

From FOA HRSA-17-059

A minimum of 25 percent of funding toward the support of family organizations, including deaf mentorship activities, which must be documented by a memorandum of understanding (page 7)

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Purpose

This purpose will be achieved by focusing efforts on: 1) supporting state/territory organizations that provide support to families of deaf or hard of hearing children; 2) coordinating with the HRSA-supported National Technical Resource Center for Newborn Hearing Screening and Intervention and state/territory EHDI programs in improving family engagement, partnership, and leadership within the EHDI system, and 3) collaborating with established Deaf Mentor programs for families (page1)

A Deaf Mentor program provides families with deaf or hard of hearing infants and children regular opportunities with a Deaf Mentor, a qualified deaf or hard of hearing adult, to interact with their child using American Sign Language (ASL) and effective visual communication strategies, and to guide understanding of deafness and Deaf Culture. (page 1 footnote)

Program Objectives

... ..

5) To increase by 30 percent from baseline, the number of families that are offered support from Deaf Mentors by the end of the three-year project period.

Deaf Mentor Programs

The recipient is expected to:

- Develop strategies to support meaningful inclusion of deaf and hard of hearing adults within national, state, and territory EHDI systems.
- Engage and collaborate with deaf-based organizations that operate Deaf Mentor programs to learn best practices and to integrate new knowledge into disseminated resources and training curriculums.
- Develop training and resources for state/territory EHDI systems and family-to-family support organizations to partner with organizations that serve the deaf and hard of hearing community.

Support the establishment of Deaf Mentor programs for families with deaf or hard of hearing infants and children in all states/territories. Deaf Mentor programs should provide families regular opportunities with a Deaf Mentor, a qualified deaf or hard of hearing adult, to interact with their child using American Sign Language (ASL) and effective visual communication strategies, and to guide understanding of deafness and Deaf Culture. Deaf Mentor programs should also increase knowledge of national, state, and local resources for deaf and hard of hearing infants/children and their families. (Page 3)

From: 42 USC 280g-1: Early detection, diagnosis, and treatment regarding deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children: paragraph (a)(1)(c)

Programs and systems under this paragraph shall offer mechanisms that foster family-to-family and deaf and hard-of-hearing consumer-to-family supports.

Hands & Voices: Family Leadership in Language and Learning (FL3)

"Mentoring by a variety of DHH adults including those who use ASL, Cued Speech, Listening and Spoken Language (LSL), and combinations of modalities." HRSA has agreed with the definition and approved the Guidelines for DHH Mentor, Guide and Role Model Programs located at:

<http://www.handsandvoices.org/fl3/fl3-docs/DHH-Guidelines.pdf>