

BC Early Hearing Program

A service of BC Children's Hospital
and the Provincial Health Services Authority



GUIDE BY
YOUR SIDE™



BC
HANDS &
VOICES™

Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side Program:

Part-Time Positions: Indigenous DHH Guide, DHH Guide

Openings are for Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH) individuals (18 years+). At this time, applicants with an Indigenous perspective will be prioritized. We encourage DHH applicants who are:

- Deaf or hard of hearing due to bilateral or unilateral microtia/atresia
- Deaf and use hearing aids
- Bilingual in ASL and spoken language

Preference will be given to applicants with Indigenous ancestry.

The Guide By Your Side program is a provincial service providing parent support by linking parents of babies newly identified deaf/hard of hearing in BC with trained "Parent Guides" & "Deaf/Hard of Hearing Guides".

Guides are trained to support families *without bias*. We believe in the Hands & Voices motto, "What Works for your Child is what makes the Choice right."

What is the role of a Deaf/Hard of Hearing Guide?

A Deaf/Hard of Hearing Guide provides parents with an invaluable perspective that comes from direct, personal experience. Parents of babies and young children who are deaf or hard of hearing have the opportunity to connect with several DHH Guides and ask any questions, for example, "How did you manage at school?" and "How did you overcome any challenges you had growing up?".

A BC Early Hearing Program coordinator connects parents with Guides. Guides primarily contact parents by email, video conferencing and phone/text. There are also opportunities to meet parents at events (online and in-person). ASL interpreting and captioning is provided.

How to Apply - Please submit a letter outlining your interest, qualifications and experience to kshauer@cw.bc.ca. See "Request for Interest" below for further details. Please self-identify as Indigenous/First Nations if applicable. Application letters must be received no later than **September 15th, 2023**.

More information about BC Early Hearing Program, BC Hands & Voices and Guide By Your Side:

<http://www.phsa.ca/our-services/programs-services/bc-early-hearing-program>

<https://www.bchandsandvoices.com/guide-by-your-side/> (includes ASL VLOG)

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Request for Interest: Deaf/Hard of Hearing Guide Positions

Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side Program (GBYS) BC Early Hearing Program (BCEHP)

The Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH) Guides will connect with families to provide non-biased information and support, sharing their invaluable perspective that comes from direct, personal experience.

DHH Guides provide parents with:

- A safe place to ask questions about hearing differences or deafness
- Awareness of and sensitivity to issues faced by individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing
- Hope that their child will live a successful life and have opportunity to achieve their full potential
- Awareness of Deaf culture, community and resources

Working on an as-needed basis with families, and under the guidance of the GBYS Coordinator, the responsibilities of the DHH Guides include:

- The provision of timely support to parents after their baby is identified deaf/hard of hearing. This will include making initial contact with families, collaborating with BCEHP / Guide team members to determine information and resources required, and follow-up to ensure that families' needs are met.
- Data logging of activities and maintenance of statistics as necessary to the BCEHP.
- Attending monthly meetings for the purpose of collaboration and planning for the GBYS Program.
- Participation in initial training / educational activities as required (approx. 3 – 4 days) as well as ongoing 2-day GBYS team training provided twice per year (Friday/Saturday combination).
- Participation in the creation and review of materials used by BC Early Hearing Program

Qualifications & Requirements

- A DHH Guide must be an adult who is d/Deaf, hard of hearing, d/Deaf/blind with a high school diploma (Dogwood certificate).
- The Indigenous DHH Guide self identifies as First Nations or Indigenous with ties to Indigenous ancestors.
- Knowledge of BC resources, language and technology opportunities prevalent in the field of deafness.
- Contractors must be willing to maintain membership in BC Hands and Voices.
- Must have access to personal computer or laptop, internet and cell phone (voice and/or text).

Additional Details

This is a paid contract position, with a maximum 4-6 hours per week depending on need (not guaranteed); two full training days provided twice/year. Occasional travel required for trainings (held in Vancouver area), outreach and events. Interpreters and captioning provided for interview process, required trainings, monthly meetings and videoconferencing as required.

Contact: **Kim Shauer**, Coordinator
Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side Program
BC Early Hearing Program kshauer@cw.bc.ca

Deadline for submission is September 15th, 2023.

Please forward this to adults that you believe would make effective DHH Guides.