



American Sign Language Training and Support Service
Service Code 644

DEFINITION:

Functional communications skills, including expressive and receptive communication using American Sign Language (ASL) are skills that are important for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind. The ability to effectively communicate with others enhances individual's ability to meet wants and needs, access the community and develop relationships, among other important life functions.

The ASL Training and Support Services must be provided by qualified staff (defined as achieving a "Superior" level of fluency in the ASL Proficiency examination). The service is designed to enhance individual's functional communication skills while reducing reliance on home signs through the use of formal ASL.

POLICY:

ASL Training and Support Service is available for children and adults. In addition to training and support for individuals, this service can be used to train direct support professionals and family members while the individual is present, to promote more cultural and linguistic understanding in the natural environment. These services also may work with individuals and providers to incorporate use of and learning through Alternative Augmentative Communication devices, ASL online resources and online ASL content to increase engagement, all when learning ASL.

ASL Training and Support Service are not designed to replace any other services, including care and supervision. They should be used to improve communication between service providers or family members and the person receiving services. This service shall not supplant or replace the need for formal interpretation services.

The IFSP/IPP process will determine on an individual basis the level of need for the ASL Training and Support Service.

When the IFSP/IPP team determines ASL training and support services are needed outside of the criteria or at a higher frequency and or rate than described above, an exception may be approved.

*Approved by the HDDF Board of Trustees on November 18, 2025
Approved by DDS Directive, dated October 13, 2025*