



Quarterly Report

Data from January-March 2026

**Center for Deaf and
Hard of Hearing Education**



May 1, 2026

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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



Memorandum of Understanding

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 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 departmentThe 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)
- 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 the first three months of 2026, 53 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: 0.4 months – 30.2 months	Range: 0.6 months – 31.5 months	Range: 0 – 41 days	Range: 0 – 48 days
Median: 5.1 months	Median: 5.1 months	Median: 1 day	Median: 4 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 53 DAE forms received during this reporting period, 48 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) refer families to the CDHHE Network administration team, including Center, Indiana School for the Deaf, and St. Joseph Hearing + 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.



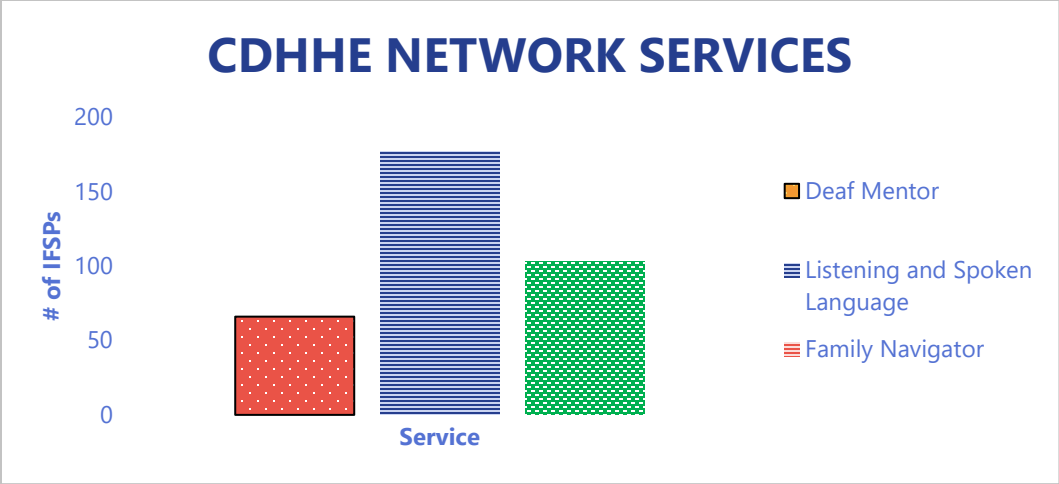
Within this reporting period, of the 48 referrals made to First Steps, 32 referrals to the CDHHE Network were received, 24 IFSPs were in place at the end of this reporting period, all those IFSPs include at least one service from the CDHHE Network. Another two referrals are still in process, four families declined, and 19 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 with CDHHE Network service(s)	Number of days between referral to FS and IFSP with CDHHE Network service
Range: 0.6 – 31.8 months	Range: 1.4 – 30.8 months	Range: 0 – 40 days *5 referred to CDHHE Network prior to DAE	Range: 2.3 – 31.6 months	Range: 0 to 40 days *5 referred to CDHHE Network prior to DAE
Median: 5.2 months	Median: 6.6 months	Median: days	Median: 6.7 months	Median: 7 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 223 individual family service plans (IFSPs). Of those IFSPs, 29.5% included deaf mentor services, 46.1% included family navigator services, and 79.3% 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.

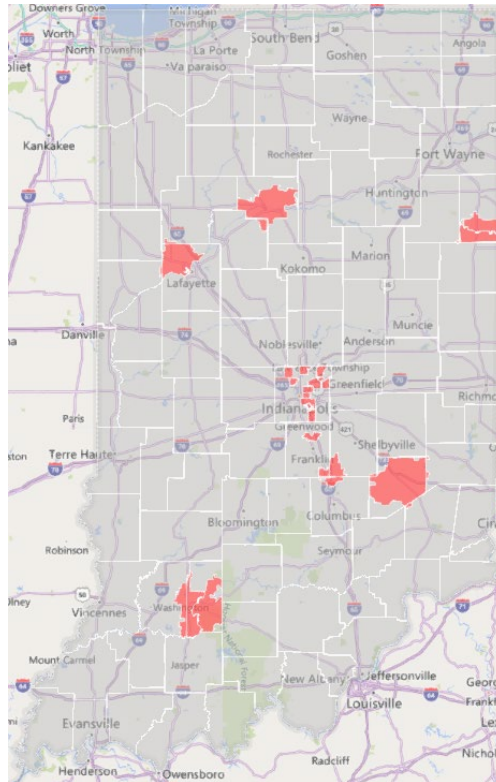
General audiology appointments- outside of First Steps and HAAPI management	First Steps audiology appointments - evaluations, hearing aid fittings, management	Hearing Aid Assistance Program of Indiana (HAAPI) Appointments – evaluations, hearing aid fittings, annual follow-up
79	28	31

Educational Audiology Outreach

Center audiologists saw 48 students on-site in 12 school districts, as shown on the map below. The primary role was to complete audiologic testing to verify hearing levels. Twenty-seven percent 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



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 + Speech. During this reporting period, this team implemented a revised referral process with First Steps SPOEs 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. Additionally, we are creating an FAQ document for families of newly identified deaf and hard of hearing infants and toddlers to support their understanding of the importance of intervention and support services and how to engage those opportunities.



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	87%
Adaptive Behavior	78%
Articulation	78%
Audiology	83%
Cognitive	61%
Developmental	30%
Functional Listening	74%
Motor and Sensory	35%
Emotional/Behavioral	22%
Spoken Communication	87%
Visual Communication	39%
Visual Perceptual	4%



Evaluations by Grade Level

Grade Level	Percentage of Center evaluations of students within each grade level
Pre-Kindergarten	26%
Kindergarten through sixth grade	74%
Seventh grade – high school exit	0%

Referral Sources

Source	Percentage of Center evaluations from each type of referral source
Families	26%
Direct Service Providers	4%
Schools	70%



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.

February 2026

- Professionals in attendance: 23
- Topics: See Your Work Clearly: Self-Feedback Strategies. Participants were able to list and describe three strategies of self-assessment, draft two professional development goals, and explain two opportunities for external feedback.
- Ninety-six percent of participants rated this activity as outstanding

March 2026

- Professionals in attendance: 14
- Topic: Hands Up Skill Practice; Voice to Sign. Participants learned about lexicalized signs- defining them and producing examples, practiced translating English sentences into proper ASL grammar and participated in mock interpretation sessions with peers.
- All attendees 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.



January 2026

Professionals in attendance: 28

January's meeting focused on Educational Audiology: navigating Bluetooth connections, ordering HAT, and guides to help TODs. Review of the DeafBlind Registry and supports for families. Finally, participants were directed to registration links for upcoming N'DEEP meet-ups and DHH Roundtables to ensure continued collaboration and learning throughout the year.

February 2026

Professionals in attendance: 28

During the February N'DEEP meeting, Center staff focused IREAD/ILEARN assessments, LSL strategy of the month, and the new location of the Center. Center staff reviewed functional listening evaluations (FLE) and how to conduct them in the educational environment. Staff shared FLE resources and fielded questions.

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: 67

During the February DHH Roundtable, Center welcomed guest speakers from UNIFI Autism Care and Aspire Indiana Health. The Listening and Spoken Language strategy of the quarter was Auditory Sandwich. Center staff gave tips on how to include this in their practice. The Educational Audiology minute allowed time for participants to ask questions specific to their educational audiology needs. Additional topics of focus included Vocational Rehabilitation, PowerSchool Special Programs, Equitable Services (from IDOE), and changes to due process hearings being transferred to the Office for Administrative Law Proceedings.

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

Center audiologists provided wide-ranging audiology and hearing-assistive technology support across numerous districts during this reporting period, with RC focusing on consultative services such as ordering and configuring Roger and FM systems, supporting complex bimodal (CI/HA)



technology cases, advising on OAEs performed by non-audiologists, assisting with CART and HAT needs, addressing accommodations for high-frequency hearing loss, troubleshooting CI headpieces, recommending remote microphone solutions, and providing information on HAAPI and cochlear implants. Meanwhile, SA delivered hands-on troubleshooting and direct school-based support, including repeated hearing aid repairs, HAT system setup and verification, and collaborative consultations with teachers of the deaf/hard of hearing across districts such as MSD Lawrence, Noblesville, Logansport, Terre Haute, Batesville, Brown County, Beech Grove, Jay County, South Adams, Mooresville, and Clark Pleasant. Together, their coordinated efforts ensured that students who are deaf or hard of hearing maintained consistent access to learning through functional amplification and well-supported HAT systems.



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 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.



Memorandum of Understanding

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