

National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management

The National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management serves as the National Technical Resource Center for Newborn Hearing Screening and Intervention to support new and ongoing efforts at the state, regional, and national levels to meet the training and information needs of families and professionals; provide forums for communication and coordination among stakeholders; and expand hearing screening programs in early childhood and health care settings.

The goal of the National Technical Resource Center is to help states create, improve, and operate sustainable Early Hearing Detection and Intervention systems. Statewide systems will ensure that all infants:

- are screened for hearing loss, and, if they do not pass the screening,
- receive diagnostic evaluations before 3 months of age and, if indicated by the evaluation,
- are enrolled in early intervention programs before 6 months of age.

Effective early hearing detection and intervention requires linking newborn hearing screening to diagnostic services, early intervention, family support, and medical homes. The National Technical Resource Center utilizes a National Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Assistance Network in collaboration with various professional and advocacy organizations to assist states in the implementation of effective and sustainable statewide EHDI systems.

Funding

HRSA awarded a total of \$2,021,312 over a 10-year project period, beginning April 1, 2005.

Collaborating Agencies

Partial listing of organizations that also receive HRSA funds:

- The American Academy of Pediatrics
- The Catalyst Center
- Champions for Inclusive Communities
- Family Voices, Inc.
- Healthy and Ready to Work
- National Center for Cultural Competence
- The National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality

Successful Programs

- **Arizona:** Arizona has a history of newborn hearing screening as the standard of care since 2000. Although hearing screening is voluntary, nearly 98 percent of babies born in Arizona are screened. The Arizona Office of Newborn Screening screens newborns for a panel of 29 disorders recommended nationally by the American College of Medical Genetics, March of Dimes, American Academy of Pediatrics, and federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau.
- **Kentucky:** The Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs manages the state Newborn Hearing Screening Program, which ensures that all newborns receive a hearing screening before leaving the hospital. Newborn hearing screening is the first step in identifying infants with hearing loss and prescribing follow-up care. The goal of Kentucky's Newborn Hearing Screening program is to identify congenital hearing loss in children by 3 months of age and enroll them in appropriate early intervention by 6 months of age. Kentucky hospitals currently screen 98 percent of newborns before they leave the hospital.

For more information, visit: <http://www.infanthearing.org/>