reSources
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California Deafblind Services

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California Deafblind Services Moves into New Grant Cycle

California Deafblind Services is thrilled to announce that our project received renewed federal funding from U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) for our next grant cycle which began on on October 1, 2023 and ends September 30, 2028. Since 1987 the Department of Education, with continued authorization from Congress, has recognized the important value of providing training, consultation, and resources specific to the early intervention and educational professionals who serve learners with combined vision and hearing loss, and we're honored to be selected as California's state deafblind project. Louise Tripoli from OSEP will serve as our project officer for this next grant cycle. We are deeply grateful to the dozens of collaborative partners and family members who provided letters of support and commitment for our grant proposal and spoke of their collaboration with CDBS and the positive impact our services and activities. We are certain that these letters made powerful impression on the reviewers of our grant application.

As we begin a new grant cycle CDBS will continue to serve as a no-cost statewide technical assistance provider and informational resource to families of children and youth who are deafblind as well as the professionals who serve them. Our CDBS team includes a project director, project coordinator, family engagement specialist, deafblind educational specialist, and administrative specialist and we receive guidance and support from a diverse advisory committee. We believe that the promotion of positive quality of life outcomes for learners who are deafblind is achieved through 1) access to language and communication, meaningful curriculum, and knowledgeable and skilled teachers and service providers and 2) provision of culturally relevant support and information to families as they envision goals and plans for their child's future. Our staff conduct a variety of activities related to this mission including: training of pre-service credential candidates and intervener candidates; professional development training for early interventionists and education professionals; regional family trainings; providing child specific technical assistance; collaboration with early intervention agencies and local educational agencies across our state; and provision of information to state regional and district educational leaders about the unique service and support needs of children and youth who are deafblind in their schools and programs.

The contents of this newsletter were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, #H326T230014. However, these contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. Project Officer: Louise Tripoli.

IDEAs that Work
Office of Special Education Programs

In the upcoming grant cycle our main project objectives include:

- Training of interveners to ensure availability of this service for children and youth who require it to access their education and expanding administrators' and families' knowledge of the role of a deafblind intervener.
- Training for preservice teachers candidates and professional development training for educational professionals in the field.
- Provision of universal, targeted, and child-specific technical assistance to enhance educators' knowledge and skills related to ensuring communication access and access to the general education curriculum and preparation for the transition to post-school life.
- Expanding and supporting a network of family leaders in every part of the state.
- Disseminating information through our project website, semiannual newsletter, video fact sheets, and social media platforms.
- Conducting an annual child count to identify children and youth from birth through 21 years of age in our state.
- Conducting timely evaluations and engage in collaborative planning to identify current and future needs of families and professionals in our state.

Over the past 35 years CDBS has been fortunate to receive support from a myriad of agencies and educational service providers across the state. We would not be as effective without these valuable collaborative partnerships. These partners have been essential to locating children and families in need of services and support, identifying and prioritizing the needs of the professionals serving and teaching these children and youth, and providing opportunities to provide training and share information with families and professionals across the state. In the new grant cycle our goal is to increase the visibility of our project and services within the state. We look forward to building new partnerships at the local, regional, and state levels that will allow us to continue to expand training and provide resources specific to the unique needs of children and youth who are deafblind. We know that our impact will be greater and more lasting through sustained and collaborative efforts with other early intervention and educational agencies and family resource centers throughout the state of California.

CDBS FUN FACTS

As we celebrate another five year cycle to serve the state of California, here are some fun facts about the history of California Deafblind Services:

- The CDBS newsletter ***reSources*** was first published in ***1988*** and delivered via US mail. The first Spanish edition was published in ***2000*** and reSources moved to its current digital e-distribution in ***2004***.
- CDBS was originally based at the California Department of Education and moved to its current home base of San Francisco State University's Graduate College of Education in ***1997***.

CDBS Introduction: Janelle Dowling

Educational Specialist, California Deafblind Services

My name is Janelle Dowling, and I am the new Educational Specialist for the CDBS team. Although I am new to this official role, I have been involved at the edges of the CDBS project for several years. I am so glad I have finally landed here and wanted to share a bit about myself and my journey.

I had my first job in special education while I was finishing my BA at UC Santa Cruz, where I studied psychology and education. I worked as an aide in a 3rd grade classroom. I was supporting two students, who each had quite different needs and two teachers, who had very different styles. I loved every minute of the creativity, collaboration, problem solving, and connection this job required of me. From there, I went on to work at a private school, specializing in teaching autistic children, where I was supporting kids in early intervention and school age programming. I worked there for a few years, before moving to San Francisco to start the San Francisco State University Extensive Support Needs Credential and master's degree programs. In San Francisco, I worked as a paraprofessional in early intervention and preschool programs before taking my first classroom teacher job at an elementary school. I taught in a self-contained classroom and worked hard to build a more inclusive community at our school, developing partnerships with many other teachers and helping to facilitate social groups, get my students more time with peers, and teach other professionals and students how to really connect with and understand my students.

Most of my students were non-speaking communicators with sensory processing challenges who were struggling to access the curriculum and make meaningful social connections. This required me to "think outside the box" and really focus on learning about them, their needs and desires, and ways to connect with them to help bridge those gaps. I developed a real passion for working with families and individuals to help them collaborate with their educational and medical teams. I found joy in my work every day and wanted to keep doing more!

During my time at SFSU, I completed the SFSU-CDBS Deafblind Endorsement program and had the opportunity to learn so many wonderful strategies, re-think how I was approaching goal development and assessment for students and alter understanding of the true power of taking my time to observe my students and meet them where they were in that moment. This program included a smaller cohort than my other previous courses and we benefitted from the chance to meet and get to know the experts in the field and connect

- CDBS currently serves the families and professionals of ***1,091*** children and youth throughout California, the ***most of any state in the country***.
- CDBS has hosted ***40 Family Gatherings*** across the state to provide opportunities for socializing, networking, and information and resource sharing.
- The cumulative years of deafblind expertise among the current CDBS staff is ***90 years!*** And that's not even counting our former colleagues Maurice and David's many, many years of expertise.
- CDBS partnered with SFSU's Extensive Support Needs Credential Program for two personnel preparation grants that endorsed ***52 special education teachers*** in deafblind specialization.

with the California Deafblind Services team. Each year, I returned for conferences or learning sessions, checked in on the website, reviewed the OHOA modules, followed social media, and stayed connected with the team as best I could.

Since completing the graduate program at SFSU, I've been providing consultation and direct services to individuals, educational and community teams, and families. I have worked with people of all different ages, strengths, challenges, and abilities. I have a lot of experience working with large teams, providing training, and helping them to support individuals with unique needs and multiple disabilities. I have also taught courses and supervised teacher candidates for the SFSU Extensive Support Needs program and have known and worked closely with Julie Maier and Kathleen Mortier for many years. I also have had the true joy of learning from Pam Hunt, David Brown, and Maurice Belote and am excited to put the lessons they have taught me to good use in this role.

I look forward to getting to know all of you!

To contact Janelle or anyone on the CDBS team, please visit our website at: https://cadeafblind.org/contact/

- Since ***2019 CDBS has trained 40 intervener candidates*** through partnerships with San Diego State University College of Extended Learning (2019) and San Francisco State University College of Professional and Global Education (2020-2023)

- The Family Support Provider Network initiative began in ***2004***. There are currently ***28 FSPs*** and 6 are founding members still active in the network.

- CDBS dipped their toe into social media joining Facebook in ***2011*** and then plunged into Instagram in ***2019*** and now relies on social media as an integral format for disseminating information and announcements about CDBS activities.

- CDBS has led ***4 virtual Spanish Language Study Groups*** using Open Hands, Open Access to ***educate 37 families*** about deafblind intervention.

If you enjoyed the Fun Facts and want to learn more about any of these milestones, here are some links to additional info:

— Intervener Program
— reSources Newsletters
— Social Media (Instagram / FB)
— Family Support Providers
— Census
— Spanish Language OHOA

Mailing Address: California Deafblind Services
San Francisco State University — Department of Special Education
1600 Holloway Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94132-4158

California Deafblind Services (CDBS) is a federally funded technical assistance and dissemination project that serves individuals from birth through age 21 who have combined hearing and vision issues (with or without additional disabilities). Our experienced staff provide consultation, training, and resources to families and educational and medical professionals throughout the state of California. We work with families and professionals to build local capacity to meet the needs of children and youth who are deafblind. Our no-cost technical assistance, training, and dissemination activities include:

Technical Assistance (TA)

We meet and collaborate with professionals and families to brainstorm strategies and develop action plans.

- Foundational and Targeted technical assistance (TA).
- Onsite Intensive TA for families and educational teams in need of further coaching and consultation.
- Urgent TA is provided in cases of sudden and significant decrease in hearing and/or vision, significant and unexplainable changes in behavior, and with a newly identified child who is not yet receiving any local educational or support services.

Family Support Providers (FSPs)

Families who share the same experience and are now helping other families with ideas and empathy

- Support provided by volunteers of the CDBS Network of Family Support Providers.
- Family-to-family support provided by telephone, video call, or email as well as through in-person and online family meet-ups and events.

Training

Training for groups about different aspects of deafblindness

- Conducted in-person, virtually using the Zoom meeting platform, and/or online learning modules.
- Intervener training in collaboration with San Francisco State University.
- Training on identification and effective practices for early intervention agencies.
- Guest lectures for California credential programs.

Deafblind Census

Conduct annual census of individuals who are deafblind from birth to 21 years old, in collaboration with local education and early intervention agencies.

California Deafblind Services

https://cadeafblind.org/

For more info about California Deafblind Services (CDBS), please contact Julie Maier, CDBS Project Coordinator, at jmaier@sfsu.edu or (415) 405-7558. 415-338-2845 FAX

Meet our Team
https://cadeafblind.org/contact/

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California Deafblind Services (CDBS) es un proyecto de asistencia técnica y difusión de información financiado con fondos federales que atiende a personas desde el nacimiento hasta los 21 años que tienen problemas combinados de audición y visión (con o sin discapacidades adicionales). Nuestro personal experimentado proporciona consulta, formación y recursos a familias y profesionales educativos y médicos en todo el estado de California. Trabajamos con familias y profesionales para crear capacidad local para satisfacer las necesidades de los niños y jóvenes sordociegos. Nuestra asistencia técnica sin costo, capacitación y actividades de difusión incluyen:

Asistencia Técnica (TA)

Nos reunimos y colaboramos con profesionales y familias para idear estrategias y desarrollar planes de acción.

- Asistencia Técnica (TA) básica y específica.
- Asistencia Técnica (TA) intensiva en persona para familias y equipos educativos que necesiten más asesoramiento y consulta.
- Asistencia Técnica (TA) urgente se proporciona en casos de disminución repentina y significativa de la audición y/o la visión, cambios significativos e inexplicables en el comportamiento o a un niño recién identificado que aún no recibe ningún servicio educativo o de apoyo local.

Proveedores de Apoyo a las Familias (FSPs)

Las familias que han estado allí ahora ayudan a las familias con ideas y empatía.

- Apoyo proporcionado por voluntarios de la Red de proveedores de apoyo familiar de CDBS.
- Apoyo de familia a familia por teléfono, videollamada o correo electrónico, así como mediante reuniones y eventos familiares presenciales y en línea.

Capacitación

Capacitacion para grupos sobre distintos aspectos de la sordoceguera

- Realizadas en persona, virtualmente utilizando la plataforma de reuniones Zoom, y/o módulos de aprendizaje en línea.
- Formación para interveners en colaboración con la Universidad Estatal de San Francisco.
- Formación sobre identificación y prácticas eficaces para agencias de intervención temprana.
- Invitaciones para presentar informacion en programas de credenciales de California.

Censo de Sordociegos

Realizar un censo anual de personas sordociegas desde el nacimiento hasta los 21 años, en colaboración con las agencias locales de educación e intervención temprana..

California Deafblind Services

https://cadeafblind.org/

Para obtener ayuda en español, comuníquese con Myrna Medina, Coordinadora de Familias de California Deafblind Services en myrnam@sfsu.edu o **951-373-1659**

Conozca a nuestro equipo
https://cadeafblind.org/contact/

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