

# Ascent Program

*Deaf and hard of hearing adults guiding families to envision all possibilities for their young children*



**INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

*Colorado Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI)  
Alliance*

January, 2021

# Introductions

- Who are you?
- Where do you live?
- What is your current work experience?



# Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI)



- EHDI programs (including the Ascent Program) are grant funded through the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)
  - 1-3-6 Goal
  - Family Support & Partnership
  - Professional Development
  - Providing culturally-affirmative support to families, is having a positive impact on service quality.
  - Data Management
  - Deaf & Hard of Hearing Adult Involvement with Families

# Rationale

Adults who are deaf or hard of hearing (DHH) can provide families with valuable support from the perspective of lived experience - *National Center for Hearing Assessment & Management (NCHAM)*

## Why is this Important?

- When parents look ahead in their child's life, they may focus on what is "missing" or what their child is unable to do.
- DHH Adults may be able to articulate what a young child cannot.
- The "unknown" may cause feelings of stress and/or fear.
- Parents may have questions that professionals, other parents, friends, etc. can't answer.



# Rationale Continued...

## What Can DHH Adult-to-Family Support Programs Do?

- DHH Adults can share stories, experiences, etc., which may help present families with a perspective of optimism.
- DHH Adults can build a relationship and support families as they bond with their child.
- DHH Adults can offer a positive perspective and optimism, as they build relationships with families.

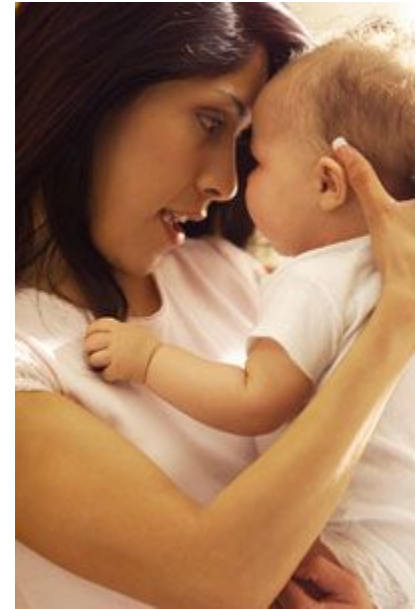


# Values

- **Access:** Families can obtain the information they want and learn from a DHH adult's experiences. Parents can obtain resources, connections in their community, and information about language and communication.
- **Community:** Families can develop a sense of fellowship with a DHH adult with common interests.
- **Empowerment:** DHH adults can support families as they become more confident in the decisions they make.
- **Inclusivity & Diversity:** The program is fully inclusive of all families and DHH adults participating in the program. Each family's uniqueness is celebrated.
- **Informed Decision-Making:** Families obtain the information, resources, and experiences they need to make decisions that are best for their family and their child who is deaf or hard of hearing.
- **Relationships:** DHH adults and family members develop a sense of connecting, belonging, and learning from each other as family members navigate their journey.

# Who Does the Ascent Program Serve?

- Families of DHH children who are identified as deaf or hard of hearing
- Children birth to 36 months of age
- Families who live in the state of Colorado



# Desired Qualities of DHH Adults?

- Diverse Group of Individuals
- Enjoy working with children and families
- Live in various geographic regions throughout the state
- Supportive of honoring individual family values & family decision-making
- Willing to collaborate with a variety of people from diverse backgrounds





# Criteria & Requirements for Adults working with the Ascent Program (Handout)

## **ESSENTIAL DUTIES:**

- Conduct home visits and/or attend family events (in person or virtually) to act as a resource to families of deaf and hard of hearing children from birth-3 years of age
- Work in collaboration with Ascent Program staff
- Serve as a liaison between families and community resources
- Communicate with a variety of individuals, with or without a certified interpreter
- Support individual family decision-making
- Maintain confidential files/reports based on Federal and State laws, rules, and regulations
- Continue professional growth through annual training



# Criteria & Requirements for Adults working with the Ascent Program (Handout)

## **KNOWLEDGE OF:**

- Policies, procedures, and programs of Colorado Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (COEHDI) and the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB)
- Program rules, regulations, and operating procedures
- Individual differences in family cultures, values, and behaviors

## **DISPOSITIONS:**

- Ability to understand a variety of social perspectives
- Planning and organization
- Enjoy working with children and families
- Dependability
- Approachable



# Criteria & Requirements for Adults working with the Ascent Program (Handout)

## ABILITY TO:

- Communicate information and ideas effectively
- Work with families from diverse cultures and language backgrounds
- Create concise reports/emails
- Work in collaboration with families and Ascent Program staff

## SPECIAL CONDITIONS/REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be able to pass FBI and State Background checks
- Must be deaf or hard of hearing
- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Must live in the state of Colorado



# Work Requirements / Expectations

- Contract work through CSDB
- High speed internet service
- Laptop or personal computer with camera
- Reliable transportation for in-home visits
- Extremely Part Time
- Number of visits is dependent upon the number of requests received from families



# Topics that Might be Addressed During a Visit

- Experiences growing up as a DHH person
- Educational experiences
- Work/Career experiences
- Experiences communicating with others
- Perspectives on advocacy
- Support and guidance accessing resources
- Development of a healthy DHH identity



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# Training Requirements

- Initial Training (6 Hours)
- Ongoing Annual Training (3 Hours)

## January 2021 Training

- January 23: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

OR

- February 2 & 3 (Both Days Required): 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm



***Deadline to apply: Thursday, January 21, 2021***

**\*\*Contact Kathy Sevier for the application link\*\***

# How Do I Get Involved?

## Contact:

Kathy Sevier

Email: [ksevier@csdb.org](mailto:ksevier@csdb.org)

Phone: 720-441-1229

Text Only: 720-317-0031



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**NOTE:** *This is a PILOT PROGRAM and we do not yet know what the demand is for this program.*

*Also, not everyone is a good fit to work as an Ascent Program contractor.*

*If you are not selected in the first round, you're welcome to apply again in the future.*

***Please be honest about your ability to commit to the program/trainings as spots/funds are limited.***