

Texas Guide By Your Side D/HH Guide Program Overview

The Texas Guide By Your Side D/HH Guide Program is a component of and aligned with the guidelines of the branded Guide By Your Side Program developed by National Hands & Voices. All aspects of our programs are family/child centered and support the philosophy that every child is unique: “what works for your child is what makes the choice right”. Information and support is provided in an unbiased manner and families are not pressured or judged.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing (D/HH) Guides are specially trained to provide families with invaluable perspectives that come from personal experience. Their role is not the provision of service (i.e. to teach families in a specific modality), but to provide helpful examples and perspectives drawn from direct experience of life as an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing. D/HH Guides are often an important link for extended family members as well, who do not have direct contact with service providers, but do need to increase their understanding of the unique needs of a family member who is deaf or hard of hearing.

There are many valuable services that a D/HH Guide can bring to a family, including:

- Sharing the day-to-day realities of living with hearing loss and being a safe place to ask questions
- Providing information on technology for d/hh persons inside/outside the home
- Providing successful models of career paths and educational experiences
- Providing hope for the parent that their child will live a full and successful life as a deaf or hard of hearing individual
- Helping a family create a perspective of decision making based on their d/hh child’s needs, not a hearing person’s desires
- Sharing information on Deaf history and culture and connecting the family to the Deaf Community and resources

In Texas, we have four paid D/HH Guides in three major geographic areas. Families request D/HH Guide services through an online form and based on the family’s individual needs and request, the GBYS Coordinator will pair them with one or more D/HH Guides. The D/HH Guides provide one-on-one, individualized support to families with d/hh children aged from birth through 21 either in person or using various means of technology to communicate. Additionally, D/HH Guides attend family social and educational events, as well as outreach events as requested by the Coordinator. D/HH Guides are paid for all of their time including training time, approved travel time and mileage/travel expenses.

Contact information:

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