



COLORADO
Department of Human Services
Colorado Commission for the Deaf,
Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind

Dear families, members, and stakeholders of the Colorado Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind Community,

The Colorado Commission for the Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, and DeafBlind (CCDHHDB) and the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) Office of Early Childhood (OEC) Early Intervention (EI) Program are pleased to share exciting news with you!

We have recently been awarded a four-year federal grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resource and Services Administration (HRSA). This grant will fund what promises to be novel, innovative, and collaborative work within the Colorado Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) system with families and EHDI stakeholders as its central members! Read on for further details!

In the fall of 2019, a Colorado EHDI Alliance Core Team was established with key stakeholders representing the various components of the EHDI system. The team agreed to develop and submit a HRSA grant application. As you may or may not know, HRSA oversees all associated EHDI services and its funding nationwide.

The grant application was submitted on November 8, 2019, and on March 7, 2020, both CCDHHDB and the CDHS/OEC EI Program were notified of the grant award. This grant will begin April 1, 2020, and end March 31, 2024. Each year will have a total award amount of \$235,000.

The grant application identified Cliff Moers, CCDHHDB Director, and Christy Scott CDHS/OEC EI Program Director, as Co-Investigators of the grant program. In addition, Dr. Arlene Stredler Brown will serve as the EHDI Coordinator, Heather Abraham will serve as the Family Support and Engagement Coordinator, and Ashley Renslow, Early Education Consultant at the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB), and Kathy Sevier will serve as the Co-Coordinators of the temporarily-named Deaf and Hard of Hearing Mentor Program. The Colorado EHDI Alliance Core Team is honored to be able to access and utilize their extensive expertise and background in the EHDI system as this project begins.

The mission of this project, as outlined in our grant application, includes:

- Full support from the state's CCDHHDB and CDHS/OEC EI Programs
- A .45 FTE EHDI Coordinator position
- A .75 FTE Family Support and Engagement Coordinator position
- A DHH Mentor Program at CSDB with services scheduled to begin within the first year at the conclusion of curriculum development and training
- Collaboration and support letters from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, A.G. Bell - Colorado Chapter, the Colorado Academy of Audiology, CSDB, Rocky Mountain Deaf School, the Listen Foundation, and the University of Colorado-Boulder
- Opportunities for key EHDI stakeholders to participate in the project
- A public Colorado EHDI Alliance advisory council that will meet monthly beginning May 2020
- A centralized and universally accessible (i.e., text, American Sign Language, and audio) Colorado EHDI website with up-to-date information to be launched by the fall of 2020
- Publication of a universally accessible monthly e-newsletter
- Mini-grants that will be made available for professional development, family support services, and Spanish-speaking family services starting in the fall of 2020

In addition, going forward, the Colorado EHDI Alliance as a group will have the opportunity to collectively assess and make recommendations on how to make the EHDI system as seamless as possible for families with deaf and

hard of hearing children aged birth to three. In doing so, the Alliance will focus on building the sustainability of the system at the state level.

Until the Colorado EHDI Alliance meets and begins their work, you may see some interim policies and practices in place as we begin the transition process amidst the chaos of COVID-19.

The baton that both the University of Colorado-Denver (UCD) and Colorado Hands & Voices (H&V), former EHDI grant holders, have been carrying for the past years will be handed over to the Colorado EHDI Alliance. The state of Colorado has been grateful for their passion, loyalty, and dedication to this project and positioning the Colorado EHDI Alliance to take the next step. Thank you, UCD and Colorado H&V!

To subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter or to learn more about the EHDI Alliance's mission and its progress, please email info@coehdi.org to be added to the EHDI Alliance contact list.

1575 Sherman Street, Garden Level Denver, CO 80203

720-457-3679 (Videophone)

303-866-4824 (Voice)

www.ccdhdb.com

email.ccdhh@state.co.us