

NE-EHDI Funding Sources and Requirements –

Only receive Federal Funding (NO State funding)

1. Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) Grant
 - a. 4 year funding period from April 2020 – March 2024 (\$235,000 maximum amount annually)
 - b. Reduced all EHDI Programs' funding from \$250,000 to \$235,000 annually
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Cooperative Agreement
 - a. 4 year funding period from July 2020 – June 2024
 - b. Decreased # of awards – NE-EHDI is very thankful to receive the funding
 - c. Increased amount of awards from \$150,000 to \$160,000 – less restrictions on how the funding can be used
3. Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Title V Block Grant
 - a. Request funding as needed to cover necessary program operation costs
 - b. Approximately \$25,000 to \$50,000 annually

ADDITIONAL FUNDS Received – \$10,000 HRSA COVID Funds to purchase clear masks to be distributed to families of children birth - 3 years of age who are D/HH and to anyone who serves this population. This has been added to the Hands & Voices sub-award agreement to purchase and distribute. Funding needs to be spent by 3/31/2021.

HRSA – 4 Year Funding Requirements from 4/1/2020 – 3/31/2024

- Develop a plan to address diversity and inclusion in the EHDI system by 3/31/2022
 - Ensure NE-EHDI system activities are inclusive of and address the needs of the populations it serves - including geography, race, ethnicity, disability, gender, sexual orientation, family structure, socio-economic status
- Expand our capacity to support hearing screening, diagnosis, and enrollment into EI for those infants who pass a newborn hearing screen but later develop hearing loss up to 3 years of age (data collection and reporting)
 - Required to develop a plan by 3/31/2022
- Increase by 10% the number of families enrolled in D/HH adult-to-family support services by 9 months of age by 3/31/2024
 - HRSA has no definition for age of adult
 - Required to be a trained adult when serving as a D/HH Role Model or Mentor
- Continue to improve the 1-3-6 goals
- Reduce Loss to Follow-up/Loss to Documentation
- Continue to allocate 25% of annual funding for family engagement and family support activities
- Increase by 20% from the year 1 baseline the number of families enrolled in family-to-family support services by 6 months of age by 3/31/2024
- Increase by 10% from year 1 baseline the number of health professionals and service providers trained on key aspects of the EHDI Program by 3/31/2024

CDC - 4 Year Funding Requirements from 7/1/2020 – 6/30/2021

Short-term Outcomes

- Recipients meet the “Shall” requirements of the CDC EHDI Functional Standards
- Improved collaboration between audiologists and jurisdictional EHDI program
- Increased knowledge and skills among audiologists in the jurisdiction about reporting hearing results

Intermediate Outcomes

- More audiologists in the jurisdiction report high quality diagnostic hearing results
- Improved the accuracy, completeness and timeliness of follow-up and intervention enrollment data

- Increased targeted dissemination of information among internal and external stakeholders
- Increased the timely submission of standardized patient-level datasets to CDC (excluding PII)
- Increased standardization and comparability of EHDl follow-up data by CDC at national level

Long term Outcomes

- Use of timely patient-level data among EHDl programs for tracking and to inform decision making
- Increased the number of infants who receive a diagnosis no later than 3 months of age
- Increased enrollment in Early Intervention services no later than 6 months of age, for infants who are D/HH

WELCOME

to the

NE-EHDI Advisory Meeting

May 13th 2021



Brenda Coufal, NE-EHDI Program Manager/Coordinator
 MeLissa Butler, Community Health Educator, Sr.
 Jim Beavers, Business Analyst (Contract, part-time)
 Shelli Janning, Community Outreach Coordinator (Contract, part-time)
 Mary Maraist, Community Health Educator (Contract, part-time)

NEBRASKA
 Good Life. Great Mission.
 DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Helping People Live Better Lives.

Info to Optimize Zoom Access for all Members

1. Please leave your **video turned off** unless you have the floor, with the exception of the interpreters
2. **Rename your video feed** in Zoom to include your first and last name
3. Leave your **sound muted** at all times unless acknowledged to the floor
4. **Use the pin feature to secure the interpreter to your screen**
 - as needed (you can use the "side-by-side" view option when documents are being screen shared to see both the materials and interpreter)
5. **Use in-Zoom Chat** to ask questions or provide comments
6. **Identify yourself by name** each time you take the floor
7. **Once done with the floor, mute/turn off video and sound**

Helping People Live Better Lives.

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introductions (Chair – Stacie Ray)

- Reading of the Open Meetings Act

- Additional Welcome for Members Attending their 1st Advisory Meeting (Brenda)



Helping People Live Better Lives.

Newborn Screening & Genetics Program Manager



Julie Luedtke retired May 1, 2020



to the NE-EHDI Advisory Committee

Jillian Chance, Newborn Screening & Genetics Program Manager

Helping People Live Better Lives.

Advisory Committee Member Status

1st Meeting for the following as Advisory Members:

- Jessica Hoss, Parent
- Carlena Conard, OB Director at York General Hospital (Nancy Hengelfelt Retired)
- Joanna Webster, Audiologist with Children's Hospital
- Mark Andersen, Nebraska Association of the Deaf
- Brad Czaplewski, Deaf Educator with Educational Service Unit (ESU) #10
- Anne Thomas, Coordinator of UNL Deaf Education Program
- Jessica Anthony, Part C Co-Coordinator with EDN (Julie Docter Retired)
- Mary Maraist, NE-EHDI Community Health Educator (Graduate Audiology Student)

WELCOME | we are glad
you're here

Helping People Live Better Lives.

AGENDA continued...

2. Review of Agenda (included in your handouts) (Chair – Stacie Ray)
3. Review of Nov 14, 2019 Meeting Minutes-Action (emailed 4/29/2021) (Chair – Stacie Ray)
4. Program Update and Action Items (Brenda Coufal)

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Helping People Live Better Lives.

Recognition of NE-EHDI Team Members

Congratulations!

to


- **MeLissa for 10 years of EXCELLENT work in the program!**
- **Jim for 15 years of EXCELLENT work in the program!**

Helping People Live Better Lives.

Planning for Future NE-EHDI Advisory Meetings

- Announcement of the 2022 May and October Meeting Dates



-  to extend the Chair and Vice-Chair positions one more year due to COVID

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Helping People Live Better Lives.

NE-EHDI Funding & Requirements

- **NE-EHDI Funding Sources**

- HRSA
- CDC
- MCH Title V Block Grant
- **NO State Funding**



- **See handout for current Funding & Requirements**



Helping People Live Better Lives.

Family Support Agreements



- **Nebraska Hands & Voices** – April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022
 - Renewed annually

- **HearU Nebraska** – April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022
 - Renewed annually



- **Boys Town Roots and Wings Parent Weekend**
 - Usually held annually, canceled for 2021 due to COVID
 - Planning to have the event in 2022



Helping People Live Better Lives.

Training / Education for Parents



- Birthing Facilities receive two education brochures free of charge (available in 14 languages)
 - “Can Your Baby Hear” brochure
 - “Your Baby Needs Another Hearing Screening” brochure
- WIC and N-MIECHV Programs provide the “Can Your Baby Hear” brochure
- “Your Baby Needs Another Hearing Screening” brochure is in the NE-EHDI parent follow-up letter
- NE-EHDI educates during follow-up phone discussions about the steps to meet the JCIH 1-3-6 recommendations
- Facebook posts to DHHS Facebook

Other ideas to educate Parents about the newborn hearing screening process?

Helping People Live Better Lives.

Meetings / Updates / Reminders

Audiologists

- Meet with the primary Pediatric Audiology Clinics annually
- Provide a QA Report to the primary Pediatric Audiology Clinics annually
- E-mail a biannual newsletter to Pediatric Audiologists
- Present to the UNL Auditory Electrophysiology Class *annually*

**NE-EHDI
Biannual
Audiologist
Newsletter**

Birthing Facilities

- Meet with the Birthing Facilities as needed when issues arise
- Provide a QA Report to the Birthing Facilities annually
- E-mail updates as needed to the Birthing Facilities
- Newborn Hearing Hospital Champion Campaign



Primary Care Providers (PCPs)

- Education/Training to PCPs and ENTs
- E-mailed a newsletter to the PCPs in March 2021



Helping People Live Better Lives.

Additional Reports

- CDC Hearing Screening and Follow-up Survey (HSFS)
- HRSA Progress Report
- CDC Continuation Application and Performance Report
- Report to D/HH Regional Programs Statewide Stakeholders Meetings
- Annual Legislative Report with 2020 Data



□ Other ideas to disseminate EHDl data?

Helping People Live Better Lives.

Projects Started Planning in April 2020



1. Develop a plan to address Diversity and Inclusion in the NE-EHDI system

HRSA requires us to develop a plan [by 3/31/2022](#)

- Ensure the NE-EHDI system is inclusive of and addresses the needs of the populations it serves - including geography, race, ethnicity, disability, gender, sexual orientation, family structure, socio-economic status
- A workgroup has been established and started meeting April 7, 2021

Helping People Live Better Lives.

Projects Started Planning April 2020

- Expand capacity to support hearing screening, diagnosis, and EI for those infants who pass a newborn hearing screening but later develop hearing loss up to age 3

HRSA requires us to develop a plan by 3/31/2022

- Partnering with Early Head Start
- Will work with the Pediatric Audiologists and ESUs
- Surveying PCPs to identify if any are conducting hearing screenings
- Need to identify if any licensed daycare centers are conducting hearing screenings



- OTHER IDEAS of entities who may conduct hearing screenings for this age?**

Helping People Live Better Lives.

Projects Started Planning April 2020



- Implement a Deaf and Hard of Hearing (D/HH) Mentor/Role Model/Guide Program

HRSA Requirement:

- Increase by 10% the number of families enrolled in D/HH adult-to-family support services **by the time the child is 9 months of age by 3/31/2024.**

NE-EHDI's Goal is:

- To start implementing a statewide formal D/HH Mentor/Role Model/Guide Program by 3/31/2023.

Helping People Live Better Lives.

Timeline for Planning of the D/HH Mentor/Role Model Program

- **Fall 2019** – Started discussing with a variety of partners to see what services are currently being provided in Nebraska for D/HH Role Models or Mentors.
- **April 2020** – Received HRSA funding for a 4 year funding cycle through March 31, 2024.
- **July-August 2020** – Developed a parent survey with input from the NE-EHDI Advisory Committee & other parents.
- **August 31, 2020** – E-mailed survey to parents statewide to find out needs and wants for a statewide D/HH Role Model or Mentor Program.
- **August-September 2020** – NE Hands & Voices and NE-EHDI partnered to interview individuals who are D/HH with a variety of experiences and communication choices.
- **October 2020** – Organizational Meeting.

Helping People Live Better Lives.

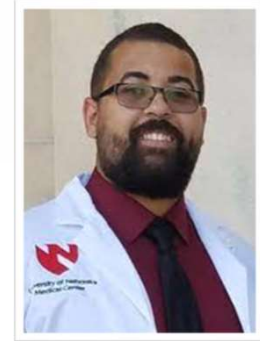
Timeline for Planning of the D/HH Mentor/Role Model Program

- **Jan-Feb-March 2021** – A parent work group met each month to review the results of the parent survey and prioritize areas of importance.
- **Feb 2021** – A Primary Planning Work Group was established.
- **March-May 2021** – Gather information from other states who have similar programs to find out what has worked well and what has been challenging.
- **April 2021-March 2022** – The Primary Planning work group will meet to identify the organization/program/agency or if several need to be involved to implement and operate this program, discuss funding, and all the components needed to operate the program.
- **April 2022-March 2023** – The operating program will hire coordinator(s), D/HH mentors/guides, interpreters, and ensure training is completed.
- **April 2023-March 2024** – Manage, operate, and sustain the program and continue ongoing after 2024.

Helping People Live Better Lives.

Projects Started January 2021

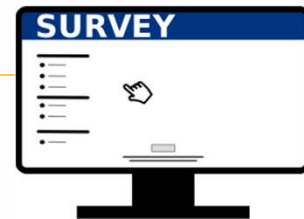
- **Started working with a UNMC Master's of Public Health Intern, Frantzlee LaCrete**
 - He has also completed his 3rd year of Medical School
 - Future Plans are to be a ENT
- **He is assisting NE-EHDI with:**
 - A Licensed Audiology Survey and Analysis
 - A Risk Factors Follow-Up Project
 - Developing Infographics Documents
 - Education about Risk Factors for Children with Late Onset or Progressive Hearing Loss for Patients
 - OAE vs ABR Newborn Hearing Screening Information for Patients



Helping People Live Better Lives.

Audiology Survey

- **A survey link was sent to 174 Nebraska licensed audiologists**
- **The survey is to:**
 - Identify the locations of all audiology clinics that serve pediatric patients
 - Determine how often they serve pediatric patients
 - Find out the equipment the audiologists have available for newborn hearing screening and the services they provide
 - Learn how familiar they are with the EHDI process
- **The analysis and report will be completed by mid-May 2021**



Helping People Live Better Lives.

On-going Updates to NE-EHDI Website

Info added/changed since the October 2020 Advisory Committee Update

- The Nebraska Resources Video was posted to the Family Support Page
<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/EHDI-Family-Support.aspx>
- Added the Tele-audiology flyer and a sentence about Tele-audiology to the Family Support & Audiology web pages
- Moved the Parent Experience of Care Survey and Spanish PRG tiles to the top of the Parent Resource Guide Page
- Added a link to the Fall 2020 Audiology Newsletter
- Added a link to the March 2021 PCP Newsletter

Helping People Live Better Lives.



Break

Helping People Live Better Lives.

AGENDA continued...

5. Additional Specialty Programs Updates for Projects Started in 2019 – 2021
 - Tele-Audiology (Sara Peterson)
 - Newborn Hearing Screening Hospital Champion Campaign (MeLissa Butler)
 - Risk Factors Follow-up Procedure Revision (MeLissa Butler)
6. Parent Scholarship Recipients Share National EHDl Experiences
(Amy Nejezchleb, Beth Anne Bryson, Angela Vapenik, and Aaron Thompson)

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Helping People Live Better Lives.

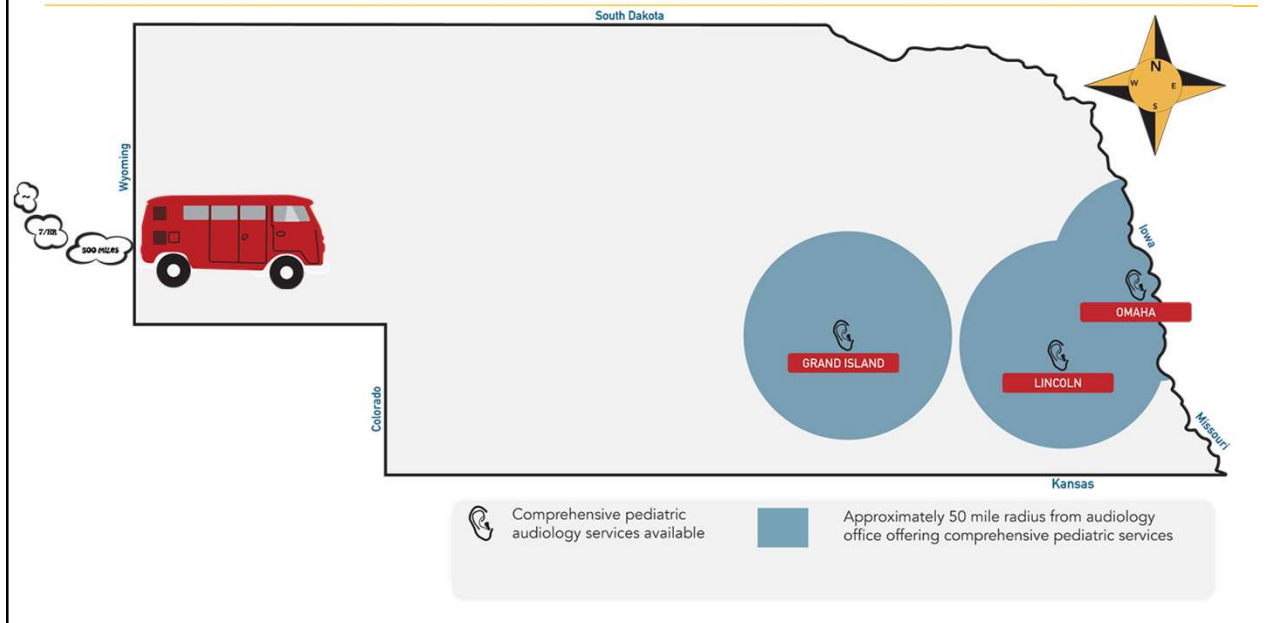
Tele- Audiology Update



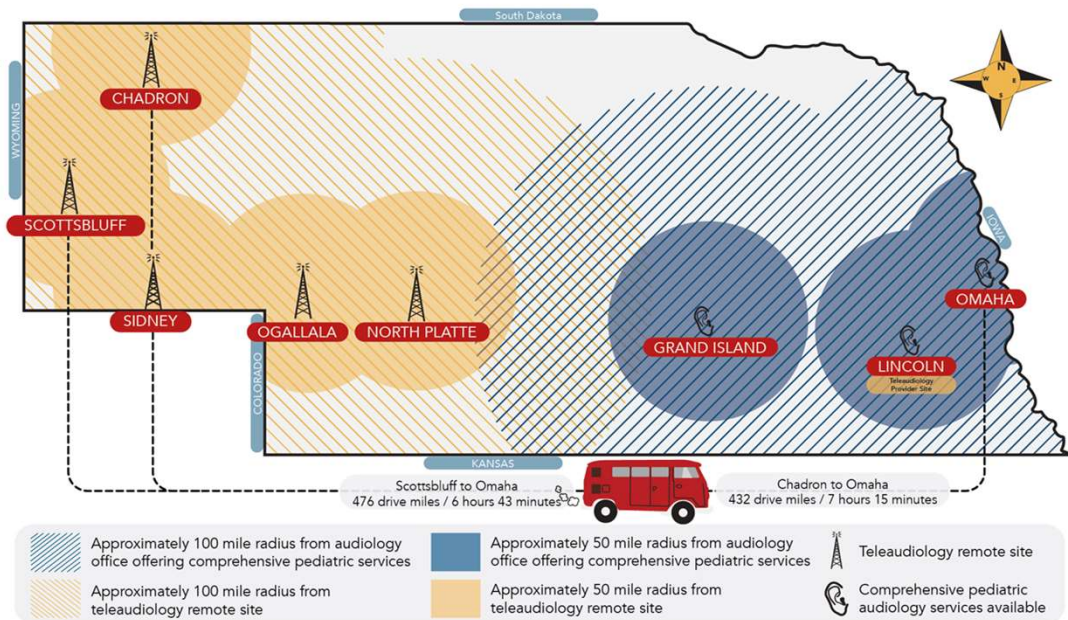
NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Helping People Live Better Lives.

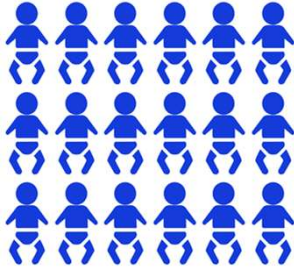
Previous Pediatric Audiology Sites & Travel Distance



5 Remote Sites Added in Western Nebraska



Outcomes to date (as of 02/2021)



18 INFANTS
TESTED



AT 3 REMOTE
SITES



5 INFANTS
IDENTIFIED

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Helping People Live Better Lives.

Benefits

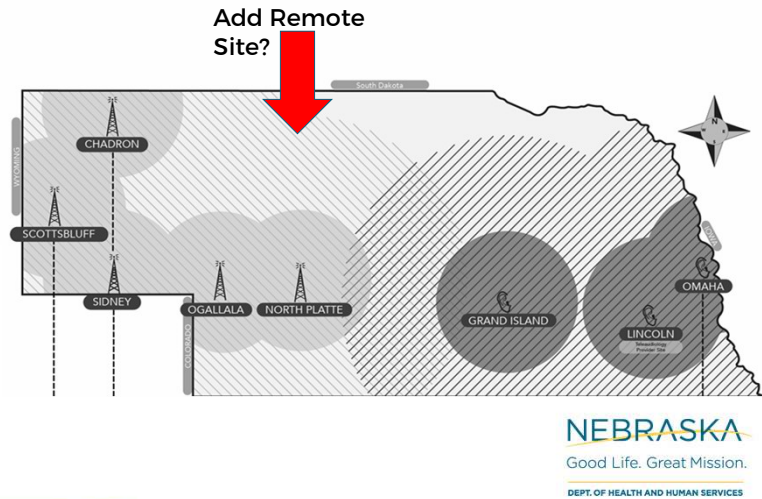
- Improved access to quality pediatric audiology services for identification of hearing loss
- Timely diagnosis means EI services are started on time
- Current appointment wait time: 1-2 weeks
- Decreased drive distance and time for families
 - Most families drive 15-30 minutes to get to a remote site for testing



Helping People Live Better Lives.

Next Steps

- Backup remote technician
- Backup audiologist
- Parent Satisfaction Survey
- Remote site in north, central Nebraska
- Improve access for hearing aids and CI's



Helping People Live Better Lives.

Nebraska Newborn Hearing Hospital Champion Campaign



For details about the Hospital Champion program, visit the Campaign home page:

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Nebraska-Newborn-Hearing-Hospital-Champion-Campaign.aspx>

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Helping People Live Better Lives.

Background

- Campaign launched in December 2019
- Aligned with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Safe Babies Hospital campaigns
 - **NE-EHDI also wants to recognize our birthing facilities as Newborn Hearing Hospital Champions**
- Nursery staff are often the first professionals who talk to families about newborn hearing screening and what a refer result means
- The goal is to provide evidence-based education to birthing hospital staff who work directly with families, and help professionals understand that how they communicate results to parents can impact timely follow up when an infant does not pass
- Incorporating both the parent perspective and the most recent JCIH and AAP guidance will help all birthing facilities provide consistent and culturally competent information
- Timely follow up impacts the success of reaching 1-3-6 goals

Helping People Live Better Lives.

Goals

Increased awareness of newborn hearing screening will result in:

- More babies identified as deaf or hard of hearing by three months of age
- Fewer babies left without early access to language
- More deaf and hard of hearing children staying on track with their hearing peers
- Better educational and vocational outcomes for deaf and hard of hearing children as they grow into adults
- Potential tax dollar savings of \$2.3M* annually for the Nebraska special education system



**Based on the average of \$420,000/child X the average of 55 babies identified as d/hh each year in Nebraska*

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Helping People Live Better Lives.

5 Steps to Becoming a Champion

1. Take the Newborn Hearing Hospital Champion Pledge
2. Develop or update current newborn hearing screening policy
3. Complete hospital personnel education and education plan
4. Provide patient/client education
5. Complete internal audits annually

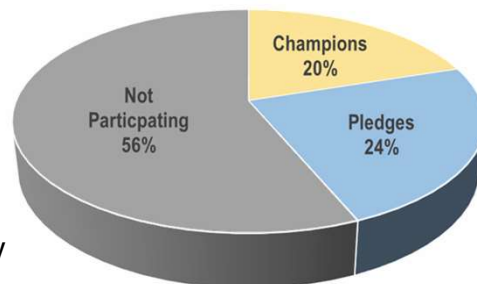


NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Helping People Live Better Lives.

Outcomes

- As of May 2021:
 - 11 hospitals have pledged
 - 13 hospitals have successfully achieved champion status
 - List of pledges and champions on next slide
- Results in 44% participation rate statewide
- Goal is to achieve > 90% participation statewide by 2024
- Reminders are sent quarterly to encourage participation



NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Helping People Live Better Lives.

Current Pledges & Champions

Pledges

1. Memorial Community Hospital & Health System - Aurora
2. Howard County Medical Center - St. Paul
3. Perkins County Health Services - Grant
4. Mary Lanning Healthcare - Hastings
5. Butler County Health Care Center - Seward
6. CHI Health Schuyler - Schuyler
7. Nebraska Medicine - Omaha
8. CHI Health Good Samaritan - Kearney
9. Grand Island Regional Medical Center - Grand Island
10. Brodstone Memorial Hospital - Superior
11. Regional West Medical Center - Scottsbluff

Champions

1. St Francis Memorial Hospital - West Point
2. York General Hospital - York
3. Bryan Medical Center - Lincoln
4. Box Butte General Hospital - Alliance
5. CHI Health St. Francis - Grand Island
6. CHI Health Lakeside - Omaha
7. CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center Bergan - Omaha
8. CHI Health St. Elizabeth - Lincoln
9. CHI Health St. Mary's - Nebraska City
10. CHI Health Immanuel Medical Center - Omaha
11. CHI Health Mercy - Council Bluffs, IA
12. Methodist Fremont Health - Fremont
13. Fillmore County Hospital - Geneva

Helping People Live Better Lives.

Risk Factors Follow-Up Project



NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Helping People Live Better Lives.

Risk Factor Letters – Current Process

- **Current process is very difficult to keep up with**
 - Hospitals report RFs to EHDl
 - ~1500 babies/year with RFs
 - Letters are sent at age 1 and age 2
 - Once a month, EHDl sends letters to PCP & Parents about follow-up protocols on babies attaining the age of 1 or 2 that month
 - A lot of work to look up PCP on each baby using various resources
 - Several letters are returned due to not having up-to-date PCP info or mailing address for parents
 - Returned letters are resent with the next batch
- **Not sure if we're sending letters on all babies with RFs, as we send letters only when the RFs are reported**

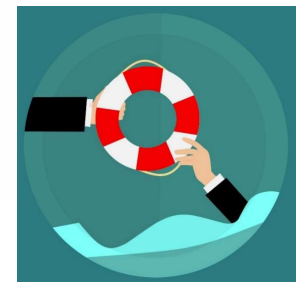


NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Helping People Live Better Lives.

Intern and Collaboration with Tracking Infant Progress Statewide (TIPS) Program to the Rescue!

- TIPS program follows babies who were in the NICU:
 - **Level 1**
 - Benign NICU course-Receives developmental questionnaires only
 - **Level 2 & 3**
 - Moderate to high risk-Follow up at 6, 16, & 24 months in clinic
- EHDl & Children's Hospital working together to ask NICU's to incorporate JCIH follow-up recommendations into discharge summary and recommend follow-up to families
- Fran developed an infographic for families
 - Hospital will give to family at discharge
- TIPS will also:
 - Resend the infographic to families again with the 6 month developmental questionnaires
 - Help families schedule the follow-up appointment



NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Helping People Live Better Lives.

Projected Outcomes

- Hope to have new procedures implemented in June 2021 (at the latest)
 - Fran was done in April, but has capacity to continue through May or June
- Will continue to send letters on all RFs for 6 months after implementation to cover the gap
- Will still send letters on certain RFs not followed through TIPS (i.e. family history and some in-utero infections)
- Goal is that all NICU babies will have appropriate recommendations at discharge, and families will be reminded about periodic monitoring through TIPS



NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Helping People Live Better Lives.

Virtual EHDI ANNUAL CONFERENCE March 2021

NE-EHDI provided 4 Parent Scholarships for the Virtual EHDI Annual Conference

1. Amy Nejezchleb
2. Beth Anne Bryson
3. Angela Vapenik
4. Aaron Thompson

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Helping People Live Better Lives.



AGENDA continued...

7. NE-EHDI Statistics (Jim Beavers)
8. Hands & Voices Update (Shelli Janning)
(EHDI Follow-up Report & Family Support Events)
9. HearU/Hearing Aid Bank Update (Stacie Ray & Summer Brown)
10. Thank you and Adjourn (Brenda)

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Helping People Live Better Lives.

Nebraska EHDI

1

3

6

Past 3 years

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Helping People Live Better Lives.

1-3-6 Nebraska vs National Average


Screening by 1 Month	DOB Year	Nebraska	US Avg.
	2017	97%	97%
	2018	97%	97%
	2019	97%*	NA**

*Preliminary Percentages for NE-EHDI
** NA: Not available yet on CDC website

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Helping People Live Better Lives.

1-3-6 Nebraska vs National Average

Diagnosis by  Months	DOB Year	Nebraska	US Avg.
	2017	63%	75%
	2018	65%	77%
	2019	56%*	NA**

*Preliminary Percentages for NE-EHDI

** NA: Not available yet on CDC website

NEBRASKA
 Good Life. Great Mission.
 DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Helping People Live Better Lives.

2019 Diagnosis by 3 Months Analysis

After reviewing the reasons for delay on 2019 babies identified after 90 days, it was determined that these delays were due to:

- Medically fragile/not expected to live
- Persistent middle ear issues
- COVID-19 pandemic
- The reason for delay of the confirmatory diagnostic evaluation on babies born toward the end of 2019 was often due to COVID-19
- A few babies were diagnosed shortly after the 90 days

NEBRASKA
 Good Life. Great Mission.
 DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Helping People Live Better Lives.

1-3-6 Nebraska vs National Average

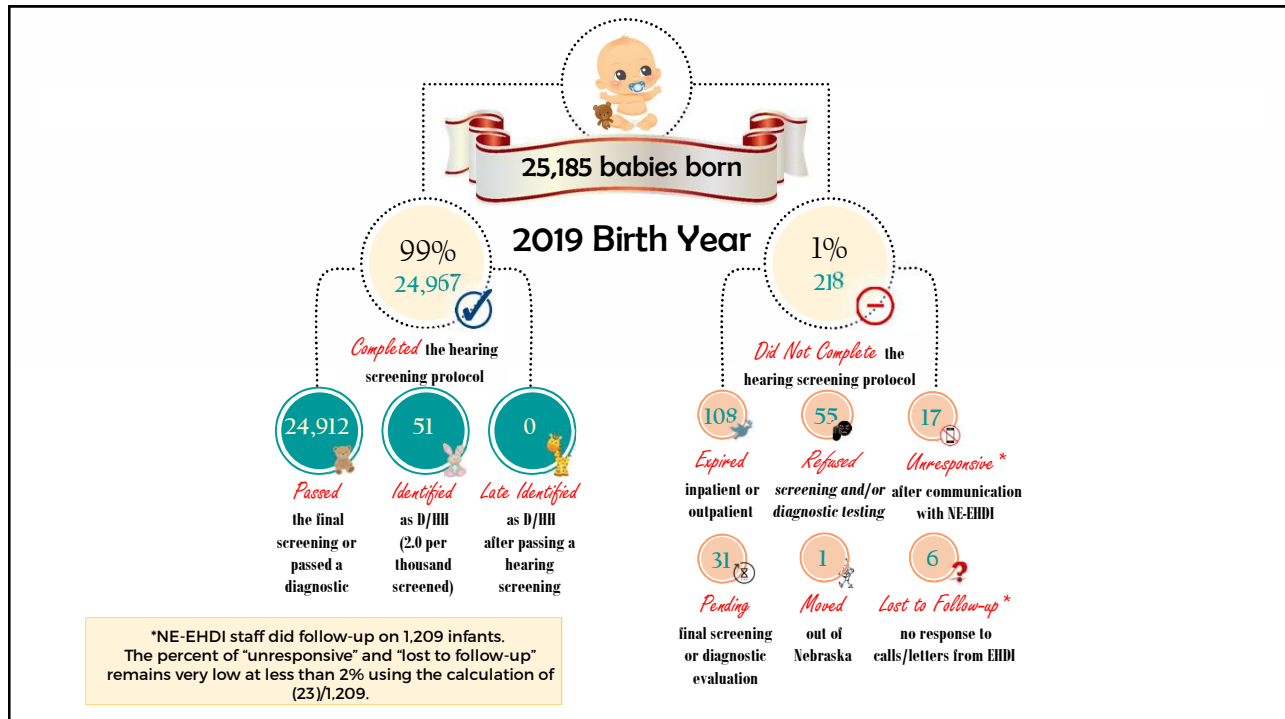
Early Intervention by 6 Months	DOB Year	Nebraska	US Avg.
	2017	79%	67%
	2018	84%	70%
	2019	89%*	NA**

*Preliminary Percentages for NE-EHDI

** NA: Not available yet on CDC website



Helping People Live Better Lives.



of Children Identified as D/HH in Nebraska

2016-2020 Data for children up to age 3

- There was an average of 66 children per year diagnosed as Deaf or Hard of Hearing in NE
- There was an average of 77 children per year diagnosed as Deaf or Hard of Hearing including late-onset hearing loss in NE

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Helping People Live Better Lives.

Nebraska Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side Family Support Update



**HANDS &
VOICES™**



**GUIDE BY
YOUR SIDE™**

www.handsandvoicesne.org

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Helping People Live Better Lives.

EHDI & Hands & Voices/GBYS Follow-up

- Shelli works up to 16 hours a week assisting with EHDI follow-up for families and medical professionals, as well as providing education and family support.
- Creates an opportunity for families to connect with a GBYS Guide during their first EHDI contact.
- Allows Shelli to share GUIDE experiences and knowledge as appropriate.
- Shelli worked with 543 families from 11/8/2020 – 4/25/2021.

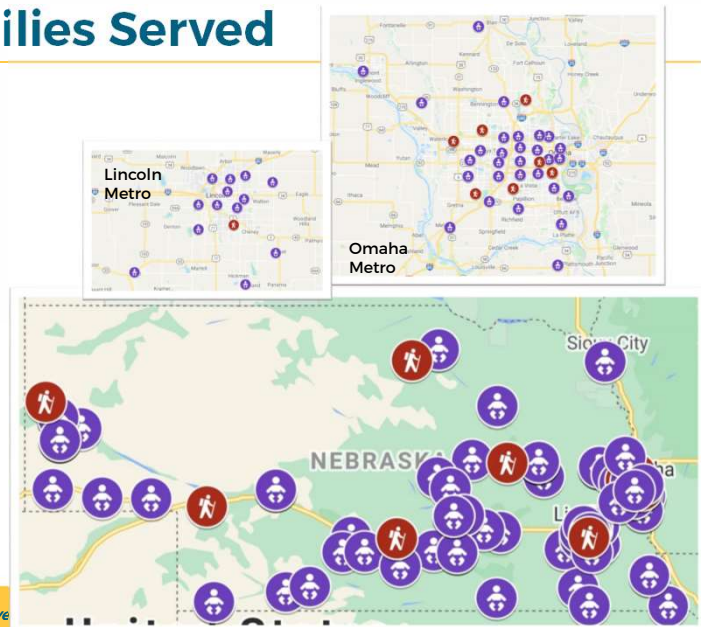
NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Helping People Live Better Lives.

Parent Guides & Families Served

- There are currently 15 trained Parent Guides who provide support throughout Nebraska
- GBYS is currently serving 178 families*
- 127 families were referred through NE-EHDI
 - Currently 71% of referrals come through the EHDI/GBYS collaboration

*As of 04/09/2021



Helping People Live Better Lives

Quotes from Families about their Parent Guide

"She has been extremely helpful as our family has been dealing with the diagnosis & initial treatment steps. She has been a great resource to ask all of our questions or simply just to listen."

"I love the parent to parent interaction! It is great to get first hand experience of what to expect at different stages of life while coping with hearing loss."

"Her personal input, her encouragement to follow our own path, her persistence in involving me in activities even though I'm not always ready (mentally). When I'm frustrated and ready to give up, she always provides an extra bit of encouragement to help me through."

Helping People Live Better Lives.

Quotes from Families about the GBYS Program

"This program has given me the exact and correct help I needed, they contacted me, offered me and guided me to where I am now. They gave me emotional support when I most needed it and that is priceless especially in my first language (Spanish). I will be infinitely grateful. God bless you always."

"Jenessa and her daughter have been an amazing resource! They have shared their similar experiences (the good and the bad) and helped us know we aren't in this alone! She is always there for us; whatever we need (advice, resources, compassion etc.) We are so grateful for Jenessa and this program."

Helping People Live Better Lives.

Quotes from Families about the GBYS Program

Continued.....

"The Guide by Your Side Program has given me the confidence I needed when I needed it the most. Having a child with hearing loss at birth is scary! You can't know what to expect or how you will navigate those waters when you get there. Knowing I have The Guide by Your Side Program and my guide in particular, I have the confidence that when we get there I will have the support and resources that will ensure success for both me and my child!?"

"When we were first introduced to the program it accompanied an overwhelming diagnosis. Our guide reached out and continued to support me in ways that I didn't know I needed. This program pushes me to be a better advocate for my son. It gives me a safe place to express frustrations and fears with nothing but understanding and support in return."

Helping People Live Better Lives.

"Rising Stars" Deaf & Hard of Hearing Youth Leadership Award

- This is a monthly opportunity to recognize a youth (up to age 21) who is D/HH.
- It is empowering and helps motivate our youth to become *positive role models* in the D/HH community.
- The selected youth receive an award certificate, a \$15 gift certificate, and recognized on Nebraska H&V Facebook.
- Recipients are excited to receive the award!
- There are a lot of D/HH youth doing amazing things.
- The Regional Programs have provided referrals, but we would also like to receive referrals from various sources.



Please spread the word about nominating a D/HH youth!

Helping People Live Better Lives.

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

H&V Monthly Newsletter

- First issue - January 2020
- Sent out monthly
- Posted on Hands & Voices Facebook page
- Each month it features:
 - Rising Star
 - Parent Guide Spotlight
 - WOW! That's Awesome!
 - Collaboration Corner
 - Upcoming Events
 - Other topics of interest



Helping People Live Better Lives.

Moody Monday on Facebook

- This has been an effort to increase activity on Facebook and it has been working well
- We pose a question on Facebook every Monday
- The questions range in topic, this is a way to educate parents and professionals about D/HH topics and to share fun information
- We choose a winner randomly from the comments and they receive a prize courtesy of NE-EHDI (book, accessory, case for equipment, etc.)



NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Helping People Live Better Lives.

D/HH Role Model/Mentor Collaboration

Through the sub-award between NE-EHDI and NE Hands & Voices –

- Cody McEvoy and Shelli Janning are helping NE-EHDI to research, plan, and facilitate the planning meetings for this very important program!



NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Helping People Live Better Lives.



Events Since Last Advisory Update

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Helping People Live Better Lives.

Moms Night Inn Scottsbluff - Nov 7 & 8, 2020

- Eight moms attended
 - Three were Parent Guides
- Topics/presentations included:
 - “You are the perfect mom”
 - Mental health and your D/HH child
 - Social emotional perspective from a teenager
 - Parent Café
 - Craft project
 - Q&A with a Deaf adult and review of various resources including the NCDHH who discussed the NSTEP program
- Especially during the pandemic, moms were appreciative to get out and network with other moms



NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Helping People Live Better Lives.

Moms Night Inn Lincoln - March 27 & 28, 2021

- Eight moms attended
 - Six Parent Guides attended
 - One additional mother registered and requested a scholarship, but did not show
- Topics/presentations included:
 - “You are the perfect mom”
 - Social emotional wellness
 - Siblings perspective
 - Parent Café
 - Cody McEvoy did a Q&A about his experiences
 - Discussed resources across the state
 - Craft project
- Nice feedback from attendees



NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Helping People Live Better Lives.

Zoom Parent Meet-Ups

January 23, 2021

Topic: Children w/ Unilateral Hearing Loss

- Six moms attended
 - 2 Parent Guides and 4 parents
- Discussion included:
 - First thoughts upon diagnosis
 - How to talk with others about your child's diagnosis
 - Sharing individual stories

February 24, 2021

Topic: Children w/ Unilateral Hearing Loss

- Six moms attended
 - 4 Parent Guides and 2 parents
- Discussion included
 - Grief, relationships, confidence, and communication modes
 - Sent out Noah Z video on his experiences growing up deaf

April 7, 2021

Topic: Children w/ Bilateral Severe to Profound Hearing Loss

- Five moms attended
 - 3 Parent Guides and 2 parents
- Discussion included
 - Great parent driven conversation about speech development and what parents can do.
 - A lot of discussion about CI's and accessories.
 - A new product came out from AB and a parent guide's daughter explained and displayed it.

Helping People Live Better Lives.

ASL Course for GBYS Parent Guides

February 26, 2021 – April 12, 2021

- Ben Sparks who is a CODA taught the course ASL Course for GBYS Guides
- Course provided Parent Guides who wanted to participate more information about:
 - ASL
 - Deaf culture
 - Using interpreters
 - How to respond in various situations
 - CODA's (child of a deaf adult)
- It was an appreciated experience



NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Helping People Live Better Lives.

HearU NEBRASKA



website: <http://cehs.unl.edu/secd/nebraska-hearing-aid-banks/>

email: hearingaidbanks@unl.edu

phone: 402-472-0043

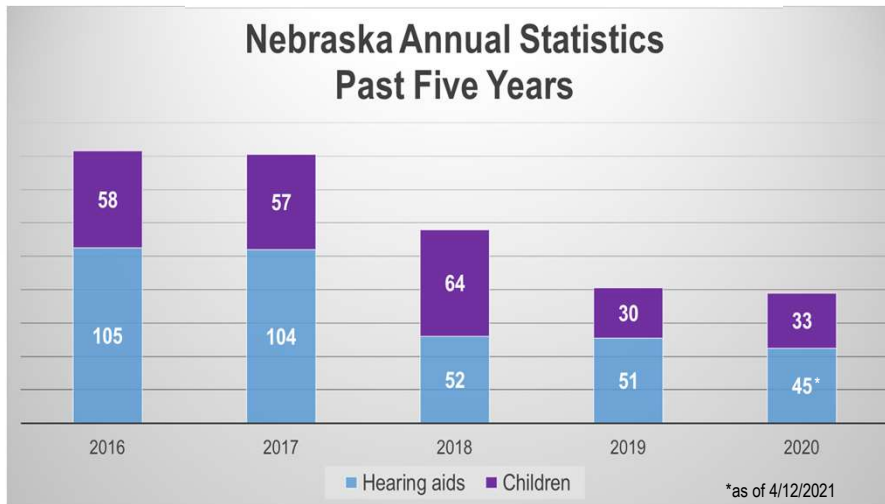


Helping People Live Better Lives.

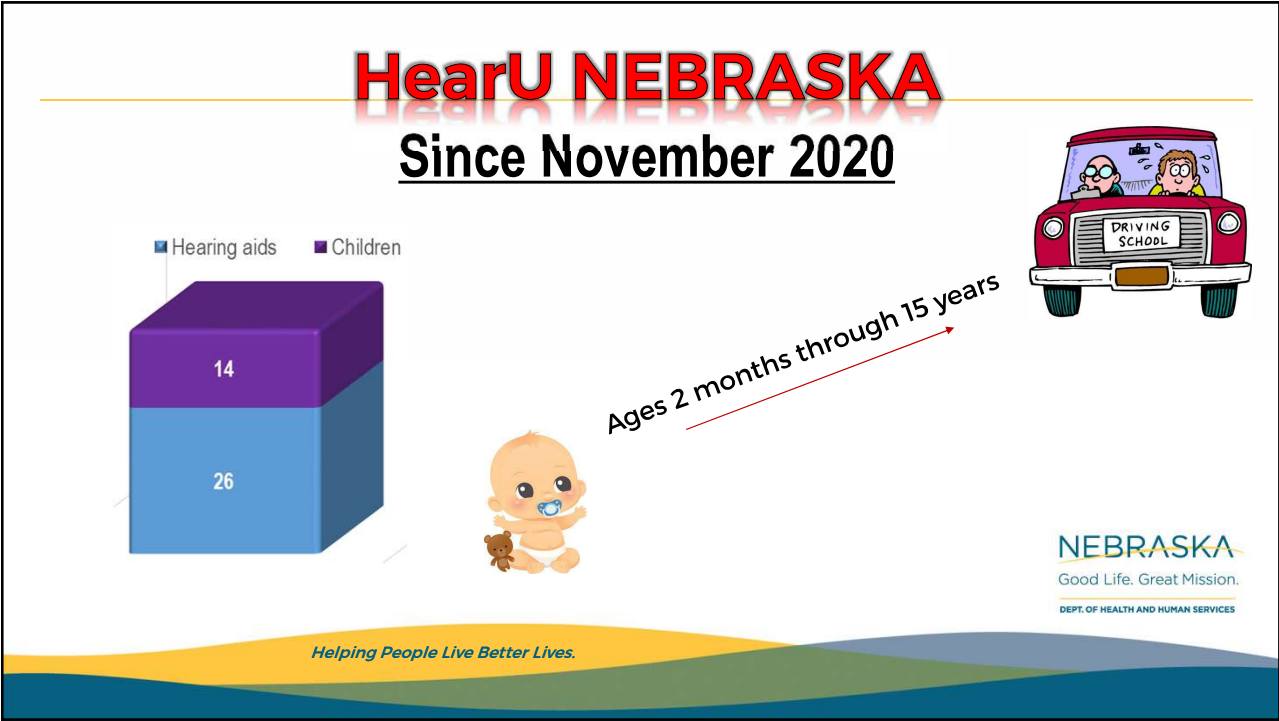
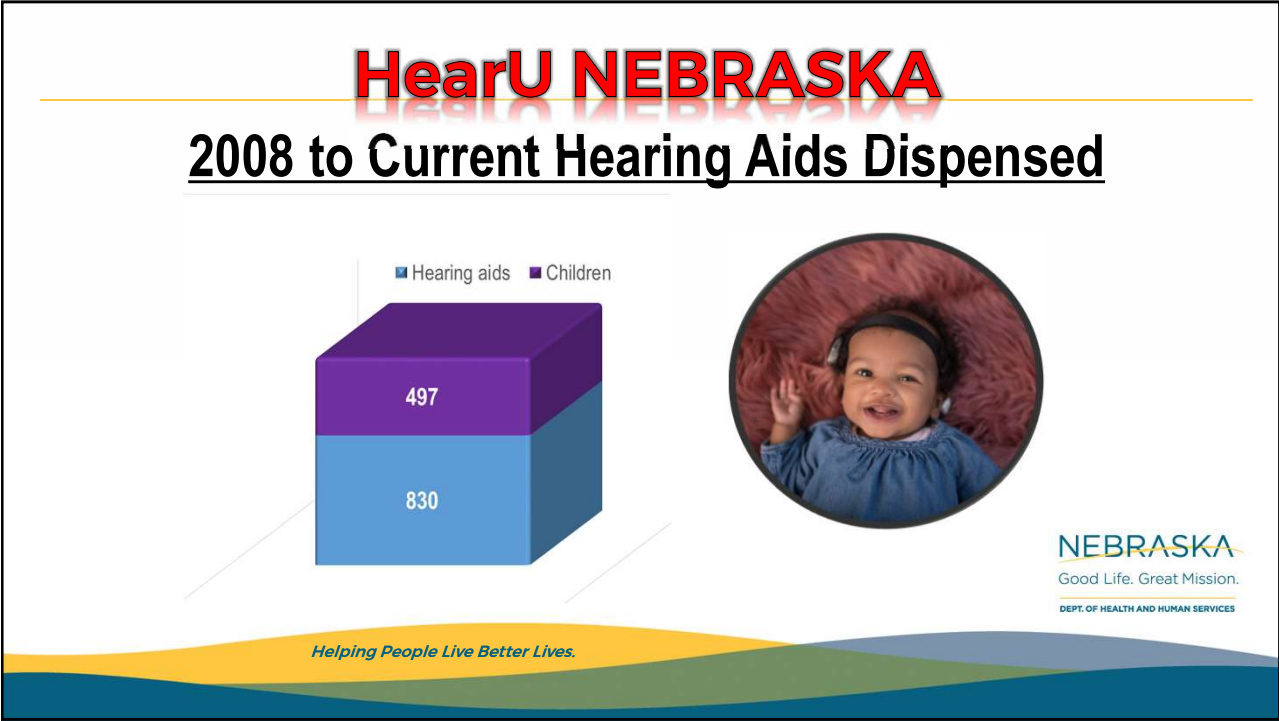
HearU NEBRASKA



Nebraska Annual Statistics Past Five Years



Helping People Live Better Lives.



HearU NEBRASKA

What's new at HearU

- 17 new hearing aids currently in stock
- We plan on purchasing hearing aids for our stock within the month in a variety of colors and models

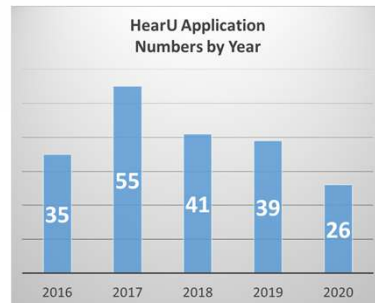
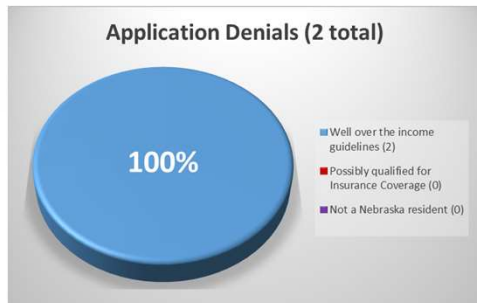


Helping People Live Better Lives.

HearU NEBRASKA

Financial Criteria

(Data as of 4/12/2021)



HearU closed March-May 2020 due to COVID. No applications were received during that time.

Helping People Live Better Lives.

THANK YOU

for your collaboration with NE-EHDI!

I look forward to working together more in the months ahead!

Brenda Coufal

NE-EHDI Program Manager

brenda.coufal@nebraska.gov

402-471-6770

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/EHDI>



@NEDHHS



NebraskaDHHS



@NEDHHS

dhhs.ne.gov

Helping People Live Better Lives.