

Guide By Your Side Quarterly Report

October – December 2025

"What works for your child is what makes the choice right."™

OUR MISSION:

The Illinois Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side (ILHV GBYS) program provides unbiased emotional support and resources by trained Parent Guides to families with children who are deaf/hard of hearing.

Through IL Hands & Voices fundraising, personal donations and funding through the Illinois Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program (EHDII), Illinois Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side is able to provide free services to families. Families can be referred to the program from providers or call directly to participate.

GIVING THANKS!

This fall, we celebrate the team members reaching meaningful milestones in our program.

Their steady care and support lift families at every stage of raising a child with hearing loss.

Our program shines because of them and we're grateful for their kindness and commitment!

Congratulations to Elsa, Sara and Hanna on celebrating 2 years; Alicia, Sarah and Ramona on celebrating 5 years; and Jaclyn on 15 years of service to our program!



CONTACT US:

Carrie Balian, Program Coordinator

224.343.1873

ilhvgbys@gmail.com

<https://www.ilhandsandvoices.org/guide-by-your-side>

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

- 1 Program Coordinator
- Part C to Part B Transition Specialist
- LTF (Lost to Follow Up) Specialist
- 10 Parent Guides (PG) - 1 of the PG's are also DHH
 - Located throughout the state
 - Backgrounds vary in communication and amplification opportunities
 - Guides who are native Spanish speakers
 - Parent Guides who are deaf
- 4 DHH Guides
 - Different communication and amplification modalities
 - Various hearing differences
 - Diversity in cultural representation

CONNECT WITH US



IL Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side
Team Members

Celebrating Anniversaries

2nd ANNIVERSARY

Elsa Huerta

Sara Siddiqui

Hanna Swearingner

5th ANNIVERSARY

Alicia Aaron

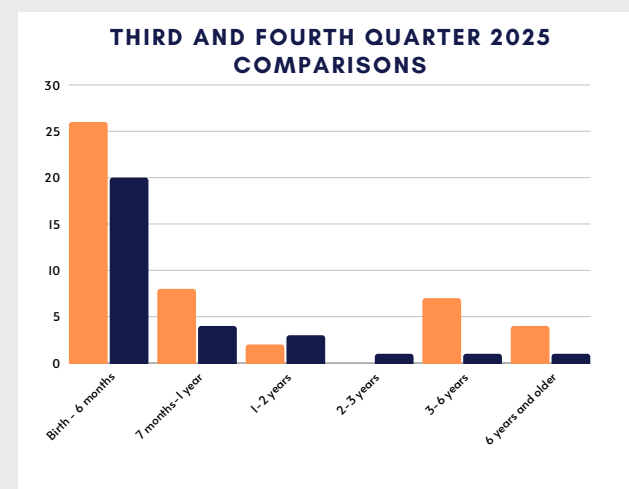
Sarah Esparza

Ramona Martin

15th ANNIVERSARY

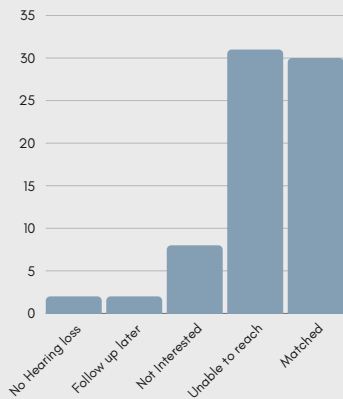
Jaclyn Urbanski

We celebrate and thank the following team members for their dedication to our program!

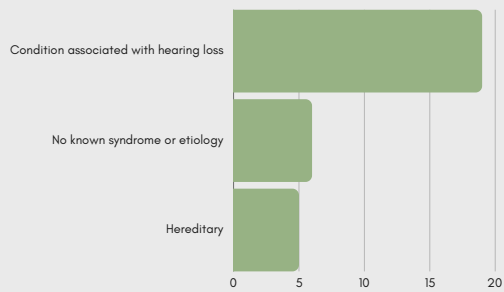


Orange bars represent third quarter 2025 GBYS child age at enrollment
Blue bars represent fourth quarter 2025 GBYS child age at enrollment

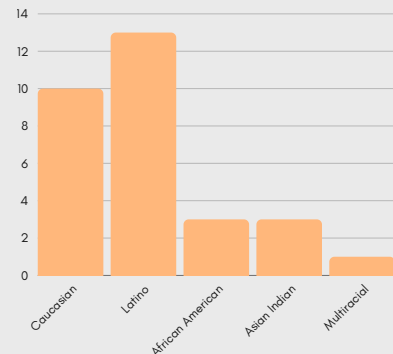
GBYS Data from October - December 2025



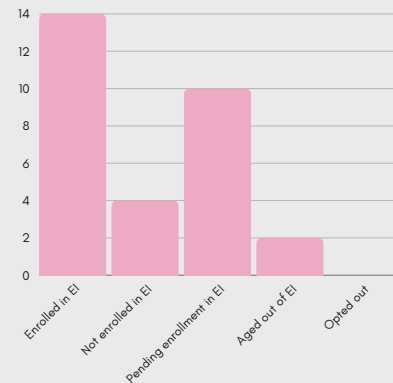
Enrollment status
Matched = 31, Unable to reach = 31, Not interested = 8
Follow up with family at a later date = 2, No hearing loss = 2



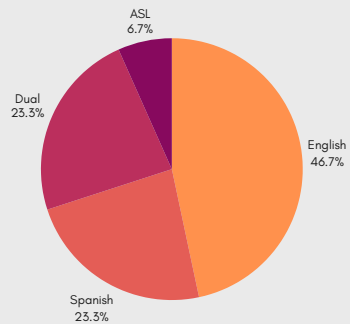
Medical history of enrolled child



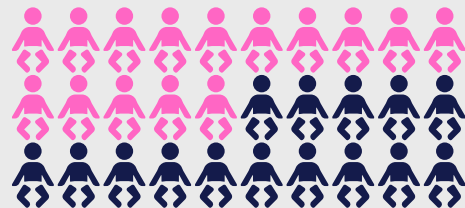
Racial identity of enrolled child



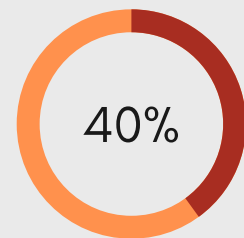
Early Intervention status at time of enrollment
Pending enrollment means that the family has had contact with EI and is working through the enrollment process.



Primary language in the home



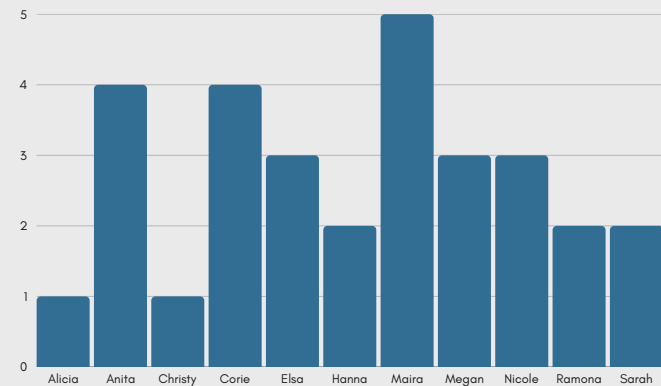
Gender of those enrolled
Pink = Female
Blue = Male



Amplification status at time of enrollment
Orange = No hearing technology in use
Red = Using hearing technology



Unilateral vs. Bilateral hearing loss
Orange = Unilateral
Blue = Bilateral



Guide Matches

THIS QUARTERLY REPORT IS SUPPORTED IN PART BY GRANT FUNDING THROUGH THE IL EARLY HEARING DETECTION & INTERVENTION (EHDI) PROGRAM.