

Guide By Your Side Quarterly Report

July – September 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.

THE EARLY YEARS PROJECT:

The Early Years Project is a free online toolkit that supports home visiting and early education programs. Explore short videos, hands-on activities, and resources that nurture sensory development for children ages 0–6.

Created with input from professionals and parents, it builds knowledge in four key areas: hearing, vision, communication, and language.

Everything is easy to access and free to use. Learn more:
<https://www.illinoisoundbeginnings.com/copy-of-the-early-years>.



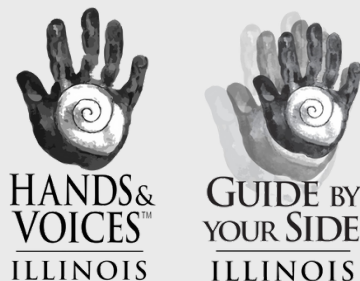
Looking for simple ways to support your child's growth?

The Early Years Project

- **Toolkit features:**
 - Easy-to-follow videos
 - Engaging activities
 - Helpful resources
- **Supports development of:**
 - Hearing
 - Vision
 - Communication
 - Language
- **Perfect supplement for:**
 - Parents
 - Home Visiting
 - Early Childhood Programs

www.illinoisoundbeginnings.com/the-early-years

Illinois Sound Beginnings
a partnership of the IL Department of Public Health, Early Hearing Detection and Intervention, and IL Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side. Committed to supporting families with children who are deaf/hard of hearing and deafblind TOGETHER.



CONTACT US:

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

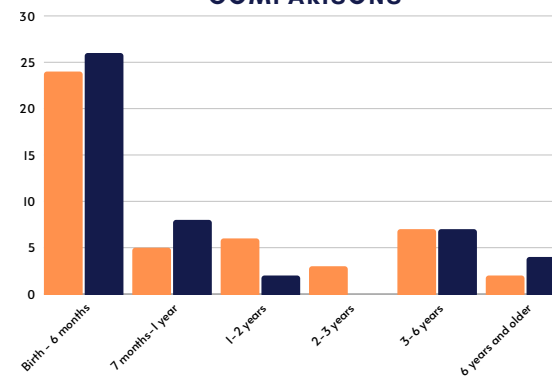
PROGRAM INFORMATION:

- 1 Program Coordinator
- Part C to Part B Transition Specialist
- LTF (Lost to Follow Up) Specialist
- 11 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

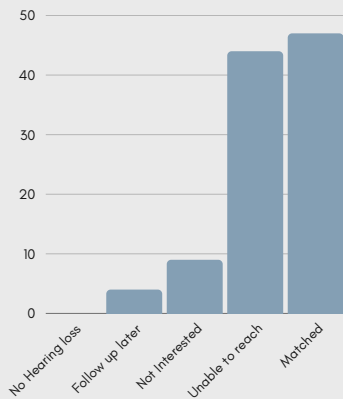


SECOND AND THIRD QUARTER 2025 COMPARISONS

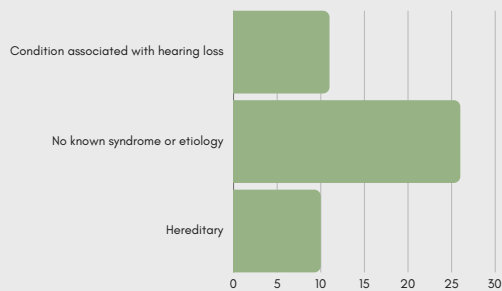


Orange bars represent first quarter 2025 GBYS child age at enrollment
Blue bars represent second quarter 2025 GBYS child age at enrollment

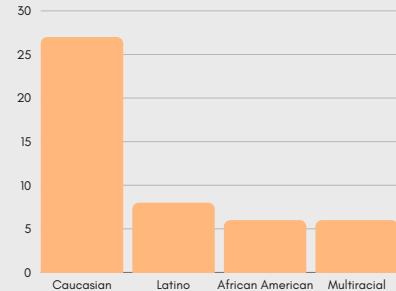
GBYS Data from July - September 2025



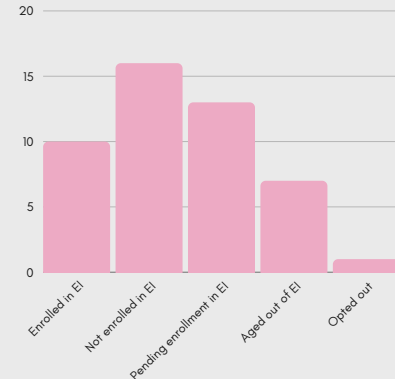
Enrollment status
Matched = 47, Unable to reach = 44, Not interested = 9
Follow up with family at a later date = 4, No hearing loss = 0



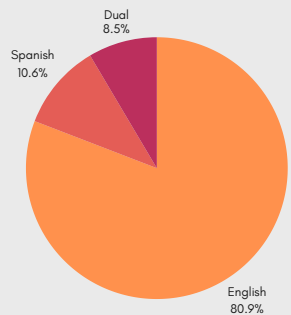
Medical history of enrolled child



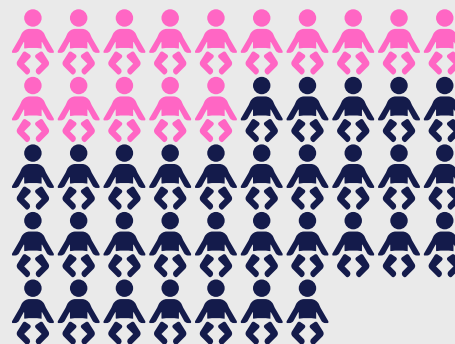
Racial identity of enrolled child



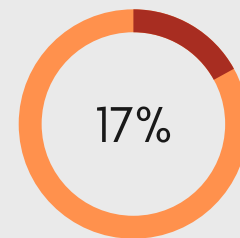
Early Intervention status at time of enrollment
Pending enrollment means that the family has had contact with EI and is working through the enrollment process.



Primary language in the home



Gender of those enrolled
Pink = Female
Blue = Male



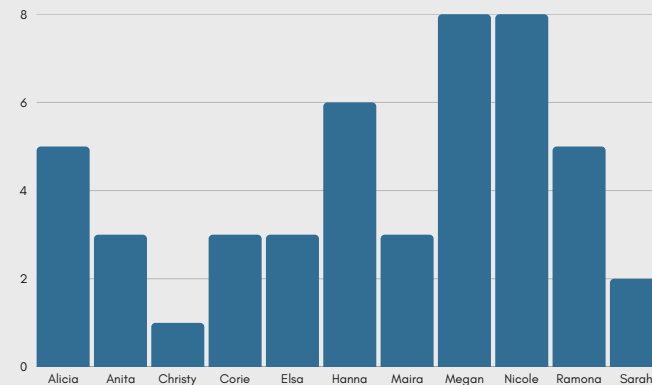
Amplification status at time of enrollment
Orange = No hearing technology in use
Red = Using hearing technology



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



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



Guide Matches