

When the VRS center was established in our community there were only a handful of interpreters that were certified. Whether this low number was due to insufficient skills, lack of confidence, or other reasons, our VRS center was instrumental in providing the support, training, and experience to assist these interpreters achieve RID certification. The majority of the local interpreters work at the center, and now most, if not all of these, are certified or actively seeking certification. This is not only a benefit to the center, but provides more experienced and better qualified interpreters to the local deaf community.

Requiring certification prior to hire at a VRS facility will decrease the pool of possible VRS new hires and could actually decrease the potential number of certified interpreters. If some regulation need be set perhaps a 5 year timeline for a new hire to become RID certified or obtain equitable state certification.