

## Connecticut Part C Deaf/Hard of Hearing Specialty Designation Assurances

Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To be designated as a Connecticut Early Intervention Service (EIS) program that specializes in supporting families whose children are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH), we make the following assurances, subject to audit. We will notify the lead agency within five (5) business days if any of the assurances cannot be met.

The company named above assures the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) that the following are in place:

**1) Standards:**

- a) Families are routinely informed about and connected with DHH family-to-family supports that support their outcomes for their child.
- b) The agency adheres to the eight guiding principles referred to in the CT Birth to Three Guidelines #5: Young Children who are Hard of Hearing or Deaf.
- c) Staff are trained and routinely monitored based on the most recent standards identified in the Supplement to the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing Position Statement: Principles and Guidelines for Early Intervention after Confirmation That a Child Is Deaf or Hard of Hearing.
- d) Coaching as a style of interaction is used by practitioners who specialize in hearing with all families and other members of IFSP teams particularly when using remote early intervention / telehealth.
- e) The agency demonstrates a commitment to ongoing culturally effective practices as evidenced by ongoing interactive and reflective training.
- f) The agency has positive working relationships with local school districts, DHH diagnostic centers, hospitals, universities, and vendors of technologies and accessories for infants and toddlers.

**2) Capacity:**

- a) Diagnostic equipment appropriate for children under age 5 is readily available.
- b) The ability to complete audiological assessments within one (1) month of referral.
- c) The financial resources to purchase hearing technology or offer devices on loan prior to being reimbursed by Medicaid, private insurance or the OEC.
- d) A method to reimburse families for transportation related costs when services are provided in the office.

**3) Staffing:**

- a) At least one (1) audiologist on staff who uses objective data to plan, implement, and evaluate the effectiveness of interventions provided for each child and family.
- b) A minimum two (2) experienced staff members who are trained to complete pediatric audiological assessments, purchase and fit hearing technology, monitor how devices function and make repairs.

**4) Experience:**

- a) An audiologist with at least 550 contact hours during two consecutive years during the past five years with children under age five.
- b) The agency has at least two (2) years of experience successfully purchasing assistive technology, billing Medicaid and billing Commercial Insurance.

- 5) Feedback/Evaluation:** The agency actively seeks and incorporates collaboration of care by formally seeking feedback from families, program staff, pediatric staff, early learning/childcare staff, local school districts and other members of the community.

I assure that this program meets the requirements above in order to be listed as an EIS program that specializes in supporting families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing (DHH).

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Name and Role: \_\_\_\_\_

- This organization chooses to support **only** families whose children are deaf or hard of hearing.
- This organization will support all families, including any with children who are deaf or hard of hearing.