

HOW TO: Budget For Sign Language Interpreters



Key Considerations

- Always incorporate the cost of sign language interpreters into your organization's budget for victim services.
- Ensure that **adequate funds** are allocated for this essential service.
- Prevent any financial stress or delays that may affect your organization's ability to provide the necessary support and services for Deaf and hard of hearing victims.
- For remote interpreting assignments, many sign language interpreters have a **1-hour minimum**.
- For in-person interpreting assignments, many sign language interpreters have a **2-hour minimum** and may require payment for travel time and travel-related expenses.
- If your meeting is more than an hour, the topics are complex or nuanced, or the Deaf survivor has unique communication needs, you may need a team of two interpreters to ensure full language access.
- The average approximate range for sign language interpreters across the country is **\$50-\$125/hour**.
- You may also need a Certified Deaf Interpreters to team with a hearing interpreter team if the Deaf survivor has unique communication needs.

The infographic features a central blue circle with an orange border containing the title 'How to Determine Your Budget for Interpreters'. Six lines radiate from this central circle to six surrounding blue circles, each with an orange border, containing specific advice. The top of the page has a blue background with a wavy orange border.

How to Determine Your Budget for Interpreters

Review your organization's history of using sign language interpreters.

If you don't have a history of serving Deaf survivors, start by including 50 hours of interpreting services for the year.

Assess your organization's past and future services to Deaf survivors.

If you anticipate serving more Deaf survivors, increase your annual interpreter budget by 15-20%.

Consider the diversity and size of the Deaf community in your area.

Track services to Deaf survivors and interpreting use to better estimate expenses in future years.

Helpful Links

- [Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf](#) - You can search for local interpreters.
- [Budget for Interpreters](#) - You can learn more about how to budget for interpreters.

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