

Deaf-Blind Perspectives

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Your Perspective on *Deaf-Blind Perspectives*

We are considering reducing *Deaf-Blind Perspectives* from 3 issues to 2 issues per year. We need to know what you think of our publication as we consider its future. Do you look forward to receiving it? Do you ever refer back to it? Do you find it to be of value? How? Does it contribute to your family, work, and thinking? In short is *DBP* useful or important to you in any way?

Without the feedback of our readership we are left to only imagine *DBP*'s utility. Please let us know what you think either by **email** (malloyp@wou.edu or reimanj@wou.edu), **fax** (503-838-8150), **phone** (800-438-9376 voice or 800-438-7013 TTY), or **letter** (Attn: Peggy Malloy or John Reiman at Teaching Research, 345 N. Monmouth Ave., Monmouth, OR 97361).

Seattle Lighthouse for the Blind Deaf-Blind Program Federal Funding

Paula Hoffman

For nearly 30 years, the Seattle Lighthouse has provided a wide range of services and support to Deaf-Blind people in the areas of employment, skills training, social activities, leadership development, interpreting, and much more. Over the years, the Deaf-Blind community in Seattle has grown significantly, and demand for services has increased. To enhance and expand our current program, we requested funding from the federal government and in June 2000 received a federal appropriation of \$1,849,000 for services for Deaf-Blind people. In this article I will share with you the process involved in obtaining the funding and how the money will be used.

Previous Funding Sources

The Seattle Lighthouse Deaf-Blind Program was initially funded for three years in the early 1970s by seed money from the Helen Keller National Center. The program later grew to be self-sufficient through Light-

house business operations the sale of products manufactured at the Lighthouse and business service contracts. For example, we have a large aerospace contract with the Boeing Company to manufacture over 10,000 parts. We also have manufacturing and business service contracts with the General Services Administration (GSA) to make a variety of products including easel boards, paper trimmers, canteens, and safety clothing. And we have a custom business product line that includes awards, certificates, rubber stamps, and business cards. The sales of these products and services pay for such business expenses as machinery, payroll, building space, and until recently, our services. Another small source of funding comes from state rehabilitation and telecommunications access program dollars.

In This Issue

Seattle Lighthouse for the Blind - Deaf-Blind Program Federal Funding	1
Interactive Storytelling for Deafblind Children	5
Personal Perspectives	9
Personal Retrospective	10
NTAC Update	11
Access to Multimedia on the Web	13
For Your Library	13
Workshops and Conferences	13
Announcements	14

