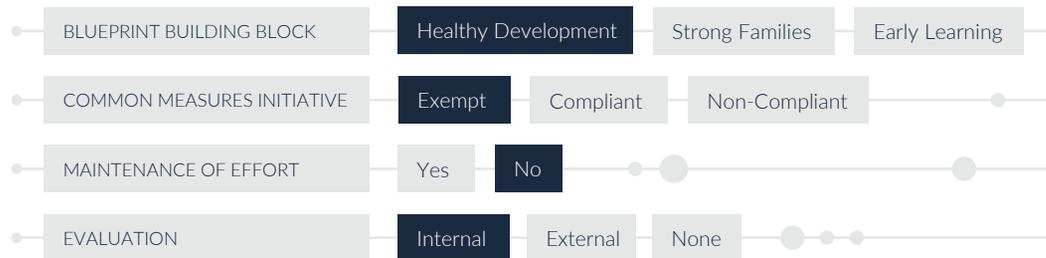


# Infant Toddler Hearing Aid Loan Bank

Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)

## Hearing aids for infants in need

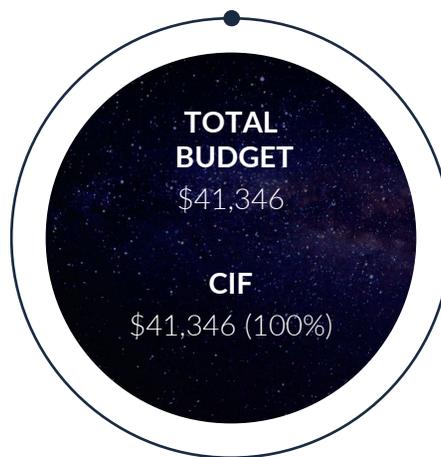
An infant with hearing loss can suffer dramatic developmental delays, especially if the condition isn't diagnosed and addressed early. The Kansas Infant Toddler Hearing Aid Loan Bank (HALB) helps remove financial barriers to fitting children with hearing aids by making a range of amplification devices available for families to borrow. With a goal of diagnosis by three months, and intervention no later than six months, HALB strives to give Kansas children maximum access to auditory input during a critical period of language development.



# Infant Toddler Hearing Aid Loan Bank

## THE NEED

Timing is crucial in the diagnosis – and treatment – of hearing impairment. If children aren't fitted with hearing aids within the first six months of life, they risk significant delays in speech and language acquisition. Since the cost of such equipment is often prohibitively expensive, HALB makes high-quality hearing aids available to Kansas families, ensuring maximum access to auditory stimuli at a crucial age and reducing the need for additional interventions later in life.



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*"You've given my son a priceless gift, the ability to hear. Thank you."*

~ Parent of a child who received hearing aids through the Infant Toddler Hearing Aid Loan Bank

## OUR SOLUTIONS



### EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVENTION

Families receive early identification through licensed pediatric audiologists, with referrals to Part C Early Intervention services for the child and family.



### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Children receive high-quality digital hearing aids to quickly address the needs of families with limited or no insurance, or other financial barriers.



### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Early identification and intervention education offers hospitals, health departments, home visiting programs, midwives, and physicians the information they need to support early diagnosis and treatment.

# Infant Toddler Hearing Aid Loan Bank

## OUTCOMES

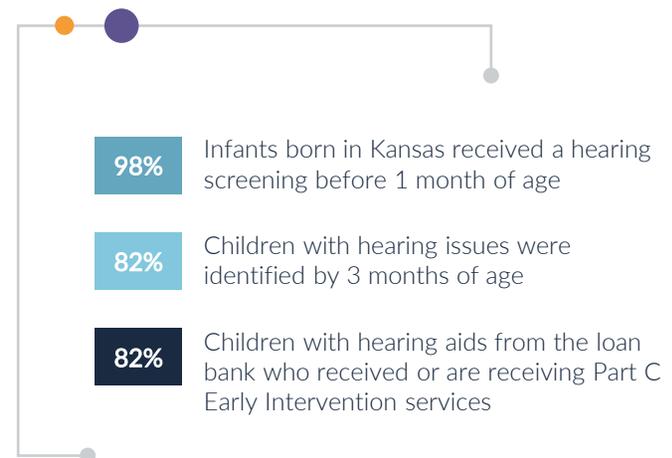
### Impact of hearing aid(s) on hearing and communication skills

	FY 2017 <i>n</i> = 32	FY 2018 <i>n</i> = 8
 Increased effectiveness of the use of hearing aids	100%	100%
 Continued increase in their child's listening skills	100%	100%
 Continued increase in their child's development of speech and language	100%	100%

The Parents Evaluation of Aural/Oral Performance of Children (PEACH) is a parent reported questionnaire designed to record how the child is hearing and communicating with their hearing aids/cochlear implant at the moment. It is administered at 1, 3, and 6 month post-hearing aid fit.

## FY 2018 POPULATION SERVED

Total Children	22
Prenatal to Age 2	18
Ages 2-5	4
Ages 5-12	0
Ages 12-18	0
Ages 18+	0
Caregivers	39
Professional Development	46



# Infant Toddler Hearing Aid Loan Bank



## LOOKING BACK

### WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED

Established a requirement that children receiving services be enrolled in Part C Early Intervention services

Updated the application process to include information about family history of hearing loss and to delineate responsibilities of parents and audiologists

Established partnerships with Part C Infant-Toddler Services, the Kansas Special Health Care Needs program, and the Kansas School for the Deaf

## LOOKING FORWARD

### WHERE WE'RE HEADED

Implementing new protocols for submitting the Parent Survey to facilitate increased family engagement

Continuing to work with families to ensure active participation in Part C services until the child is 3 years of age

Enhancing longitudinal evaluation efforts to track speech and language development through collaboration with the Kansas School for the Deaf

**Evaluation Practices:** The Infant Toddler Hearing Aid Loan Bank use the Parents' Evaluation of Aural/Oral Performance of Children (PEACH) as a tool to record each child's auditory experience, to evaluate the effectiveness of their hearing aids, and to track individual progress over time. Additionally, the program collects a parent satisfaction survey. The intent of the evaluation is to demonstrate program impact, improve program design and implementation, and identify areas for improvement. Evaluation findings are reported annually to coordinators, the SoundBeginnings Advisory Board, and the Kansas School for the Deaf.

**Evidence Base: Strong Evidence.** Multiple studies have found early identification and intervention to be effective in addressing hearing loss and associated speech and language issues in early childhood.