PROTECT EARLY HEARING DETECTION AND INTERVENTION INITIATIVES

ACTION REQUESTED
Support full funding of the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) initiative that provides early detection, diagnosis, and treatment for deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children.

ISSUE: State Early Hearing Detection Programs Require Annual Funding

- Last year, Congress reauthorized the EHDI Act for another five years.
- Approximately two to three out of every 1,000 children in the United States are born with a detectable level of hearing loss in one or both ears.¹
- States that receive EHDI grants have significantly increased the number of infants screened for hearing loss.
- Before the EHDI initiative began, only 46.5% of infants were screened for hearing loss.²
- Now that the EHDI initiative exists, 98% of infants are screened for hearing loss.³
- “Loss to follow-up” treatment (infants who exhibit hearing loss but do not receive follow-up services) continues to be a concern, with only 67.3% receiving early intervention treatment.⁴

SOLUTION: Fully Fund EHDI Through the Labor-HHS Appropriations Process
Continued federal support is necessary to ensure that EHDI initiatives are fully operational and successful by properly linking screening services with diagnosis and early intervention.

ASHA is seeking full funding of EHDI for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 including $11.3M to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for implementation of the program and $18.6M to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for grants that support state-based EHDI systems.

² Ibid.
⁴ Ibid.