

Guide By Your Side Quarterly Report



April - June 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.

CELEBRATING PROMOTIONS:

In April, Elsa Huerta and Hanna Swearinger, promoted through Lead Guide to Senior Guide in our IL Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side Program.

The Leveled Recognition program (LRP) has three levels: Guide, Lead and Senior. Promotions are achieved by completing activities and earning points from completed tasks.

The LRP is a directive of Hands & Voices HQ to help "supporting members" within our programs develop skills and grow in their leadership capacity.

Currently, we have 8 Guides, 1 Lead Guide and 8 Senior Guides as part of our IL Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side team.

Illinois Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side

PROMOTIONS

Senior Guide




Elsa Huerta

Elsa is the mother of three children, one who is hard of hearing. Elsa and her family live in Cook County.




Hanna Swearinger

Hanna is the mother of two children, one who is hard of hearing. Hanna and her family live in Tazewell County.

Both Elsa and Hanna promoted through the Lead Guide level and onto being Senior Guides

www.ilhandsandvoices.org

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CONTACT US:

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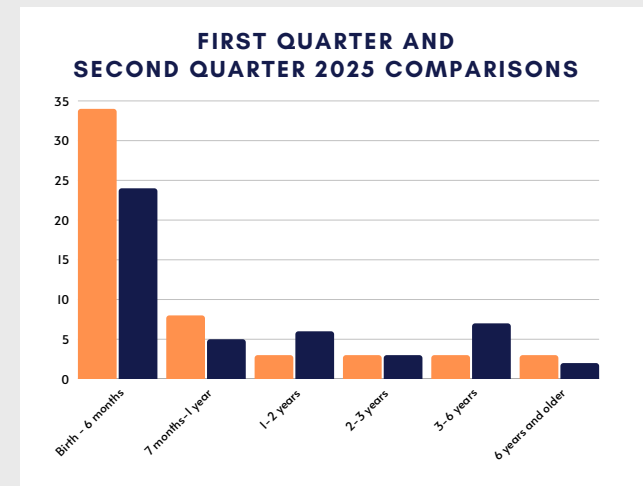
ilhvgbys@gmail.com

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

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

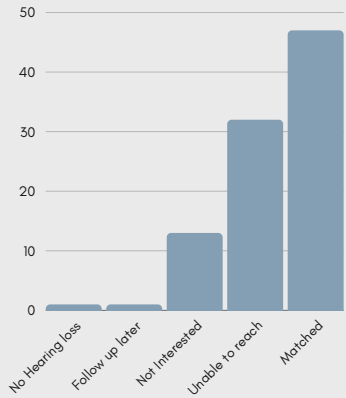
- 1 Program Coordinator
- Part C to Part B Transition Specialist
- LTF (Lost to Follow Up) Specialist
- 13 Parent Guides (PG) - 1 of the PG's are also DHH
 - Located throughout the state
 - Backgrounds vary in communication and amplification opportunities
 - Guides who are native Spanish speakers
 -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

CONNECT WITH US



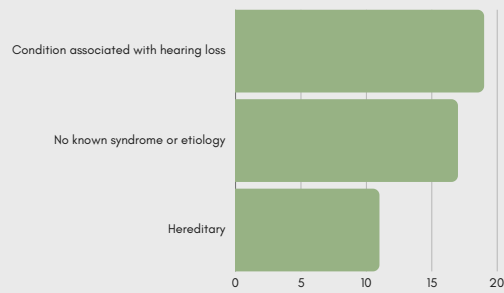
Orange bars represent first quarter 2025 GBYS child age at enrollment
Blue bars represent second quarter 2025 GBYS child age at enrollment

GBYS Data from April - June 2025

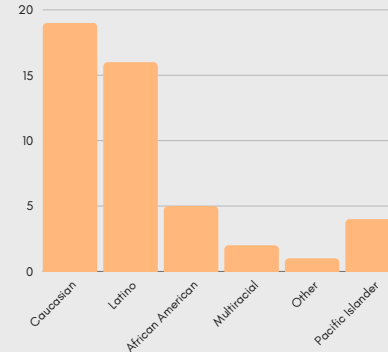


Enrollment status

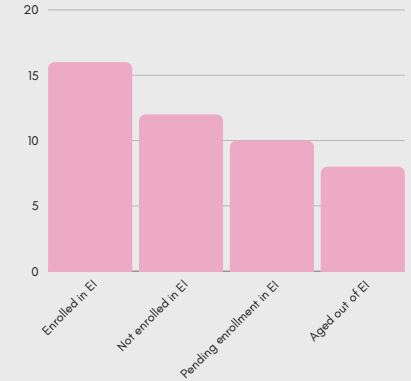
Matched = 47, Unable to reach = 32, Not interested = 13
Follow up with family at a later date = 1, No hearing loss = 1



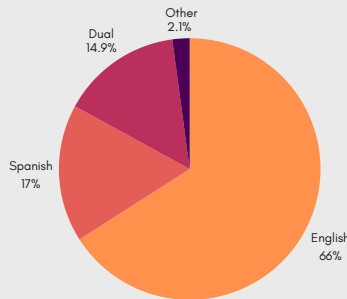
Medical history of enrolled child



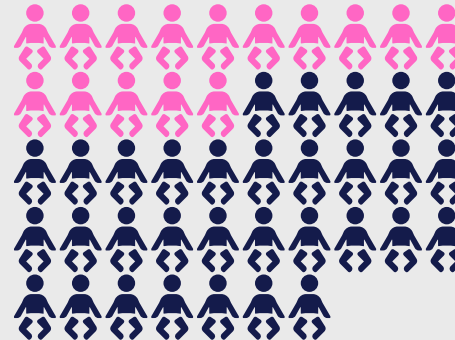
Racial identity of enrolled child



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.

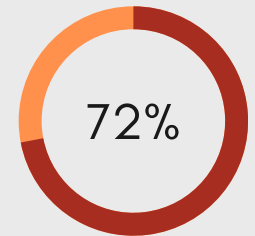


Primary language in the home



Gender of those enrolled

Pink = Female
Blue = Male



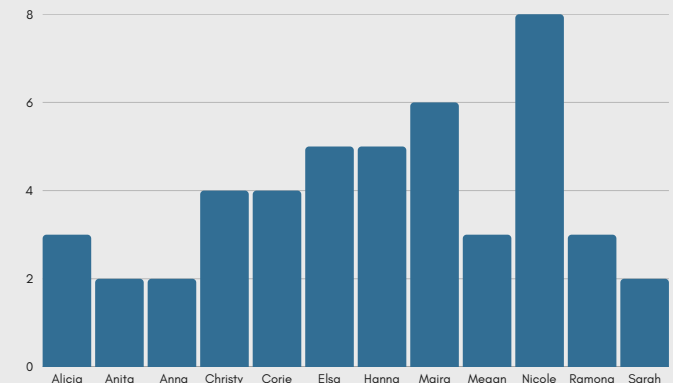
Amplification status at time of enrollment

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.