



# Navigating EI in Illinois

## Resources:



[IDHS - Early Intervention](#)



[All about EI](#)



[EI Office Locator](#)



[EI Medical Eligibility](#)

## What does Early Intervention (EI) in Illinois look like for children who are deaf/hard of hearing?

- The EI Program helps eligible infants babies and toddlers from birth to 3 years old with disabilities or delays to learn and grow.
- Anyone can refer a family to the EI Program, for instance, a medical professional may refer a family to EI, or a family can contact their local Child and Family Connections (CFC) office directly to request an evaluation.
- There are 25 CFC offices in the state of Illinois. and each has a number based on location. Locations may be found at [www.dhs.state.il.us](http://www.dhs.state.il.us).
- Once you call your local CFC or they receive your referral, you will be assigned a service coordinator who will meet with you to have an intake meeting to talk about your concerns for your child and complete necessary paperwork.
- After the intake meeting with the service coordinator, you will choose at least two providers to the team will complete an evaluations and/or assessments of your child's development. with your consent.
- All Children who are deaf/hard of hearing (dhh) are eligible can qualify for Early Intervention services if the child's hearing loss meets EI medical eligibility. from birth to age 3, regardless of degree or type of loss. You will, however, If auto-eligible, children still need to complete the participate in an assessment to help the team better understand the individual needs of your child.
- After determining eligibility, the EI team (which includes the parents) will determine which services are needed for each individual child and how often as well as which professional will coach the family in implementing the strategies the team develops by developing an Individualized Family Service Plan or IFSP.
- Some Families may have to utilize their private health insurance for services depending on the family's type of insurance coverage. At this time, family participation fees are on hold through the end of 2022. pay a portion of the costs. Cost of services depends on family size and income.
- Many children who are dhh deaf/hard of hearing may receive developmental therapy-hearing services, and/or speech therapy or aural rehabilitation services.
- The EI Program can also provide assistance for Hearing Assistive Technology devices Assistive Technology equipment may which could include hearing aid(s), bone conduction sound processor(s) with softband, dispensing fee, earmolds, pediatric care kit and batteries. Additional hearing testing such as hearing aid checks and evaluations assessments are also available through the EI Program.