

ABSTRACT

DC Hears –DOH/Community Health Administration/Perinatal and Infant Health Bureau
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Background and Need:

The District of Columbia's (DC) Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program, DC Hears, is located within the Perinatal and Infant Health Bureau of the Community Health Administration at the DC Department of Health. DC Hears has implemented universal hearing screening programs in all birthing hospitals and centers within the District; however some infants are lost to follow up. Follow up services are available for infants who do not pass the hearing screening, but sometimes are not readily accessible or appropriate in meeting the cultural and linguistic needs of the families, and family to family support services are limited.

Work Plan:

DC Hears' mission is to identify infants with hearing loss as early as possible through universal newborn hearing screening to allow their communication skills to develop on par with those of their peers with normal hearing. DC Hears is focused on reducing the number of infants who do not pass the initial hearing screening that are lost to follow-up within the DC Hears system and on improving the hearing health care services that are available in the DC area. The specific program goals for this cooperative agreement are to: (1) modify the existing AURIS Welligent database to improve DC Hears' data collection; (2) provide support through to targeted EHDI sites and service providers; (3) fully integrate the dry blood spot screening program database with the AURIS database; (4) develop a plan to integrate the AURIS database with Vital Records and the Birth Defects Registry (upon its completion); and (5) develop written agreements for data sharing with Maryland and Virginia.

Program Evaluation:

A program evaluator from the DOH/CHA/Grants Monitoring and Program Evaluation Division will assist in monitoring the progress being made for the duration of the cooperative agreement. Quarterly meetings, site visits, chart reviews, and feedback from families, audiologists, medical care providers, early intervention providers, and others involved with hearing health care will be used to target areas of need and further to refine the DC Hears Program.