



## Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program (EHDI)



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### INDIANA EARLY HEARING DETECTION AND INTERVENTION PROGRAM (EHDI)

The Indiana Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program (EHDI) manages and monitors newborn hearing screening efforts in the state. These efforts include monitoring universal hearing screening procedures at birthing facilities, assisting families in obtaining diagnostic testing for identification of congenital hearing loss, and if a child is identified as deaf and hard of hearing, directing families to early intervention services and family support. Indiana EHDI is housed in the Maternal and Child Health division of the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH). Our program is also connected to the Genomics Newborn Screening team at IDOH that monitors the other two mandated newborn screenings-pulse oximetry and bloodspot.

The national EHDI Goals of "1/3/6" are based on the 2000 (2007, 2019) Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (JCIH) mandate for universal hearing screenings for each state. Indiana code and law states that all babies born in Indiana should receive a hearing screen by 1 month, receive diagnostic audiology testing by 3 months (if they do not pass newborn hearing screening) and if identified as deaf and hard of hearing, be enrolled in early identification by 6 months of age. Indiana is consistently in the top 15% of the states in compliance to those JCIH requirements.

Our staff consists of a Director, two parent consultants, a follow up coordinator, six regional audiology consultants, a Guide by Your Side coordinator and ten Guide by Your Side Parent Guides. Through the EHDI program, we provide site monitoring and training at birthing facilities to ensure newborn hearing screening procedure compliance. Data on all newborn hearing screening results are reported by birthing facilities to our data collection system "Ears" so that our staff (all parents of children who are deaf and hard of hearing) can follow up with families to help them obtain follow up diagnostic testing. Our staff continues to follow children who do not pass their newborn hearing screening until we receive confirmation of diagnostic audiology testing or until the child is one year of age. If a child is identified as deaf or hard of hearing, we refer families to Indiana's Early Intervention program, First Steps, provide a tool kit full of resources to families and their physicians and provide family support for the first year through our Guide by Your Side Parent Guides (at no charge to families).

Indiana EHDI collaborates with several state and national stakeholders including Maternal and Child Health programs, the Indiana Department of Health, Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Indiana School for the Deaf, parent support organizations, audiologists, medical and rehabilitation providers, university audiology programs, the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM).

To **promote**, **protect**, and **improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers.



We provide several training sessions throughout the state on areas related to deaf and hard of hearing children, sponsor an annual family conference and publish a quarterly newsletter that is sent to all birthing hospitals, audiologists, speech language pathologists, pediatricians and other providers to improve awareness of appropriate plan of care for children who are deaf and hard of hearing. Our program is also responsible for data surveillance regarding deaf and hard of hearing children to provide guidance and recommendations for available resources to improve the outcomes for deaf and hard of hearing children.

The Indiana EHD program is funded through the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) EHD grant and Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Universal Newborn Hearing Screening grant, except for the EHD Director, which is the only state employee position. More information and staff contact information can be found at [www.hearing.in.gov](http://www.hearing.in.gov).