

**Service Title:** American Sign Language (ASL) Training and Support

**Service Code:** 644

**Service Description:**

A regional center shall classify a vendor as language training and support to improve or develop expressive and receptive communication using American Sign Language (ASL). This service is designed to assist individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind to improve functional communication skills by improving the use of formal ASL and reduce the use of home signs. The ASL trainer can also train the direct support professionals and family members while the individual is present to promote more cultural and linguistic understanding of the natural environment. These services may also work with individuals and providers to incorporate use of and learning through Alternative Augmentative Communication devices, ASL online resources and online ASL content to increase engagement when learning ASL. ASL Training and Support services are not designed to replace any other services, including care and supervision. They should be used to help facilitate improved communication between service providers or family members and the person receiving services. This service shall not supplant or replace the need for formal interpretation services.

**Qualifications:**

Staff providing the service must:

1. Have language proficiency from an accredited or nationally recognized institution such as, but not limited to, the American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI), Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI), or other recognized language proficiency body.
2. Be assessed proficient to provide at least superior level ratings or higher on ASLPI, SLPI ratings scale.
3. Possess the ability to have a fully shared conversation with in-depth elaboration for both social and work topics, and excellent comprehension in receptive skills.
4. Demonstrate the use of a very broad sign language vocabulary, near native-like production, fluency and prosody and excellent use of sign language grammatical features, and classifiers.

**Settings:** ASL Training and Support services can be delivered in any setting where an individual lives, works, participates in recreation, or accesses the community for other purposes.