



# From Culture To Connection

## Resources:



[Circle of Change](#)



[Hands & Voices Latino Council](#)



[Hands & Voices Spanish Resources](#)



[Facebook: Manos Y Voces](#)

- A **Cultural Parent Guide** is a parent guide that has knowledge of the terminology that is commonly used when working with specific families. They have similar backgrounds to the families they work with, which offers a sense of belonging.
  - A Cultural Parent Guide understands that language is used as a tool to preserve a family's identity and roots.
    - A second language is learned either as a child or as an adult but it is mostly used for the purpose of interpreting/translating.
    - There are little to no struggles understanding and communicating in the native language of the family they are serving.
  - A Cultural Parent Guide understands the importance of extended family and how they may provide support through generations.
- **Benefits of a Cultural Parent Guide:**
  - They bring personal experiences as well as deeply rooted connections within the culture, language, and community. This strong bond allows them to understand and develop meaningful relationships with families they support.
    - Often they celebrate the same holidays, eat the same foods, shop at the same stores, etc.
  - When families find similarities with others, they tend to feel more comfortable, and will be more open to developing a personal connection which can lead to sharing their feelings, concerns, and stories.
    - This will maximize their benefits from their Parent Guide, as well as boost their confidence, leading to more engagement within the Deaf/Hard of Hearing (D/HH) community, further benefiting their family.
  - Parent Guides are "trust builders" because they understand that it takes time and consistency to gain trust.
  - The Parent Guide becomes a bridge that connects families to other important resources, providing access to information that can help make informed decisions.
    - They can help families navigate the system to receive the benefits it has to offer. Which helps families they work with to "trust the system".
  - Cultural mindsets are understood without needing an explanation.
    - This builds a connection between the Parent Guide and families they work with because they can relate to and understand the struggles and hardships families from various cultures have faced.
- **Cultural wealth** is a connection brought through language, history and experiences that are not shared elsewhere. Cultural wealth is unconditional love, perseverance, and resilience. It is persistence (looking for a "yes") and never giving up.
- One of the most effective ways to connect with families from different countries is through the experiences with their Deaf/Hard of Hearing children and the language.
- A **Cultural Broker** is someone who lives within a community and is immersed in the culture, building trust and interpreting for those who need it. If trust is lacking, the family is left on their own to figure out the next steps.