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EDUCATION AND LABOR CABINET

Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
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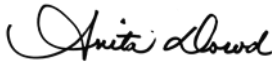
MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 1, 2026

TO: Jay D. Hartz, Director
Legislative Research Commission

CC: Jamie Link Secretary
Education and Labor Cabinet

Angie Hatton, Chairman
Public Service Commission

FROM: Anita Dowd, Executive Director 
Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

RE: Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2026

Per KRS 163.527, the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) Annual Report for the fiscal year 2026 is to be submitted to the Kentucky General Assembly through the Legislative Research Commission on July 1 of each year the program is in operation.

If you have any questions, please contact me at Anita.Dowd@ky.gov or at 502-573-2604.

Telecommunications Access Program

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2026

Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Anita Dowd, Executive Director

In compliance with KRS 163.527, this annual report is submitted to the Kentucky General Assembly through the Legislative Research Commission (LRC).

KRS 163.527 states:

“The Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing shall provide to the General Assembly an annual report on the operation of the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP). The report shall be due on July 1 of each year, beginning July 1, 1995, and, at a minimum, provide:

- (1) The number of persons served and the number of pieces of specialized telecommunications equipment distributed;
- (2) The revenues and expenditures of the program;
- (3) Discussion of any major policy or operational issues;
- (4) Any changes the commission plans to make in the program that does not require legislative action; and
- (5) Any proposals for legislative changes in the program.”

1 Persons Served and Equipment Distributed

Individuals Served: **715**

Specialized Telecommunications Equipment Distributed: **969**

2 Revenues and Expenditures

Revenues	Amount
FY 2026 Revenue Deposits	\$1,098,090
FY 2025 Carry Forward Balance	\$248,848
Total Available Revenue	\$1,346,938

Expenditures	Amount
Specialized Telecommunications Equipment	\$812,022
Personnel and Program Support	\$332,426
Facilities and Administrative Operations	\$43,735
Information Technology and Computer Services	\$48,180
Travel and Other Program Expenses	\$13,574
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,249,935

During FY2026, the majority of expenditures supported the purchase and distribution of specialized telecommunications equipment for eligible Kentuckians who are deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind, or

have speech disabilities. Remaining expenditures supported the administration TAP including personnel, facilities, information technology, travel, and other operational expenses.

3 Major Policy or Operational Issues

4 Changes Planned That Do Not Require Legislative Action

- Creating informational captioned ASL videos that explain the program, application process, eligibility requirements, and available equipment options
- Simplifying program materials using plain language

5 Legislative Proposals

KCDHH has no legislative proposals for TAP at this time.