



November 16, 2011

Dear State EHDI Program Coordinator:

This letter is to support your attendance at the annual Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) meeting to be held in St. Louis, MO, March 4-7, 2012. The meeting is a joint meeting of the universal statewide newborn hearing screening and intervention programs supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) through the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) and the EHDI programs funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD). It should be noted that budgeting for at least two individuals to attend the annual meeting is noted on your NGA as a condition of award. Those funds may not be used for any other purpose.

This meeting will cover many aspects of successful statewide newborn hearing screening programs, discuss project requirements, and report on progress in developing effective programs. The meeting will also provide an excellent opportunity for your state to interact with other state programs, with roundtables for sharing information and exchanging ideas. Technical assistance will be provided through workshops, presentations, and panel discussions. On March 7, meeting participants will be limited to EHDI coordinators, providing opportunity for targeted technical assistance and focus on particularly problematic program areas, such as failure to report screening and rescreening carried out in pediatric provider private offices.

As your state's Project Director for an MCHB grant, you and at least one other staff member are expected to attend this meeting. Staff supported by this grant and other HRSA funds are expected to attend. In addition, we would like you to include a parent as a participant. The ideas provided by the families of children with hearing loss have proven invaluable in helping states develop sensitive and effective programs.

Workshops will provide model/innovative ideas about medical home linkages, early intervention services, family to family support and cultural competence. At least one individual from each state should plan to attend each of these workshops.

Collaboration between the States and Federal agencies will greatly facilitate the development and enhancement of newborn hearing screening and intervention programs, particularly with respect to appropriate and timely follow-up. Budget negotiations between MCHB and successful applicants addressed the importance of projects adhering to the requirements of the grant, which indicated that funds shall be included in the budget for two people to travel to an annual meeting. Funds allocated for this purpose may not be used for any other purpose. We fully expect that all State-level project directors will attend the meeting.

In addition, the DC Health Department is participating in a required quality improvement initiative with the National Initiative for Child Healthcare Quality. In addition to work conducted during the "action periods", a small team of 3-4 including a parent of a child with

hearing loss are required to attend on-site Learning Collaboratives for further instruction in quality improvement methodology. The next Learning Collaborative is scheduled to be held in St. Louis during the first week of April. As with the funds budgeted for the EHDI meeting, funds budgeted for this travel may not be used for any other purpose. This is also noted on your Notice of Grant Award.

Sincerely,

Irene Forsman, MS, RN
Program Director
Newborn Hearing Screening and Intervention Program
Maternal and Child Health Bureau
Health Resources and Services Administration
Maternal and Child Health Bureau,
Parklawn Building, Room 18A-18
5600 Fishers Lane Rockville, MD 20857
Telephone: (301) 443-9023
Email: iforsman@hrsa.gov