

State/Territory Stakeholders' Meeting

Due to the 2021 Annual EHDI Conference format becoming virtual, state/territory EHDI Coordinators may use their own discretion to schedule and plan a Stakeholder meeting with EHDI Virtual conference attendees before and/or following the virtual conference. Time spent together in this way will help attendees maximize what they learn during the sessions and to use the new knowledge to improve their state's/territory's EHDI system. Each state's/territory's meeting will be designed and led by the EHDI Coordinator or the EHDI Coordinator's designee. This meeting time should be used to benefit the EHDI program, EHDI system, EHDI direct services, and/or the EHDI process as it pertains to your state's/territory's current needs.

The overall goal of the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program is to support the development of state/territory programs and systems of care to ensure that children who are deaf or hard of hearing (DHH) are identified through newborn, infant, and early childhood hearing screening and receive diagnosis and appropriate early intervention to optimize language, literacy, cognitive, social, and emotional development.

Preparing for the State Stakeholders' Meeting

Prior to the Virtual EHDI Conference, participants are encouraged to understand and reflect on the status of their state's/territory's EHDI system and what they would like to learn from the sessions. Stakeholders' meeting participants may receive information from their EHDI Coordinator to review prior to the meeting.

- EHDI Coordinators are encouraged to communicate with registered attendees from their state/territory prior to the virtual sessions for preliminary planning and to discuss priorities and initiatives.
- Preliminary information via email or conference calls prior to attending the conference could include introduction of attendees to promote networking among participants from the same state/territory (e.g., name, title, role in the EHDI system); topics/sessions of interest at this EHDI conference; a summary of the goals and objectives for your state's/territory's HRSA and/or CDC grant. You may be asked to assist your state's/territory's EHDI program in achieving those goals and objectives.
- There could also be discussions about future activities related to the following.
 - Increase the number of infants that complete a newborn hearing screen no later than 1 month of age, increase the number of infants that complete a diagnostic audiologic evaluation no later than 3 months of age and increase the number of infants identified to be DHH that are enrolled in Early Intervention (EI) services no later than 6 months of age,
 - Increase the number of families enrolled in family-to-family support services by no later than 6 months of age,
 - Increase the number of families enrolled in DHH adult-to-family support services by no later than 9 months of age,
 - Increase the number of health professionals and service providers trained on key aspects of the EHDI Program, and
 - Quality Improvement (QI)/Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) plans related to these activities; progress, successes, and barriers in implementing the QI Plan/PDSAs.

During the State Stakeholders' Meeting

While EHDI programs are expected to fulfill similar objectives, strategies for how they fulfill those objectives differ due to differences in demographics and how state/territory EHDI programs are organized. EHDI Coordinators have been directed to design the agenda for your state's/territory's meeting in a manner that will advance their EHDI priorities, goals, objectives, and activities.

The Stakeholders' Meeting should include defining EHDI priorities in the state/territory and devising a strategy for the attendees to gain as much information as possible during the conference. For example, a state/territory group might review the [detailed conference agenda](#) and decide how to coordinate attendance at sessions so that representatives can attend sessions that are most relevant to priorities for their state/territory. The meeting should include discussion on the goals and objectives of the program and status of current initiatives. All registered Annual EHDI Meeting attendees are invited to be an active participant in the discussions.