



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES Public Health Service
HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Rockville, MD 20857

Maternal and Child Health Bureau

November 16, 2016

Dear State EHDI Coordinator:

This letter is to support your attendance at the annual Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) meeting to be held February 26-28, 2017 in Atlanta, GA. The tentative agenda for the meeting can be viewed at <http://ehdimeeting.org/Schedule.cfm?pg=sch>. The main purpose of the meeting is to improve the universal statewide newborn hearing screening and intervention programs supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) through the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) and the EHDI programs. It should be noted that budgeting for at least two individuals to attend the annual meeting is noted on your HRSA NoA as a condition of the award. Those funds may not be used for any other purpose.

This meeting will cover many aspects of successful statewide newborn hearing screening programs, discuss project requirements, and report on progress in developing effective programs. The meeting will also provide an excellent opportunity for people from your state to interact with people from other state programs, participate in round-tables and workshops, share information, and exchange ideas. Technical assistance will be provided through workshops, presentations, and panel discussions. On March 1, 2017, there will be a meeting of all state EHDI coordinators to learn about and discuss quality improvement activities that are being used to improve EHDI programs.

As your state's Project Director for an MCHB grant, you and at least one other staff member are expected to attend the National EHDI Meeting. Staff supported by your HRSA Newborn Hearing Screening grant are expected to attend. In addition, we would like you to include a parent as a participant. The ideas provided by the families of children with hearing loss have proven invaluable in helping states develop sensitive and effective programs. To make it easier for parents to attend, the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM) has funding to provide for one parent from each State to receive a \$1,000 scholarship to help with the costs of attending the meeting. Please contact NCHAM if you have questions about this scholarship.

Collaboration between the States and Federal agencies will greatly facilitate the development and enhancement of newborn hearing screening and intervention programs, particularly with respect to appropriate and timely follow-up. Budget negotiations between MCHB and successful applicants addressed the importance of projects adhering to the requirements of the grant, which indicated that funds shall be included in the budget for two people to travel to an annual meeting. Funds allocated for this purpose may not be used for any other purpose. We fully expect that all State-level project directors will attend the meeting.

Sincerely,

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Maternal and Child Health Bureau
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