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HRSA awards \$1.8 Million to Hands & Voices

Hands & Voices has been granted \$1.8 million by the Health Resources and Services Administration ([HRSA](#)). The funding covers a four-year cooperative agreement with [Hands & Voices](#) to continue to develop and promote the inclusion of families with infants and young children identified through statewide Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) systems in hearing screening, evaluation, diagnosis, and early intervention programs.

This support will continue funding for the Hands & Voices *Family Leadership in Language and Learning Center* (FL3). FL3 focuses on increasing family engagement and leadership; strengthening family support in EHDI systems; and enabling families to optimize the language, literacy, cognitive, social, and emotional development of their infants and young children who are D/deaf and hard of hearing.

Hands & Voices Executive Director Janet DesGeorges is thrilled. “It’s an honor to be working with all EHDI system stakeholders for the next four years as a part of this project. Hands & Voices is committed to ensuring that these children are served according to their individual needs, and that their families receive the best possible resources and support to help them achieve their goals.”

Resource development and dissemination, education and training, quality improvement methodology, evidence-based best practices, policy initiatives, and program partnerships are part of FL3. In collaboration with national experts in language and literacy, state/territory-based family organizations and EHDI programs, federal agencies, Deaf-based organizations, and professional organizations, Hands & Voices will coordinate activities with other HRSA-funded organizations including the EHDI National Technical Resource Center, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities award recipients.

About Hands & Voices

Hands & Voices began in 1996 in an effort to join families and professionals in the discovery of “*What works for your child is what makes the choice right.*” The parent-led, non-profit organization is dedicated to supporting families with children who are D/deaf or hard of hearing without bias around communication modes or methodology. Their model has been replicated nationwide and globally in 47 chapters. Programs include Guide By Your Side (parent-to-parent support); O.U.R. Project (children’s safety); ASTra (educational advocacy); Deaf/Hard of Hearing Virtual Guide; Deafed.net; leadership conferences, workshops, chapter support, and a clearinghouse of information and resources.

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