpreters

The RISP Pilot will arrange for and provide sign language interpreters in rural areas of Colorado at no cost to consumers or service providers for up to two years. Rural communities will have access to quality interpreting services for a variety of needs, including: medical, legal, community, or work-related situations. Note that school interpreting for Pre K-12th grade or college/university interpreting is not covered.

The RISP Pilot will also provide opportunities for initial and advanced sign language interpreter training to increase the availability of interpreting services in rural areas.

Contact RISP to request interpreters for:

- **Medical**: Doctors, Dentists, Mental Health Services
- **Legal**: Municipal Court, Attorney-client meetings, Law Enforcement (Police, Sheriff, State Patrol)
- **Work**: Job Site Meetings, Interviews, Training
- **Other**: Meetings, Events, Presentations, Trainings, Government Services

And more!

Barriers to Effective Communication in Rural Areas

Colorado’s Joint Budget Committee (JBC) has recognized that there is a shortage of sign language interpreters in rural communities. This shortage has contributed to frequent barriers for “effective communication” for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind. The JBC funded the two-year RISP Pilot from July 2018 to June 2020 to address this shortage.

The Front Range is NOT included in RISP

[Map image showing Colorado and surrounding states, with the Front Range highlighted and not included in the RISP program.]