The Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) and Hands & Voices Peer-Learning Community (PLC) kicked off in October 2019. The participants, who represent 16 states, have been meeting every other month to explore opportunities to work with both programs, and identify potential solutions to increase identification and referral of infants and toddlers who are deaf-blind.

This work has focused on ways to partner with EHDI and Hands & Voices at state and national levels to:

- Raise awareness of deaf-blindness and the importance of early identification and referral
- Develop collaborative identification and referral processes

PLC members have researched their own state systems to determine activities and funding streams that may impact outreach and partnership efforts and have shared what they have learned with each other. Many attended the 2019 Hands & Voices Leadership Conference, as well as the 2020 EHDI Conference.

Recently, members met in work groups to produce:

- Hands & Voices/Guide by Your Side state deaf-blind project outreach and referral action plans
- A letter to disseminate to EHDI and health care system partners to increase awareness of risk factors and etiologies associated with deaf-blindness
- A message on state deaf-blind project activities to disseminate to families on state level Hands & Voices social media platforms
- Action steps for impacting identification and referral through EHDI state database systems