

# LEGAL COMMUNICATION ACCESS FUND (LCAF)

Under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fund

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What is the Legal Communication Access Fund (LCAF)?**

*The Nebraska Legislature, under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 and LB1014, set aside \$500,000 in federal funds to reimburse expenses incurred in the provision of qualified, licensed on-site sign language interpreters in rural communities for individuals who are deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing, as well as for other expenses incurred to provide effective communication access services between attorneys and deaf individuals outside of the courtroom.*

### **What areas of Nebraska are covered by the LCAF?**

*Legal communication access requests and services are covered within the entire state of Nebraska.*

### **Why was LCAF created?**

*Nebraskans who are deaf continue to encounter significant barriers when attempting to access private legal services. For our purposes here the term “deaf” includes individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened, and deaf-blind. During the COVID-19 pandemic and mask protocols in place, the deaf community had an even more difficult time accessing legal services. The LCAF was created to provide more opportunities for Nebraskans who are deaf to have full communication access within legal settings.*

### **What are examples of communication access requests that are covered by LCAF?**

- *Paid travel time to and from the interpreting assignment (portal-to-portal)*
- *Mileage*
- *Per diem for meals, incidentals (state of Nebraska rate)*
- *Lodging (if deemed necessary) at or near government rate*
- *Actual interpreting time for assignment (includes possible 2-hour minimum requirements and period for notice of cancellation)*
- *Real-time captioning (CART) fees*

**What are examples of communication access requests that are NOT covered by LCAF?**

*Access requests unrelated to legal settings and situations will not be covered by LCAF.*

**Is there a limit to how many times I can request services from LCAF?**

*No, there is no limit to how many times services may be requested through the LCAF, provided they are requests that are accepted under the program.*

**How is the reimbursement process handled?**

*Complete the LCAF Reimbursement Request Form and Itemized Cost Worksheet and submit forms via mail or email. Information on form submissions can be found at [www.ncdhh.nebraska.gov/arpa](http://www.ncdhh.nebraska.gov/arpa).*

**Are the communication access services provided in-person, virtually, or both?**

*Services eligible for reimbursement under LCAF may be provided in-person, virtually, or via CART services.*

**Who can I contact if I have other questions?**

*More information on how to request and submit a reimbursement, introduction to the program and more can be found on the NCDHH website at [www.ncdhh.nebraska.gov/arpa](http://www.ncdhh.nebraska.gov/arpa)*