

INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC GROWTH  
AND  
THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**Purpose**

This Interagency Agreement (IA) establishes the responsibilities and procedures for the Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG) to fund the Michigan Department of Education for the cost of the Newsline services used by State of Michigan blind and visually impaired residents provided by the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) Newsline for the Blind of Michigan in support of the Newsline Project.

The primary objective of the Newsline Project is to provide an on-demand newspaper service which allows blind people to hear the text of newspaper articles over the telephone. It is a nationwide newspaper service for the blind and uses telephone lines and digitized voice synthesizer systems to provide blind and visually impaired people daily access to a variety of newspapers. With the toll-free number, users can access any participating newspaper in the country. The service is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Newsline for the Blind of Michigan serves about 2,000 Michiganders -- mainly the sight-impaired, but many others too, some with arthritis or neurological problems, whose doctors certify they can't see or hold a newspaper. The service is free, in part because many blind people have low incomes but also because, in 1931, Congress ordered that library services nationwide be offered free to blind people.

SENATE BILL No. 1107 to amend 1979 PA 94, entitled "The state school aid act of 1979," provides funding to the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) for the Newsline for the Blind of Michigan. The service from Newsline provides direct benefits to Michigan Commission for the Blind (MCB) clients, particularly those seeking employment. This agreement provides the coordination of funding and monitoring to most effectively serve State of Michigan residents who will utilize the Newsline services.

**Period of Agreement**

This Interagency Agreement between the Department of Labor and Economic Growth (hereinafter referred to as "DLEG") and the Michigan Department of Education (hereinafter referred to as "MDE") is effective from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008.

**Work Statement of Each Party**

DLEG shall:

Provide expenditure credits on a quarterly basis, based on the services deemed accepted included on invoices submitted to DLEG by the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) Newsline for the Blind of Michigan providing the cumulative yearly liabilities do not exceed \$80,000. This agreement will allow DLEG to use the GF/GP funds to maximize Federal funds to provide optimal services to blind and

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visually impaired residents of Michigan. The transfer of those funds will be made to the DLEG from MDE through the interagency voucher process. In addition, DLEG will require that National Federation of the Blind (NFB) Newsline for the Blind of Michigan provide a written report containing mutually agreed data statistics prior to releasing any funding. DLEG will collaborate with the MDE to annually evaluate the Newsline services provided by National Federation of the Blind (NFB) Newsline for the Blind of Michigan. Provide MDE with reports and data collected regarding Newsline services.

The MDE shall:

Will provide to DLEG the GF/GP the amount invoiced by the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) Newsline for the Blind of Michigan for Newsline Services not to exceed \$80,000. The funding for Newsline provided to DLEG will not be used by MDE to match other federal funds. MDE will collaborate with the DLEG to annually evaluate the Newsline services for visually impaired and blind residents of Michigan. MDE will provide facilitation and consultation services in support of the redesign of the Program. See attached memo and budget for detailed description of services.

**Amount & Source of Financing**

The total amount which may be spent pursuant to this agreement is \$80,000. Expenditures will be initially charged to the DLEG Michigan Commission for the Blind 11210 budget line item and shall be 100% reimbursed by expenditure credit from MDE.

Payment should be made using the following coding structure for each agency:

MDE

Agency Code: 313

Transaction Code: 413

Appropriation Year: 2008

Index: 03678

PCA: N/A

Agency Object Code: 6325

DLEG

Agency Code: 641

Transaction Code: 412

Appropriation Year: 2008

Index: 36500

PCA: 11363

Agency Object Code: 6325

**Financial Reporting**

DLEG shall submit on a quarterly basis an expenditure report to MDE. This expenditure report shall indicate actual expenditures and outstanding authorizations as reflected in the attached budget. Payment will be made through the expenditure credit process. This report shall be submitted to MDE within thirty days from the end of the billing period. For the month of September, billings shall be submitted as reasonably directed by the grant manager to meet fiscal year end closing deadlines.

Reports and payment requests shall be submitted to:

IA Administrator: Rick Floria

Bureau/Program: MDE/Finance

Address: Hannah Building

4<sup>th</sup> Floor

Lansing, MI

**Vendor Relationship** (Only needed for agreements where DLEG provides expenditure credits)

This IA constitutes a vendor relationship with DLEG. No audit requirements are imposed by DLEG as a result of this IA. No audit costs are allowed to be billed to this IA.

**Termination & Amendments**

Either party may terminate this IA at anytime by giving thirty (30) days prior written notice to the other party. This IA may be amended upon written approval of the parties at any time.

This Agreement contains all the terms and conditions agreed upon by the parties. No other understanding, oral or otherwise, regarding the subject matter of this Agreement shall be deemed or exist to bind any of the parties.

**Termination for Lack of Funds**

MDE's payment of funds for purposes of this IA is subject to and conditional upon the availability of funds for such purposes. No commitment is made by MDE to continue or expand such activities. MDE may terminate this IA immediately upon written notice to the DLEG at any time prior to the completion of this IA if, in the opinion of MDE, funding becomes unavailable for this service or such funds are restricted.

**Closeout**

When this IA is concluded or terminated, MDE shall provide DLEG, within thirty (30) days after conclusion or termination, with all financial, performance and other reports required as a condition of the IA. MDE shall make payments to DLEG for allowable reimbursement costs not covered by previous payments. DLEG shall immediately refund to MDE any payments of funds advanced to the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) Newsline for the Blind of Michigan in excess of allowable reimbursable expenditures.

Department of Labor and Economic Growth

Michigan Department of Education

Dated on this \_\_\_ day, of \_\_\_\_\_, 2008

Dated on this \_\_\_ day, of \_\_\_\_\_, 2008

\_\_\_\_\_  
By: Keith W. Cooley, Director  
Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
By: Carol Wolenberg, Deputy

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_