



Quarterly Report

Data from October-December 2025



Indiana
Department
of
Health



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Mission and Vision

Indiana Department of Health Vision

Every Hoosier reaches optimal health regardless of where they live, learn, work or play.

Indiana Department of Health Mission

To promote, protect and improve the health and safety of all Hoosiers.

Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education Statement of Purpose

To promote positive outcomes through information, services and education so that all deaf and hard of hearing children in Indiana will have the resources and support to reach their full potential.

Values

- Families as decision-makers
- Self-advocacy
- Unlimited potential
- Collaborative relationships
- Quality services

Guiding Principles

The Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education will:

1. Provide information regarding all communication opportunities to support parents in making informed decisions based on the child/student's unique needs and their family's priorities and values
2. Honor the child/student as an integral part of any decision-making process
3. Respect, welcome and support children and their families across geographic locations, communication preferences, languages and cultures
4. Honor each child's right to acquire optimal language skills and academic abilities
5. Demonstrate a seamless collaborative model when working with families, schools, other agencies and providers including the deaf, hard of hearing and hearing communities
6. Provide comprehensive, evidence-based, and objective information, resources, and services for auditory, visual, and instructional best practices to all deaf and hard of hearing children, families, professionals, and programs
7. Provide expert leaders who embrace and practice the tenets of cultural and linguistic diversity
8. Manage the use of tracking and monitoring systems for individual child/student and program performance to guide state, local, and individual services, programs, resources and professional training as a priority of the Center

Observe and Follow

IC 20-35-11-4 (1) Observe and follow children who are deaf and hard of hearing from:

- (A) Birth through three (3) years of age, in collaboration with the early hearing detection and intervention program and the office of the secretary of family and social services; and
- (B) Three (3) years of age through twenty-one (21) years of age and who are enrolled or preparing to enroll in early intervention services, preschool, elementary, or secondary school, in collaboration with the department



Memorandum of Understanding

The Indiana Department of Health's Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education (Center) has Memoranda of Understanding in place with the following state agencies/programs which includes data sharing in accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)/Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

- Indiana Department of Education – Office of Special Education
- Indiana Department of Health – Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program
- Indiana Family and Social Services Administration – First Steps
- Indiana School for the Deaf

The Center maintains a database to collect and analyze information regarding identification, intervention and outcomes for deaf and hard of hearing children as a guide for Center programming and initiatives.



Family Support

IC 20-35-11-4 (2) Provide family support from birth through twenty-one (21) years of age by any of the following:

- (A) Connecting families to existing public and private resources for information and services, which may include any of the following:
 - i. First Steps agencies
 - ii. Deaf mentors
 - iii. Interpreting agencies
 - iv. Hearing health care professionals
 - v. Educational professionals

Diagnostic Audiology Evaluations (DAE) Referral and Follow-Up

Per our data sharing agreement, Indiana Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program provides DAE forms for all children to the Center to support timely support and services. During April and May 2025, 31 DAE forms were received by the Center from EHDI.

Age at DAE	Age when Center received the DAE	Number of days between DAE and Center receipt	Number of days between DAE date and Center referral to First Steps
Range: months 0.3 – 20 months	Range: 0.9 months – 20 months	Range: 0 – 39 days	Range: 0 – 40 days
Median: 3.7 months	Median: 3.7 months	Median: 4 days	Median: 6 days

First Steps Referrals

When notice of an infant or toddler who is deaf or hard of hearing in Indiana is received, typically through a DAE form, the Center refers that child and family to Indiana’s First Steps early intervention program. Of the 49 DAE forms received during this reporting period, 44 referrals were made to First Steps. The Center was already in connection with First Steps regarding the additional five children for whom a DAE form was received, so referrals were not warranted.

As part of its referral processing, First Steps system points of entry (SPOEs) reach back to the Center to refer families to the CDHHE Network and referrals are processed by the CDHHE Network administration team, including Center and St. Joseph Hearing and Speech staff. The CDHHE Network Roles and Service form is shared with the SPOE to support a family’s awareness and understanding of all CDHHE Network services and additional support specifically for families of deaf and hard of hearing infants and toddlers.

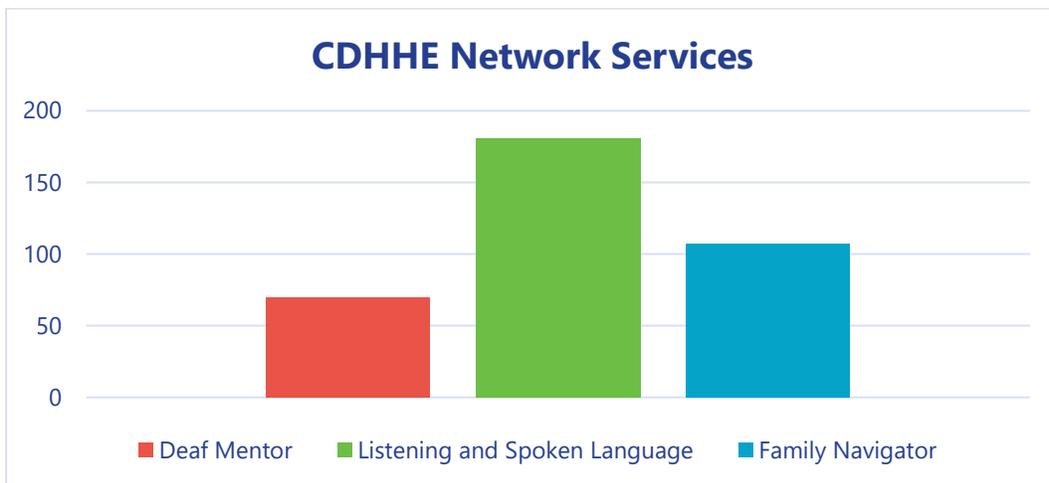


Within this reporting period, of the 44 referrals made to First Steps, 22 referrals to the CDHHE Network were received, 17 IFSPs were in place at the end of this reporting period, all those IFSPs include at least one service from the CDHHE Network. Another four referrals are still in process, 1 family declined, and 27 have not yet contacted the CDHHE Network. The Center follows up with both the First Steps SPOE and Indiana EHDI program for families not referred back to the CDHHE Network.

Age at time of referral to First Steps	Age at First Steps referral to the CDHHE Network	Number of days between referral to FS and referral to CDHHE Network	Age at IFSP date	Number of days between referral to FS and IFSP with CDHHE Network service
Range: 3 – 18 months	Range: 3 – 18 months	Range: 1 – 56 days *5 referred to CDHHE Network prior to DAE	Range: 3 – 18 months	Range: 1 to 58 days *5 referred to CDHHE Network prior to DAE
Median: 3.6 months	Median: 3.6 months	Median: nine days	Median: 3.6 months	Median: 14 days

CDHHE Network services

Services offered through the CDHHE Network during this reporting period include deaf mentor, family navigator, listening and spoken language services. As of the end of this reporting period, at least one CDHHE Network service was included on 224 individual family service plans (IFSPs). Of those IFSPs, 31% included deaf mentor services, 48% included family navigator services, and 81% included listening and spoken language services.



Audiology Services

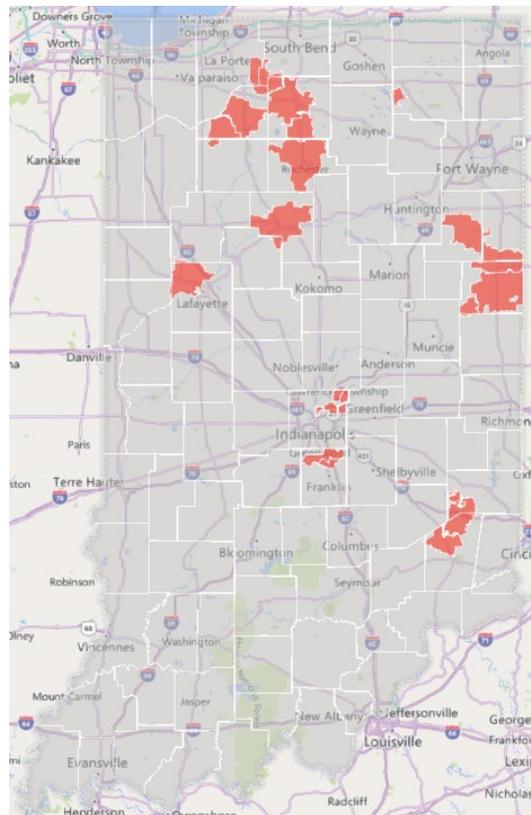
Center audiology services include comprehensive diagnostic hearing assessments, newborn hearing screenings, behavioral hearing assessments, First Steps managing audiology services, educationally relevant hearing assessments, hearing aid and DM system consultation and verification, functional listening assessments and HAAPI audiological management services.

General audiology appointments- outside of First Steps and HAAPI management	First Steps audiology appointments - evaluations, hearing aid fittings, management	Hearing Aid Assistance Program of Indiana (HAAPI) Appointments – evaluations, hearing aid fittings, annual follow-up
66	15	38

Educational Audiology Outreach

Center audiologists saw 37 students on-site in 13 school districts, as shown on the map below. The primary role was to complete audiologic testing to verify hearing levels. 29% of students who received audiologic testing were newly identified as being deaf or hard of hearing. The team also provided HAAPI hearing technology, fittings and consultation.

Locations of Educational Audiology Outreach



Audiologists attended the Community Outreach Opportunities for Learning Otology and Otolaryngology (COOL-OTO) event through the 2025 American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Conference hosted in Indianapolis in October 2025. The event was hosted at Area 31 Career Center and Ben Davis High School, where high school students interested in health care learned about different areas of otolaryngology, including hearing devices, careers in medicine, basic ENT anatomy, and more.

Audiologists from the Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education showcased classroom technology, including remote microphones, as well as video otoscopy, allowing students to see their own eardrum. This event allowed students to be hands-on in various medical fields relating to otolaryngology. The Center provided key information about pediatric audiology to encourage future practitioners in the field.

CDHHE Network Administration

The CDHHE Network administrative team is comprised of staff from the Center, the Indiana School for the Deaf and St Joseph Hearing and Speech. During this reporting period, this team focused on updating documents such as the CDHHE Roles and Services document, as well as revisiting our referral process with First Steps SPOEs. We are streamlining this process to have a referral for each service go directly to that organization with inclusion of the Center for all referrals for the purpose of observing and following.



Educational Evaluations

IC 20-35-11-4 (3) Develop and ensure comprehensive educational evaluations that:

- (A) Consider the full continuum of communication options
- (B) Make available the following professionals licensed under IC 25-35.6-3
 - i. A speech-language pathologist licensed under IC 25-35.6-3
 - ii. A school psychologist licensed under the department
 - iii. An occupational therapist licensed under IC 25-23.5
 - iv. A physical therapist licensed under IC 25-27
 - v. A certified listening and spoken language specialist
 - vi. An American Sign Language specialist, as defined by the National Association of State Directors of Special Education
 - vii. An audiologist licensed under IC 25-35.6-3
 - viii. A deaf educator licensed under IC 20-28-5

Domains Assessed

Domain	Percentage of Center evaluations in this reporting period that include each domain
Academic	66.7%
Adaptive Behavior	38.3%
Articulation	66.7%
Audiology	83.3%
Cognitive	61.1%
Developmental	27.8%
Functional Listening	61.1%
Motor and Sensory	22.2%
Emotional/Behavioral	44.4%
Spoken Communication	72.2%
Visual Communication	44.4%
Visual Perceptual	38.9%



Evaluations by Grade Level

Grade Level	Percentage of Center evaluations of students within each grade level
Pre-Kindergarten	27.8%
Kindergarten through sixth grade	66.7%
Seventh grade – high school exit	5.6%

Referral Sources

Source	Percentage of Center evaluations from each type of referral source
Families	11.1%
Direct Service Providers	5.6%
Schools	88.9%



Educational Assistance and Consultations

IC 20-35-11-4 (4) Assist professionals who provide students with sign language interpreting services.

(5) Provide consultation by qualified professionals concerning students who are deaf and students who are hard of hearing, including classroom accommodations, instruction, acoustics, and other environmental aspects.

Assistance to Sign Language Interpreters

Educational Interpreting Round Table (EIRT)

The purpose of EIRT is to share resources, develop interpreting skills, and reinforce best practices in an online learning environment with educational interpreters. EIRT is a professional learning group for sign language interpreters working in K-12 classrooms.

October 2025

- Professionals in attendance: 16
- Topics: The IEP inclusion of accommodations. Participants were able to identify where to look on an IEP to find testing accommodations.
- 100% of participants rated this activity was outstanding

November 2025

- Professionals in attendance: 14
- Topic: "Inclusive Holidays, Joyful Connections" Participants were able to list at least five strategies to enhance visual/auditory access in a variety of holiday settings.
- 94% rated this activity as outstanding

December 2025

- Professionals in attendance: 15
- Topic: National Association of Interpreters in Education's Professional Guidelines and Educational Interpreter Code of Ethics – Deep Dive. Participants wrote the Educational Interpreter Code of Ethics in "I will" statements and then applied ethics to real world situations.
- 94% rated this activity as outstanding

Consultations on behalf of DHH Students

N'DEEP meet up

N'DEEP is a professional learning group to discuss pertinent topics for those emerging in the field of deaf education. Participants are Indiana professionals who have recently obtained deaf



education licensure, are new to the state, are new to their role, or are working on obtaining deaf education licensure.

October 2025

Professionals in attendance: 30

Center staff went into detail about the purpose of Functional Listening Evaluations and what they measure. We discussed how FLE data could be used to guide environmental access decisions, support hearing assistive technology (HAT) recommendations, write measurable self-advocacy goals, and to education general and special education teachers. We also provided FLE sample templates for teachers to use when writing reports. In N'DEEP breakout rooms, we provided case studies to discuss.

November 2025

Professionals in attendance: 24

November's N'DEEP Meet-Up focused on where to find resources. The Deaf Education Resources Livebinder was highlighted and participants learned how to best navigate digitally curated resources within the tool. We also highlighted the Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education's website and the resources contained there including where to find links for referrals. The HAAPI website as well as EHDl Pals were also shown. The Phonak Roger configurator tool was explored and participants had the opportunity to navigate. The team also reviewed how to best use Google Suite when sharing and saving documents. Upcoming professional development opportunities were shared.

DHH Roundtable

The purpose of quarterly DHH Roundtables is to share information and resources for school professionals working with children who are deaf and hard of hearing. Participants are primarily comprised of public-school teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing.

October 2025

Professionals in attendance: 35

During October's meeting, we shared staffing changes and job postings and informed participants that the Center would be changing physical location in 2026. We shared updated information about Hearing Screening Guidelines from the Indiana Department of Education as well as information on IDOH mobile hearing screening units. We also reviewed the list of educational audiologists in Indiana. Participants had the opportunity to discuss templates and procedures for the new PowerSchool Special Programs IEP system. We highlighted resources for automated listening checks, the Vanderbilt Classroom Listening Assessment Survey, glossary of special education frequently used words (that can be shared with interpreters for IEP meetings). We also fielded educational audiology questions from the field.

November 2025

Professionals in attendance: 53



Topics discussed included manifestation determination, Least Restrictive Environment, Language Rich Environments, and what LRE means for students who are deaf and hard of hearing. Resources shared included IDOE Moodle and IDOE Learning Lab. Staff shared information about how trauma affects the learner's brain. We had two featured guests: Silvia Lopez from Aspire Indiana Health described their services. Abby Muller-DeFazio, AuD, from Phonak gave a presentation on educational technology, technology integration, and tips for Roger use. Slideshows and tip documents were shared after the DHH Roundtable.

Deaf Education Technical Assistance

- Deaf education staff continued to mentor new and aspiring DHH teachers at the local district level
- Center assessment staff conducted several on-site initial eligibility assessments and functional listening evaluations
- A variety of Center staff served as subject matter experts in case conferences
- The Center assisted school districts with accommodations assistance for state standardized assessments including technical assistance for Good Cause Exemptions (GCE)
- The Center deaf education staff conducted several observations for students with complex needs.



Liaison

IC 20-35-11-4 (6) Act as a liaison with all state agencies that provide services to individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing, including the department, the Indiana Department of Health, the Office of the Secretary of Family and Social Services and Indiana School for the Deaf.

Council for DHH Connections

This council was created in early 2025 to bring together organizations within Indiana who support and/or serve deaf and hard of hearing children. The purpose of the council is to:

- **Inform** a wide variety of stakeholders about programs and services
- **Support** seamless and collaborative process in the implementation of support and services
- **Discuss and align** variety of stakeholders with regard to best practices in service and education
- **Collaborate**, share perspectives, identify issues, and provide input
- **Facilitate and disseminate** information about the Center throughout the state

This group of organizations will hold quarterly meetings. While each meeting includes a single representative from each organization, we are seeking ways to have open communication across time among these organizations with the goal of becoming more inclusive of a variety of members of each organization. The vision is to have an open forum for communication and sharing resources and information.

The organizations currently participating in this council are:

- Ball State University
- Butler University
- Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education
- DHH Clinic, Riley Hospital/IU Health
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, FSSA
- Hear Indiana
- Indiana Association of the Deaf
- Indiana Chapter of Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
- Indiana Council of Administrators in Special Education
- Indiana Deaf-Blind Services Project
- Indiana Department of Education
- Indiana Department of Health – Women, Children, and Families Commission
- Indiana Early Hearing Detection and Intervention
- Indiana First Steps
- Indiana Hands & Voices
- Indiana School for the Deaf
- Indiana University



- PASS Project, Indiana State University
- Purdue University
- St. Joseph Hearing + Speech

Meeting minutes will be placed on the Center's website following each meeting.

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