



Stipend Opportunity: **GBYS Parent Guide**

Position: Maryland/DC Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side (“GBYS”) Parent Guide (Filling 3 positions)

Date Issued: **August 23, 2022**

Date Closed: **October 10, 2022**

Stipend: \$18 an hour up to 10 hours a month = \$180/month

Interviews will take place the week of October 10 depending on schedules.

Position Summary

The Maryland/DC Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side Parent Guide must be the parent of a child who is deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind, or deaf with additional disabilities, who resides in Maryland, and who will undergo specialized training to provide support to families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Parent Guides are therefore uniquely able to work with parents of newly diagnosed children who are deaf or hard of hearing or parents who would benefit from connecting with another parent, by providing home visits, telephone calls, or virtual visits to meet our program goals. The GBYS Program Co-Coordinator will link a Parent Guide with the identified family and Parent Guides initiate contact within 2 days of the referral. Parent Guides are expected to attend an initial 2-day training and subsequent training approximately 1-2 times per year. Parent Guides are paid to attend these trainings.

Specialized Knowledge and Skills

- Keen self-awareness: A good parent guide will be able to distinguish between personal belief systems and bias, and will never manipulate or skew information or input shared with a family.
- Parent Guides must be able to describe options for families in an unbiased manner consistent with the philosophy and mission of Hands & Voices.
- Parent Guides must be able to support families with diverse backgrounds regardless of the educational and/or communication option they select.
- Parent Guides must have knowledge of local and regional resources. For parents of deafblind or deaf with additional disabilities children, Parent Guides must also have knowledge of the resources available to children with additional disabilities.
- Parent Guides must have an understanding of the unique needs of infants and youth who are deaf or hard of hearing.

- Parent Guides must have an understanding of the Birth to 3/Part C, early childhood systems, and Part B public education systems in their state/province and be willing to work collaboratively with the IFSP and IEP team members.
- Parent Guides will be able to demonstrate comfort in supporting parents through the emotions associated with learning of their child's diagnosis.
- Bilingual Parent Guides will possess a strong understanding of the unique challenges faced by families where English is not the primary language and will assist the family in learning through communication in their native language.

Performance Expectations

- Parent Guides are expected to meet identified protocols in a timely way. If the designated timelines cannot be met, Parent Guides are expected to contact the GBYS Program Coordinator and ask that the case be re-assigned.
- Parent Guides will provide their own transportation and must be willing to travel to meet with families. Mileage and other authorized expenses will be covered.
- Parent Guides will complete all necessary paperwork as outlined in the GBYS program protocol.
- Parent Guides will maintain regular contact with the GBYS Program Co-Coordinator, as outlined in the GBYS program protocol.
- Parent Guides will have access to the internet and/or a fax machine, and be willing to conduct business via email and internet technologies as necessary.
- Parent Guides will attend a mandatory initial training and on-going required trainings.
- Parent Guides will maintain standards of confidentiality, as outlined in the GBYS program protocol.
- Parent Guides will be members of and maintain good standing within the Hands & Voices organization.
- Designated Parent Guides will treat all families with kindness and respect regardless of race, religion, socioeconomic status, or lifestyle choices even if they are inconsistent or in conflict with their own values. If a Parent Guide feels that they are unable to support a family, s/he must inform the GBYS Program Co-Coordinator. Any unresolved or repeated occurrences of unprofessionalism of this nature may be grounds for termination.
- Parent Guides will be active within their communities and leaders throughout the state/province or territory in which they live and work.

Requirements

- ❖ Some travel across the state.
- ❖ Flexible scheduling to meet the needs of the program and to be able to visit with families at a wide variety of times.

- ❖ Become member of Maryland/DC Hands & Voices chapter

Required Conferences/Trainings

- ❖ Guide By Your Side Parent and Deaf/HH Guide Training – date TBD, in Maryland.
- ❖ Hands and Voices Leadership Conference (if funds allow) - September 2023, in Grand Rapids, Michigan

Please send your application and cover letter sharing your experience with the above-mentioned specialized knowledge and skills to:

Katie Huray, President of Maryland/DC Hands & Voices
Email: mddchandsandvoices@gmail.com