

Family Leadership in Language and Learning (FL3) National Needs Assessment



What Families Reported

Family-to-Family Support Opportunities for Family-based Organizations

The information in this document was created by the Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side (GBYS) Coordinators in response to the findings from the [FL3 National Needs Assessment](#). These are examples of strategies and activities that Family-based Organizations (FBOs) may want to consider to proactively address what families reported in the FL3 Needs Assessment.

1. Improving families access to quality Early Intervention (EI) services

1. Offer training to EI providers on how to provide unbiased support to families.
2. Reciprocal sharing of event activities.
3. Designate a media specialist that can share EI information directly with families.
4. Assist families with the right questions to ask when finding an EI provider to meet their child and family's needs.
5. Share with families [A Parent's Guide to Deaf and Hard of Hearing Early Intervention Recommendations](#).

2. Improving families access to parent-to-parent support

1. Direct referrals
 - a. Design process from Early Hearing Detection (EHDI) and/or EI Part C.
 - b. Develop a reporting process between FBO and EHDI programs.
 - c. Provide training on data base tracking and reporting.
 - d. Build relationships between FBOs and pediatricians, audiologists and other local providers and establish an efficient referral process for these providers.
2. Request opportunities to present to other organizations/agencies to share information about FBO and other parent-to-parent support programs.
3. Hold family activities regionally, not just in major cities/towns.
4. Provide reciprocal links on websites between FBO and EHDI programs.
5. Social Media
 - a. Provide information about the availability of parent-to-parent support services through social media – Pinterest, Instagram, Facebook, etc. Consider use of a QR code on printed materials.
 - b. Host social media events; Facebook or Twitter chats, etc.
 - c. Offer social media sites for families only; a safe place to meet/discuss.

3. Improving families access to community services

1. Post information about local community services and supports to FBO to various media platforms (Website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)
2. Invite community service organizations to Zoom meetings, Facebook chats, etc.
3. Survey families on awareness of community services.
4. Invite community service providers to partner with your FBO on events and presentations.
5. Train FBO parent-to-parent support providers on the different community services available to families.

4. Improving families access to D/HH Adults

1. Build collaborations with other organizations and programs that offer DHH Adult support to families (SKI-HI Deaf Mentors, GBYS DHH Guides, and other Role Model Programs) to develop connections and opportunities for families to meet D/HH Adults.
2. Invite D/HH Adults to become a part of your FBO.
3. Hold events where families can connect with D/HH Adults.
4. Regularly market opportunities through a variety of means (newsletters, social media, website, etc.) in which families can have opportunities to connect with D/HH Adults.
5. Provide opportunities for virtual connections through visual applications; Facetime, Google Hangout, Zoom, etc.

5. Assistance with finances

1. Create a fund for families in need to apply for assistance with their needs, including a way for stakeholders to contribute to the fund.
2. Develop a resource list of potential local/national funding sources to assist families and post them on your various media outlets.
3. Assist family in documenting specific questions to ask their insurance provider and role play with the family so that they get comfortable in asking/answering the questions.
4. Supporting Parents share their own experiences about what has helped them managing healthcare related expenses.

6. Understanding the Parent's legal rights

1. Provide D/HH specific advocacy training for families; Hands & Voices ASTra Program.
2. Host Facebook/Social media chats/posts on varies parent rights.
3. Create advocacy "minutes"/ brief presentations via YouTube so parents can view at their leisure.
4. Hold virtual meetings via Zoom or webinars where parents can ask questions.
5. Share resources and websites with families where they can learn more about their Parent Legal Rights.

7. Providing information about communication opportunities

1. Ensure your FBO has a comprehensive unbiased list of communication modes/methods and ensure the delivery of the information is shared equitably.
2. Assist families with making connections to experts in the different communications opportunities.

3. Create videos demonstrating the different communication opportunities in a nonbiased way.
4. Partner with Audiologists and assist them with providing families with access to explore communication options.
5. Share with families the [CDC Communication Decision Making Guide](#).

8. Improving families knowledge of language, literacy, and social-emotional development

1. Provide videos and tips sheets of how to read books with children who are D/HH using Listening and Spoken Language (LSL), American Sign Language (ASL), Signed Exact English (SEE), and Cued Speech.
2. Provide expected milestone charts normed on hearing children for all the above domains.
3. Share information on Language, Literacy, and Social Emotional Development found on the [FL3 section of the Hands & Voices website](#).
4. Advocate for expanded core curriculum for D/HH students that includes social-emotional needs.
5. Share information from [Laurent Clerc Center](#) and [Hearing First](#) both Organizations have resources for families on Language and Literacy.

9. How to share information with child's doctor

1. Create and share a brochure with physicians on important information to share with families and where to go for support.
2. Role play with families to practice questions/conversations with their physicians or other medical providers.
3. Supporting Parent shares from their experience what information they share with their child's doctor and how they shared it that was most effective.
4. Create a Care Coordination plan or road map for parents to help them navigate next steps after diagnosis.
5. Share the [CDC resource](#) with targeted questions for parents to ask their Pediatricians, ENTs or Audiologists.

10. Providing training to parents

1. Partner with other organizations in the state who work with families who have D/HH children and offer to provide training at their events.
2. Host an annual family conference.
3. Host monthly virtual information meetings (Zoom, Facebook or Twitter chats) for parents on a variety of topics.
4. Offer childcare so parents can attend trainings.
5. Disseminate information to parents about learning opportunities via a variety of media outlets.

11. Increasing parent/family participation in events/activities

1. Offer parent stipends to attend activities; gas cards, etc.
2. Host events at different times and locations.
3. Hold virtual events via Webchats, Zoom, etc. and record/post them afterward.
4. Make personal invitations to families and offer to sit with them at an event.
5. Clearly state how accessibility will be provided.