

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 14, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO 45: ALLOCATION OF FUNDS THROUGH THE ADD/DELETE PROCESS TO THE ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY FOR THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON EAR

Councilman Ludwig Gaines asked staff to comment on allocating funds in the amount of \$10,000 through the add/delete process to the City of Alexandria Library's budget for the Metropolitan Washington EAR reading service to the blind and visually impaired.

The Metropolitan Washington EAR, in previous years, has applied for, and received funds through the City's Community Partnership Fund. It should be noted that in FY 2005 the Washington EAR received a decrease in funding as a result of a decline in the need for services, or a 30% decrease in the number of clients being served compared to FY 2004. Although the Washington EAR has been meeting the need of the blind and the visually impaired for 30 years, the number of clients continue to decline as the long-term users of services expire and other new technology is used more by the younger visually impaired. Table 1 (Attachment 1) on the following page shows the funding history from the Community Partnership Fund and the targeted number of clients served by the Washington EAR.

According to Library staff, the Washington EAR provides reading service, free of charge, directly to the blind and visually impaired who also are qualified and registered to use the Library's Talking Book Service. The Library provides books on cassettes, synthesized speech reading from computer screens, and a Kurzweil reading machine for reading text to the blind and visually impaired. Cassettes and equipment are also provided to the Library, at no cost, from the Library of Congress. In addition, the Library cites Title II Regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act, as noted in the section entitled: Part 35- Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in State and Local Government, § 35.135 Personal Devices and Services, as not requiring it to provide personal reading services. Please see Attachment 2 for details.

It is likely that the Washington EAR's motivation for seeking funding through the Library budget is to escape the competitive Community Partnership Grant process. If the Washington EAR's budget request is funded through the Libraries it is likely that some of the other organizations who now receive Community Partnership funding will also want to have their funding shifted out of the competitive process, and into a related department's budget.

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If the \$10,000 is added to the Library budget, the funds will be passed on from the Library to the Washington EAR and the Libraries would need to add program monitoring to their responsibilities. Staff recommends that the Metropolitan Washington EAR not be added as a line item to the Alexandria Library budget for FY 2006 and encourages the Metropolitan Washington EAR to continue to apply for funding through the Community Partnership Fund.

TABLE 1

Fiscal Year	Funding Amount	Clients Served (Target)	Fiscal Year	Funding Amount	Clients Served (Target)
FY 2006	Pending*	143	FY 2001**	\$11,068	146
FY 2005	\$4,000	141	FY 2000	\$7,000	112
FY 2004	\$10,000	200	FY 1999	\$6,768	110
FY 2003	\$12,500	209	FY 1998	\$6,255	110
FY 2002	\$12,500	207	FY 1997***	\$6,255	110

- * The Washington EAR has applied for the FY 2006 Community Partnership Fund; however, award decisions are pending and will be announced the first week in July 2005.
- ** The Washington EAR was awarded an increase of \$4,068 or 58% in FY 2001 for the purchase of 100 new closed-circuit radio receivers, the replacement of equipment, and to fund the increase in clients to be served.
- ***Since 1976, the Washington EAR has received funding from the City in the amount of \$6,255 to serve 110 clients.

Attachment 2

ADA Regulation for Title II, as printed in the Federal Register (7/26/91). The Department of Justice's regulation implementing title II, subtitle A, of the ADA which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in all services, programs, and activities provided to the public by State and local governments, except public transportation services.

TITLE 28—JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

CHAPTER I—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

PART 35 -- NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF DISABILITY

IN STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Appendix A to Part 35 -- Preamble to Regulation on Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in State and Local Government Services (Published July 26, 1991)

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 301; 28 U.S.C. 509, 510; Title II, Pub. L. 101-336 (42 U.S.C. 12134).

Subpart B -- General Requirements

§ 35.135 Personal devices and services.

This part does not require a public entity to provide to individuals with disabilities personal devices, such as wheelchairs; individually prescribed devices, such as prescription eyeglasses or hearing aids; readers for personal use or study; or services of a personal nature including assistance in eating, toileting, or dressing.

Reference:

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/publicat.htm#Anchor-ADA-23240>

ADA MATERIALS AVAILABLE FREE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The U.S. Department of Justice provides free ADA materials. Printed materials may be ordered by calling the ADA Information Line (1-800-514-0301 (Voice) or 1-800-514-0383 (TDD)). Automated service is available 24-hours a day for recorded information and to order publications.

Publications are available in standard print as well as large print, audiotape, Braille, and computer disk for people with disabilities.

Many of these materials are available from an automated fax system that is available 24-hours a day. To order a publication by fax, call the ADA Information Line and follow the directions for placing a fax order. When prompted to enter the document number, enter the specific number from the following publication list.