

Archived Information

HELEN KELLER NATIONAL CENTER (HKNC) FOR DEAF-BLIND YOUTHS AND ADULTS

Goal: Individuals who are deaf-blind will become independent and function as full and productive members of their local community.	Funding History (\$ in millions)			
	Fiscal Year	Appropriation	Fiscal Year	Appropriation
Legislation: The Helen Keller National Center Act as amended by P.L. 105-220 (29 U.S.C. 1901-1908).	1985	\$4	2000	\$9
	1990	\$5	2001	\$9
	1995	\$7	2002 (Requested)	\$9

Program Description

The goal of the Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) is to enhance opportunities for individuals with deaf-blindness to live as independently as possible in their home communities. The objectives of the program are to provide clients with meaningful contact with the environment, effective means of communication, constructive participation in the home and community, initial or enhanced employability, and other development pertinent to their rehabilitation. The Center program also offers training and consultation to other programs through a technical assistance center and national training team.

The HKNC was created by Congress in 1969, and operates under the auspices of Helen Keller Services for the Blind, Inc. The Center provides services on a national basis to individuals who are deaf-blind, their families, and service providers through three component programs: 1) a national headquarters center with a residential training and rehabilitation facility where deaf-blind individuals receive intensive specialized services; 2) a network of 10 regional field offices that provide referral and counseling assistance to deaf-blind individuals and technical assistance to service providers; and 3) an affiliate program that provides incentive grants to public and private agencies that serve individuals with deaf-blindness. HKNC is current-funded and receives an award on a noncompetitive basis.

The Center employs regional representatives in each of the 10 Federal regions. These representatives provide a variety of services, including training for service agency staff, general technical assistance, and help in developing direct service plans for deaf-blind clients for state vocational rehabilitation counselors, mental health workers, and special education programs. The regional staff also provides counseling, information, and referral for individuals who are deaf-blind and their families. The Center's affiliate program provides seed money to state and private agencies as an incentive to establish or expand programs for individuals who are deaf-blind. Participants in the affiliate program receive funds on a declining basis over a 5-year period until they no longer receive funds. Once funding has ended, affiliate agencies are eligible for ongoing technical assistance and training. HKNC's field services assist States by providing information and serving as a resource for state and local agencies. HKNC provides training via by its National Training Team (NTT) and community education program; technical assistance provided by its regional centers; and the activities of its affiliate network. HKNC operates a number of special projects related to deaf-blindness. These include a service project for elderly deaf-blind persons and a national parent and family services project. The Center also operates an international internship program for professionals in the field of deaf-blindness. Participants are professionals, are financially supported by their sponsoring agencies during their stay, and are expected to initiate and complete at least one project while at HKNC. HKNC provides an 8-week individualized evaluation and a 2-week summer seminar for youth in high school. HKNC supports 11 direct services departments, including audiology, communications, independent living, low vision, orientation and mobility, and vocational services; individualized client support services in the areas of socialization, work skills, and crisis intervention; clinical social work services; and staff functions such as payroll and benefits.

For more information, visit their Web site at <http://www.helenkeller.org>

Program Performance

OBJECTIVE 1: ENSURE THAT INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DEAF-BLIND RECEIVE THE SPECIALIZED SERVICES AND TRAINING THEY NEED TO BECOME AS INDEPENDENT AND SELF-SUFFICIENT AS POSSIBLE.

Indicator 1.1 Services to consumers at headquarters: The training program at headquarters will maintain or increase the number of adult consumers and high school students served, the percentage of consumers who complete training and are placed in employment settings, and the percentage of consumers who complete training and return to less restrictive living situations.									
Targets and Performance Data					Assessment of Progress				Sources and Data Quality
Year	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	
	Adult		HS		% Placed		% in Less Restricting Settings		
1999:	75	85	16	12	45%	38%	49%	25%	
2000:	82	90	15	12	52%	45%	59%	59%	
2001:		90		12		45%		59%	
2002:		90		12		45%		59%	
					<p>Status: In FY 2000, the percentage of students with a vocational goal who were placed in employment settings exceeded the target. The number of adult students served was below target. The number of high school students exceeded target. Students returning to less restrictive settings include individuals returning to prior living situations, having achieved greater independence, and those placed in supported living/ group home situations.</p> <p>Explanation: The figures will fluctuate based on numerous factors, but the targets of 90 adults and 12 high school students is based on historical trends and HKNC believes they represent reasonable targets.</p>				
					<p>Source: Internal client caseload reports summarized in the HKNC Annual Report for 2000. <i>Frequency:</i> Annually. <i>Next collection Update:</i> Annual report 2001. <i>Date to be reported:</i> 3/31/02.</p> <p>Validation Procedure: Final transition plans on each client will include the employment and living situations each client will be entering upon completion of training.</p> <p>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: Data are based upon self-reported data from the grantee and are not independently verified. A follow-up survey was developed but has not been implemented. HKNC plans to conduct a limited survey using selected RSA regions.</p>				
Indicator 1.2 Clients improve functionally: Participants in the core training program at headquarters will increase their skills and abilities in areas such as vocational services, communication, orientation and mobility, and independent living. The target will be established upon receipt of baseline data. The target for 2001 is an 85 percent success rate in achieving training goals.									
Targets and Performance Data					Assessment of Progress				Sources and Data Quality
<i>Percentage of identified training goals successfully achieved by participants</i>									
Year	Actual Performance			Performance Targets					
1999:	83.7%			No target previously set					
2000:	88.92%			84%					
2001:				85%					
2002:				86%					
					<p>Status: The Individualized Training Plan (ITP) percentage exceeds the target for this year.</p> <p>Explanation: Since this is the second year the ITP has been used, it will require several more years before HKNC can establish firm targets. The targets measure success in achieving training goals.</p>				
					<p>Source: HKNC Annual Report for 2000. <i>Frequency:</i> Annually. <i>Next collection Update:</i> Annual report 2001. <i>Date to be reported:</i> 3/31/02.</p> <p>Validation Procedure: Individual Training Plan (ITP)</p> <p>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: Data are based upon self-reported data from the grantee and are not independently verified.</p>				

Objective 2: ENSURE THAT DEAF-BLIND CONSUMERS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS RECEIVE THE SERVICES THEY NEED TO FUNCTION MORE INDEPENDENTLY IN THE HOME COMMUNITY.

Indicator 2.1 Regional services to consumers and families: Helen Keller National Center will maintain or increase the number of consumers and family members served through its regional offices.					
Targets and Performance Data				Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
Year	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	<p>Status: In 2000, the regional offices served more consumers and families than were targeted.</p> <p>Explanation: The number of consumers and families served fluctuates from year to year. In establishing the targets, trend data were used from prior years.</p> <p>Validation Procedure: HKNC regional representatives maintain client case summary files that indicates activities with individual consumers and family members.</p> <p>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: Client case summary reports do not measure the level of service provided or impact of the services on the lives of the consumers and family members. There are no improvements planned at this time.</p>
	Consumers		Families		
1999:	1,336	1,250	368	400	
2000:	1,340	1,300	461	400	
2001:		1,400		425	
2002:		1,500		450	

OBJECTIVE 3: INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF THE ADULT SERVICE SYSTEM TO MEET THE TRAINING AND SUPPORT NEEDS OF DEAF-BLIND PERSONS IN THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITY.

Indicator 3.1 Services to professionals, organizations/agencies, and affiliate membership: HKNC will maintain or increase the number of agencies/organizations served through its programs.				
Targets and Performance Data			Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
Year	Actual Performance	Performance Targets	<p>Status: Target exceeded</p> <p>Explanation: The 995 agencies/organizations served represent an increase of 19 over 1999.</p> <p>Validation Procedure: Data are compiled through a review of HKNC regional office reports.</p> <p>Limitation of Data and Planned Improvements: Reports do not measure the impact of the services provided on the lives of the individuals served by these agencies/organizations. There are no improvements planned at this time.</p>	<p>Source: HKNC Annual Report for 2000. <i>Frequency:</i> Annually. <i>Next collection Update:</i> Annual report 2001. <i>Date to be reported:</i> Unknown.</p>
1999:	976	No target previously set		
2000:	995	950		
2001:		1,000		
2002:		1,050		

Indicator 3.2 Training for professionals, agencies/ organizations, and affiliate membership: The number of agencies/organizations receiving training from HKNC through conferences and in-service training will be maintained or increased. Targets will be established upon receipt of baseline data.			
Targets and Performance Data		Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
Year	Actual Performance	Performance Targets	
1999:	1,420	No target previously set	<p>Status: Unable to judge.</p> <p>Explanation: The figure for 2000 includes all individuals attending the conference or training pro-gram. This is the second time that these data have been collected. HKNC does not believe that two years of data provide a sufficient basis for targets, and plans to wait at least one more year before setting targets.</p> <p>Validation Procedure: HKNC is currently developing needs assessments for each state. Competency-based evaluations will be used to measure the impact of a number of types of training. All staff including regional reps, headquarters staff, the National Training Team and the Older Adult Program will use these measurement tools.</p> <p>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: Data are self-reported from the grantee and are not independently verified.</p>
2000:	1,787	To be established	
2001:		To be established	
2002:		To be established	