Laura Siegel, Director of Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, & DeafBlind Services

## Introduction

12.14.2023

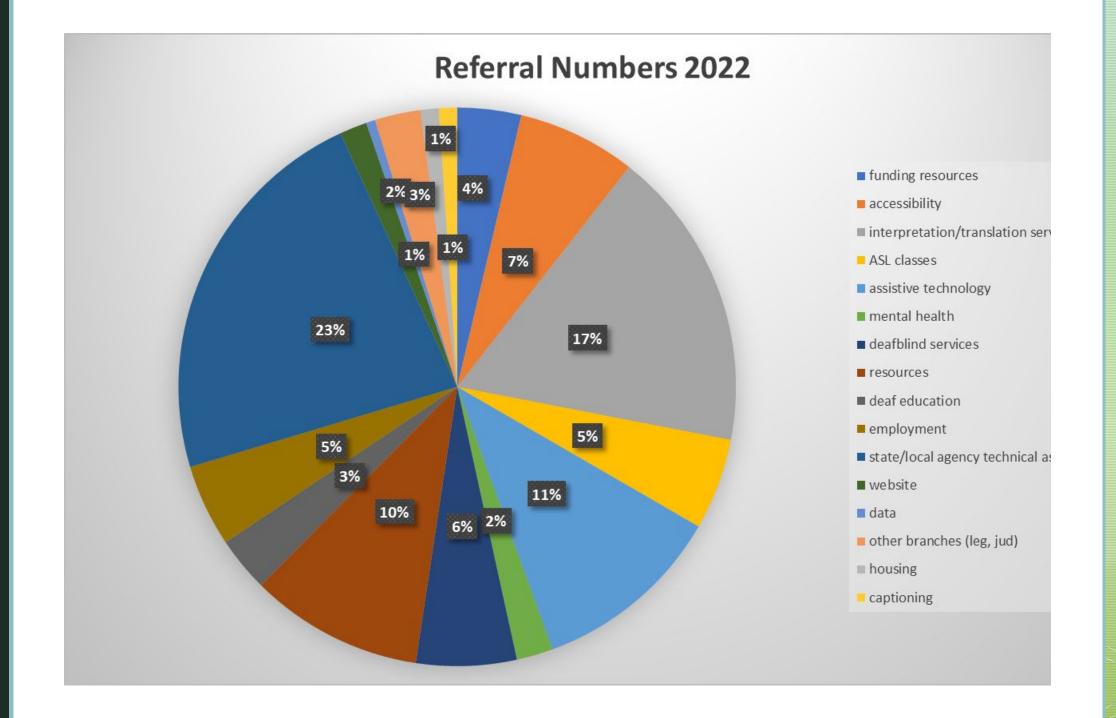
## Challenges

- Difficulty in securing funding for events that are not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Multiple attempts have been made to request funding, with the long-term objective being the establishment of sustainable funding for American Sign Language (ASL) interpretations, similar to what the Department of Public Services offers for Telecommunication Relay Services and Relay Conference Captioning.
- Ensuring the provision of high-quality healthcare and mental health services that prioritize communication access and cultural competence.

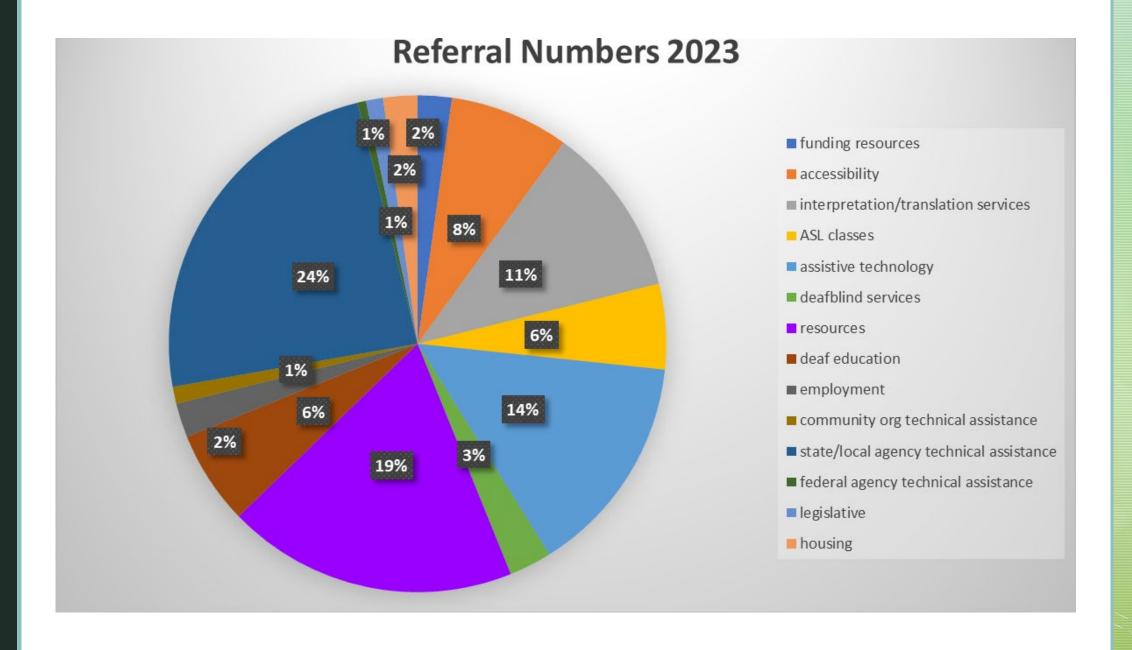
## Future Developments

- Develop a statewide mental health program akin to the Greater Nashua Mental Center in Nashua, NH, to address the shortage of mental health providers specializing in working with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind (DHHDB) population.
- Ensure uniformity in communication access approaches across all state agencies, departments, and divisions, which often provide access for other spoken languages but may overlook ASL.
- Promote education on the integration of more assistive technology and improve public awareness.
- Offer funding opportunities in areas where resources are currently lacking.









## Contact

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