



FAMILY
SUPPORT
SERVICES



EARLY
INTERVENTION
AND
EDUCATION



TRANSITIONAL
AND
VOCATIONAL
RESOURCES



HEALTHCARE
AND
COMMUNITY
SERVICES



Family Resource Guide

Partnering with families to advance equity for
Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing children

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Whether you are an interpreter, a parent of a Deaf child, or a community collaborator, the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing partners with you to advance equity through culturally responsive education and informed engagement.

We provide oversight, guidance, and information to uphold high standards in communication access—and ensure systems are built with and for Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Nebraskans. Together, we strengthen equitable access—conversation by conversation, system by system.

Mission

We educate and engage Nebraskans by advancing equity, influencing policy, and ensuring communication access across information, services, and systems is built with and for the community.

Vision

Access is a foundation in every part of life.

Office Locations:



Lincoln

4600 Valley Road Suite 420
Lincoln, NE 68510-4844
(402) 471-3593



Kearney

319 West 11th Street, Room 106
Kearney, NE 68845
(308) 865-5447



Omaha

1313 Farnam Street, Suite 304
Omaha, NE 68102-1836
(800) 545-6244



Scottsbluff

505A Broadway, Suite 700
Scottsbluff, NE 69361-3515
(308) 633-3751

Meet Your Family's Point of Contact

Ashley Altman

Education, Youth & Family Liaison

Text: 402-310-4820 | **VP:** 402-206-2544 | ashley.altman@nebraska.gov

Ashley serves as NCDHH's statewide liaison for education, youth and family support. She's here to assist your family as you navigate the systems, services, and decisions that come with raising and educating a Deaf, DeafBlind or Hard of Hearing child.

Ashley can assist with:

- Understanding what services are available for your child—now and in the future
- Communicating with your school district about your child's needs
- Reviewing or preparing for IEP and 504 meetings
- Answering questions about educational rights, communication options, and accessibility
- Referrals to trusted programs and service providers
- Supporting families from early intervention and beyond
- Providing direct support and advocacy for Deaf and Hard of Hearing youth



You don't need to have the right words or know what to ask. Ashley is here to provide support and help you take the next step.

Additional NCDHH Services



Advocacy and Resources



Public Outreach



Interpreter Licensing and Complaints



Communication Equipment Referrals



Behavioral Health Coordination

Early Intervention and Education

This section includes programs that support language development, school readiness, and learning from birth through high school. Whether you're navigating newborn screenings, looking for specialized education services, or seeking learning tools, these resources are here to guide you every step of the way. Families and professionals alike can benefit from these supports and educational partnerships.

Nebraska Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program

The Nebraska Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program oversees the newborn hearing screening process for Nebraska. Their mission includes developing, promoting, and supporting systems to ensure all newborns in Nebraska receive hearing screenings, family-centered evaluations, and early intervention as appropriate.



Nebraska Early Development Network

Nebraska's Early Development Network (EDN) supports children from birth to age three who have special developmental needs. The Nebraska EDN program "connects" families with early intervention services (EIS), such as occupational, speech, or physical therapy, to help infants and toddlers grow and develop and help their families in this process. It is a voluntary program and services are provided free of charge in the child and families home and community.



Nebraska Deaf-Blind Project

Provides free support, information, and technical assistance to education teams and families of children and youth who are Deaf-Blind in the state of Nebraska.



Nebraska Association of the Deaf Mentor Program

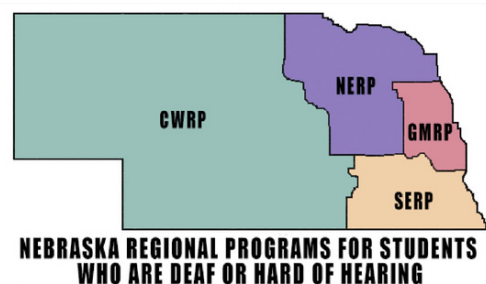
NeAD's mentoring program is designed to empower families with children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing to achieve goals, new skills, and foster relationships.

The Deaf mentors bring valuable expertise and passion for empowering others. They are intimately familiar with Deaf Culture, language, and the challenges faced by Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals. They can bridge the gap with families by sharing experiences and helping families navigate their child's identity with pride.



Nebraska Regional Programs for Students Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Nebraska Regional Programs (NRPDHH) will work cooperatively to maximize state and local resources for the enhancement of the education of children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (B-21) and who are receiving early intervention (IFSP) or special education (IEP) services.



Center for Interactive Learning & Collaboration (CLIC)

A trusted leader in interactive virtual learning since 1994, we have shaped the field by building lasting relationships and connecting learners of all ages to transformational experiences. Through partnerships with museums, zoos, science centers, and other world-class experts, we spark curiosity, deepen understanding, and inspire meaningful growth.



Gallaudet Clerc Center

The Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center researches, trains, and models best practices in the education of Deaf and Hard of Hearing students from birth to 21. Our work supports families and caregivers, education and healthcare professionals, and state leaders.



Described and Captioned Media Program

DCMP provides a streaming library of accessible education videos, teaching tools, and professional development opportunities. We partner with educational content creators to provide high-quality captioning, audio description, and American Sign Language (ASL) translation. Families and school personnel who have at least one early learner-Grade 12 child with a disability qualify for free DCMP membership. Educational professionals in training also qualify.



Family Support Services

These programs connect families with other parents and caregivers who've walked a similar path and can offer encouragement, perspective, and practical support. From one-on-one mentoring to group workshops and advocacy training, this section is all about building community and empowering families to make informed decisions. Support is available at every stage of your child's life.

Nebraska Hands and Voices

NE H&V is a parent-driven, non-profit dedicated to supporting families of children who are D/HH. NE H&V is non-biased about communication methodologies and believe families will make the best choices for their child if they have access to good information and support. Membership includes families who communicate manually and/or orally. H&V offers unbiased support to families.



Guide By Your Side (GBYS)

Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side TM (H&V GBYS) is a program created to provide unbiased support to families with D/HH children. H&V GBYS does this through specially trained parents of children who are D/HH. These parents work as "Guides" directly with families who have just learned of their child's hearing condition, or who have older children and are in need of the unique support that comes from someone else who has walked this path. H&V GBYS can also provide opportunities for families to meet other D/HH children and adults at social events, in-person meetings, and through panel presentations, etc.



ASTra Program

The Hands & Voices ASTra program is designed to empower parents, promote self-advocacy for children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, and build collaborative relationships between families and professionals. The NE Hands & Voices ASTra program can provide resources, workshops, and individualized support to help you meet the needs of your child. You must be a member of Nebraska H&V to receive support.



Parent Training Information (PTI Nebraska)

PTI Nebraska empowers families to confidently navigate the special education process and advocate effectively for their child. We provide information, training, and one-on-one support to help families understand their rights and participate meaningfully in their child's education—from early childhood through young adulthood. Our mission is to strengthen collaboration between families and school professionals to improve outcomes for children and youth with disabilities across Nebraska.



American Society for Deaf Children

The American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC) is committed to empowering all families with deaf and hard-of-hearing children and youth by embracing full language and communication access in inclusive environments through mentoring, advocacy, resources, and collaborative networks.



Transitional and Vocational Resources

As children grow into teens and young adults, planning for the future becomes more important than ever. This section includes services that help students build independence, develop self-advocacy skills, and prepare for life after high school. Whether your child is exploring employment, further education, or independent living, these programs offer personalized support to help them thrive.

Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

Nebraska VR helps people with disabilities prepare for, find, and keep jobs while helping businesses recruit, train, and retain employees with disabilities. Through this "dual client" approach, they assist individuals with injuries, illness, or impairments to achieve competitive employment and increased independence. We also assist business owners and employers through full service business consultation on a variety of business and disability-related areas.



Nebraska VR also works with schools and other organizations to help students plan for the future and prepare for the world of work.

Helen Keller National Center for DeafBlind Youths and Adults

Beth is your regional representative for the states of Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri. She can serve as a lifelong point of contact for information and resources. In addition to resources in your state, the Helen Keller National Center can provide assessment and training at our comprehensive facility on Long Island in New York. Funding for these services is typically through the NE Commission for the Blind & Visually Impaired (NCBVI).



Healthcare and Community Services

This section highlights organizations that provide medical care, assistive technology, hearing devices, and other supports for children who are Deaf, DeafBlind, or Hard of Hearing. These services work hand-in-hand with families and providers to address each child's unique needs. From specialized hospitals to statewide equipment programs, help is close to home.

Boys Town National Research Hospital

Boys Town National Research Hospital provides a wide range of hospital, clinical, and residential services. The Center for Childhood Deafness, Language and Learning offers multidisciplinary support for children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, including early intervention (ages 0–3), preschool (ages 3–5), school-based counseling, cochlear implant care, and speech-language services.



The hospital also provides specialized care in audiology, ENT, neurology, ophthalmology, behavioral health, and physical therapy. Backed by over 40 years of research, Boys Town is a national leader in advancing innovative treatments and real-world solutions for children with hearing differences.

Children's Nebraska

Children's Nebraska is the only full-service pediatric hospital and medical center in Nebraska, providing expertise in more than 50 pediatric specialty services to children across a five-state region and beyond.



HearU Nebraska

HearU Nebraska is a statewide hearing aid bank for children from birth to 18. The program offers two support tiers based on household income.

- Tier 1: New hearing aids, a care kit, and payment to participating pediatric audiology providers for fitting-related fees.
- Tier 2: New hearing aids and a care kit.

Families can apply through the Nebraska Hearing Aid Banks website.



iCanConnect (iCC)

iCanConnect (iCC) provides free telecommunication equipment and training for people with both significant hearing and vision loss who meet the program's disability and income eligibility guidelines. iCC is a national program with local contacts that helps people stay connected to friends, family and the world.



Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP)

Since 1989, The Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP) has assisted Nebraskans with disabilities, their families, educators, service coordinators, employers and a host of agencies to learn about and use assistive technology. ATP is a state agency in the Department of Education.

