



From Family to School with Heritage Sign Languages Center: Strengthening Connections Among Educational Entities



Presenters:

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www.hsl.center

THE PRESENT & THE FUTURE COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM



HERITAGE
Sign Languages Center

EDUCATION

FAMILY

COMMUNITY

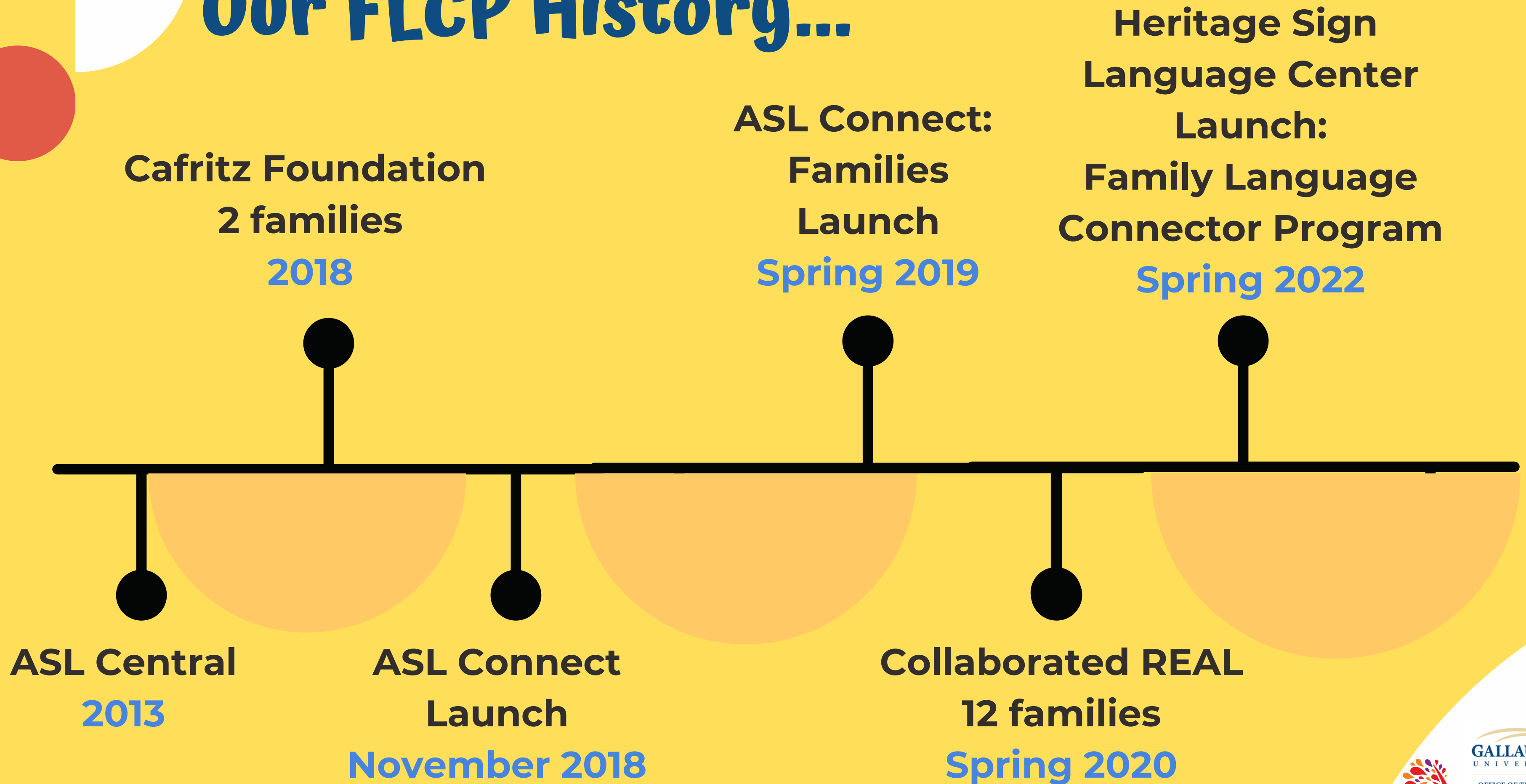
The Heritage Sign Languages Center (HSLC) provides multicultural family services, education, and community events for Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of hearing people from all walks of life.



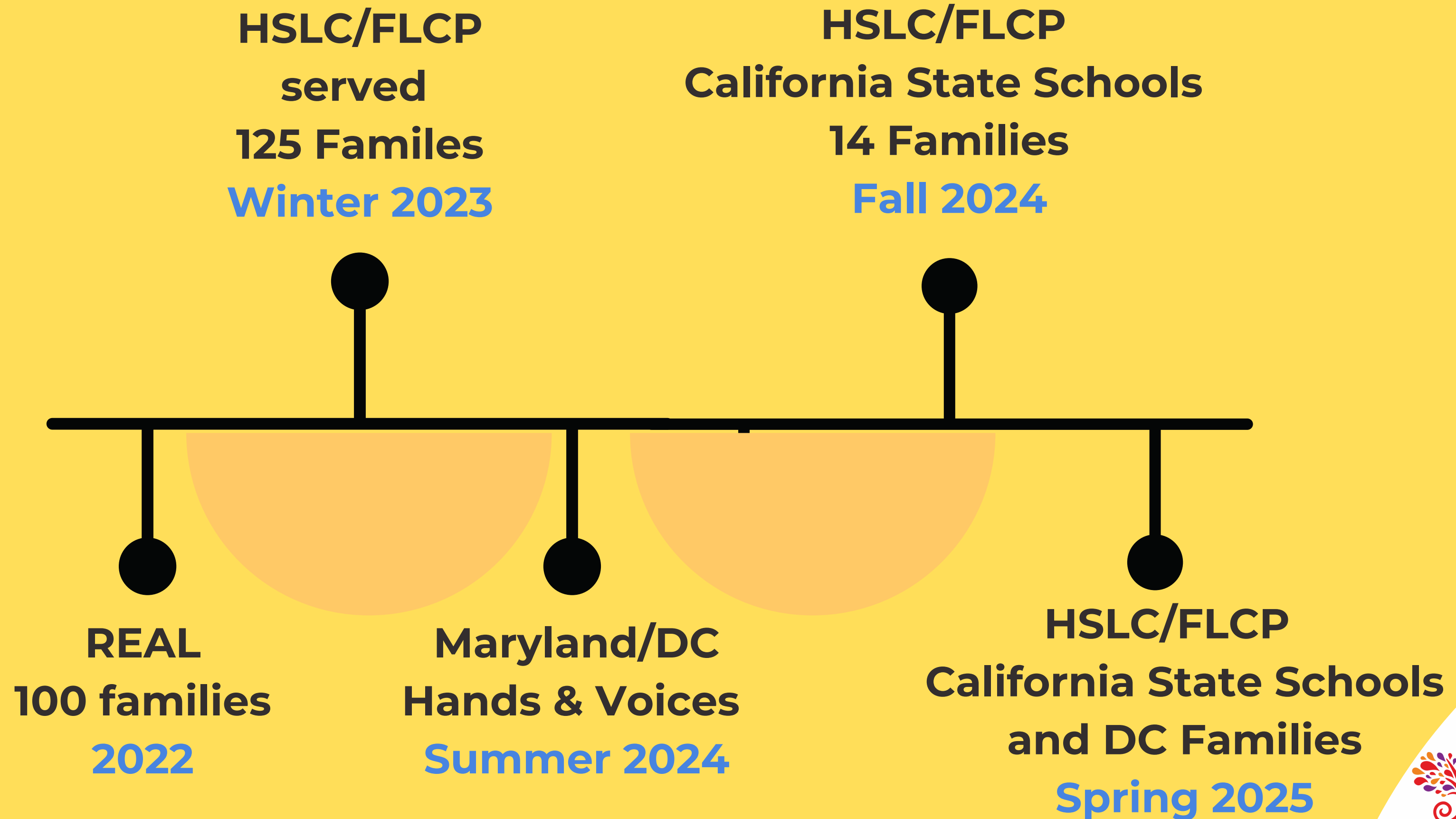
Candace Jones, M.Ed
Director & doctoral student



Our FLCP History...



Our FLCP History...



MISSION OF FLCP

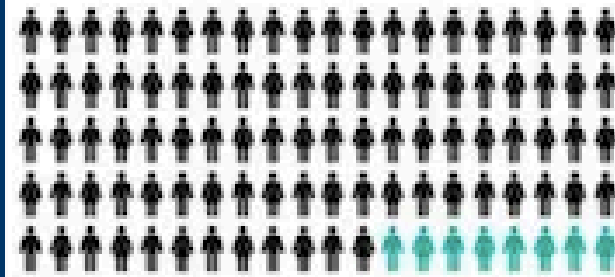


- **Create an accessible, interactive, and abundant rich language environment**
- **Virtual interactive learning**
- **Cultivate confidence and connection**
- **Trained family connectors**
- **Value culture, tradition, and language**



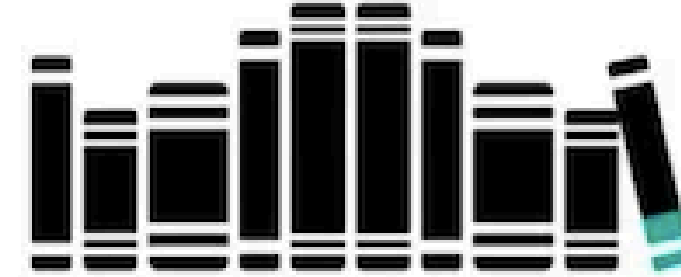
THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND FLCP'S MISSION

Deaf children are at **HIGH RISK**
of language deprivation



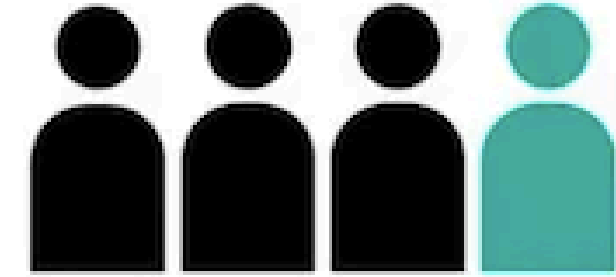
92%

Deaf children have
hearing parents



98%

Deaf children have
no access to education
in sign language

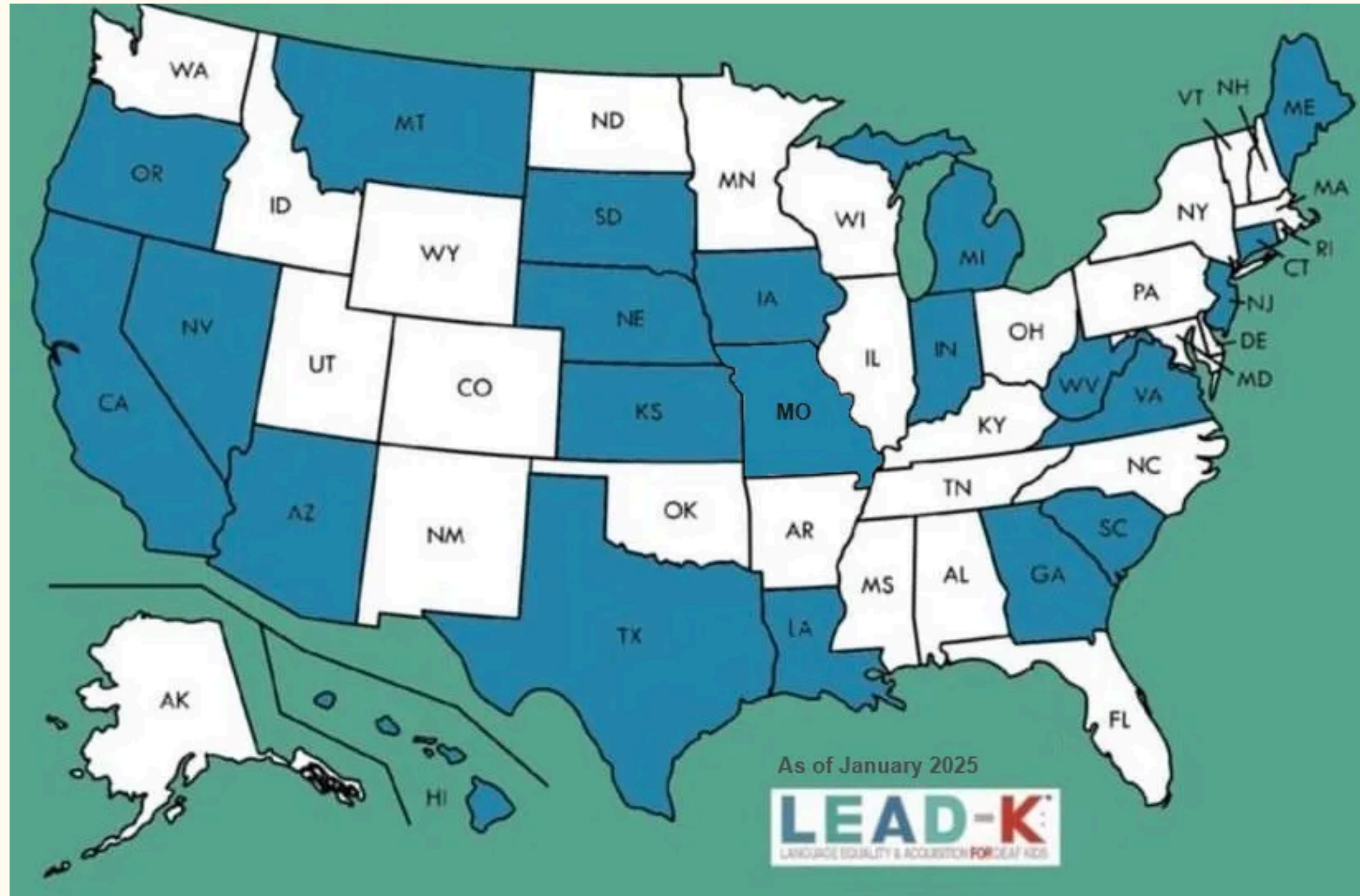


3 out
of 4

parents *do not sign*
with their Deaf child

Photo credit: [@JBASergeant](#)

LANGUAGE EQUALITY AND ACQUISITION FOR DEAF KIDS (LEAD-K)



LEAD-K STATES (AS OF JANUARY 2025)

- **Lifetime Success**
- **DHH Kids Thrive**
- **Kindergarten-Ready**
- **Passed in California in 2015**
- **LEAD-K Family Services established in 2020**

What makes FLCP unique?

- **Multicultural Lens**
- **100% Family Connectors are Deaf**
- **Diverse Deaf Role Models and Educators**
- **FLCP's Family Comprehension Level of ASL Assessment**
- **Collaboration with EI Providers**



California
School for the Deaf



Early Hearing
Detection and
Intervention



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Benefits of using FLCP services

- **Deaf Mentorship**
- **Bilingual & Multilingual Models**
- **Socio-Cultural Perspectives**
- **High Quality of Deaf Livelihood**



(Bowen, 2016; Hamilton & Clark, 2020)



Meet the Team



CANDACE JONES, M.ED

VISIONARY DIRECTOR

Doctoral Student

*Critical Studies in the Education of
Deaf Learners*

LATRINA LEWIS, M.ED

FLCP COORDINATOR & TRAINER

Deaf Education: Multiple Disabilities



JERRI SEREMETH, M.ED

FLCP LIAISON

Sign Language Education



PATRICE CREAMER, MSW

QUALITY ASSURANCE REVIEWER

Social Work



JACLYN VINCENT, MA.ED & MS. ED

QUALITY ASSURANCE REVIEWER

*Deaf Education & Sign Language
Education*



KRISTY MCKELLER, M.ED

*Deaf Education
& Deaf Studies*



JOSEPH LOPEZ, M.ED

Sign Language Education



**GO
CONNECTORS!**



**JUAN BERNAL
MONDRAGON, BSW**

Social Work



CLAIRE DECKER, M.ED

Deaf Education



MARVELLA SELLERS, M.ED

*Deaf Education:
Multiple Disabilities*



FAMILY LANGUAGE CONNECTOR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

6+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WITH FAMILIES
IN OUR PROGRAM

**339
FAMILIES**



**2,712
LIVE VIDEO
SESSIONS**



**AVERAGE
NUMBER OF FAMILIES AND
SESSIONS WITH CONNECTORS**

LEVEL 1

85 FAMILIES = **680**
x 8 lessons **TOTAL SESSIONS**

**VIRTUAL LEARNING
30-45 MINUTES
EACH SESSION**

2018 to 2024

**SPANISH &
VISUAL-ACCESSIBLE
VERSIONS
ALSO AVAILABLE!**



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ASL Levels

1. Basic, Emerging, Intermediate and Advanced Levels

- a. Expressive Language
- b. Literacy Development
- c. Real-World Connections
- d. Linguistic Skills

2. Subtopics exemplifying

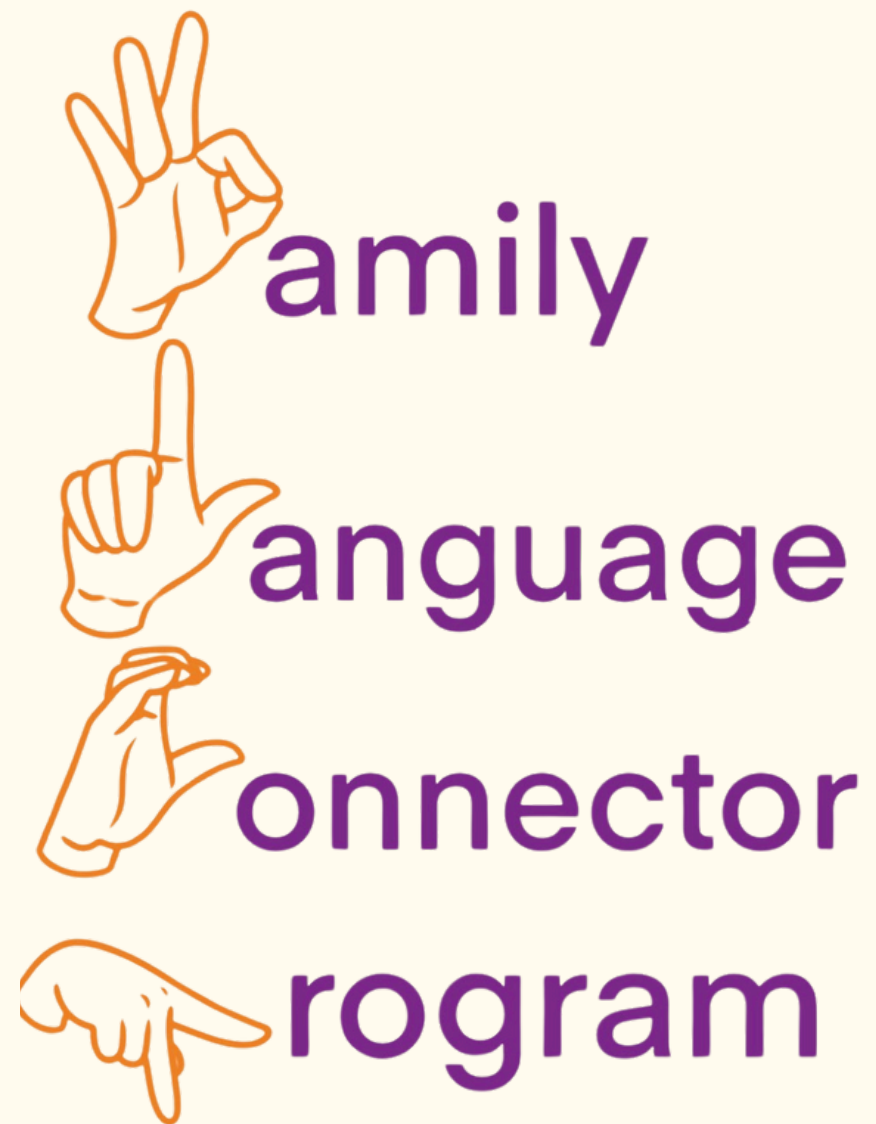
- a. Emotions
- b. "All about Me"
- c. Shared reading
- d. Storytelling

3. Family Involvement

- a. Multicultural and multilingual friendly
- b. Removal of barriers







EXPERIENCE IT FROM A PARENT/CAREGIVER'S PERSPECTIVE



- **FIRST VIDEO CLIP: FAMILY**
- **SECOND VIDEO CLIP: HEARING PARENTS
WITH EXTENDED FAMILIES**
- **THIRD VIDEO CLIP: MOTHER AND CHILD**







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FAMILY-CENTERED & L1/CULTURAL SOCIO-EMOTIONAL CONNECTOR FORMATION









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HEARING PARENTS WITH EXTENDED FAMILIES DURING VACATION WITH DEAF CHILD



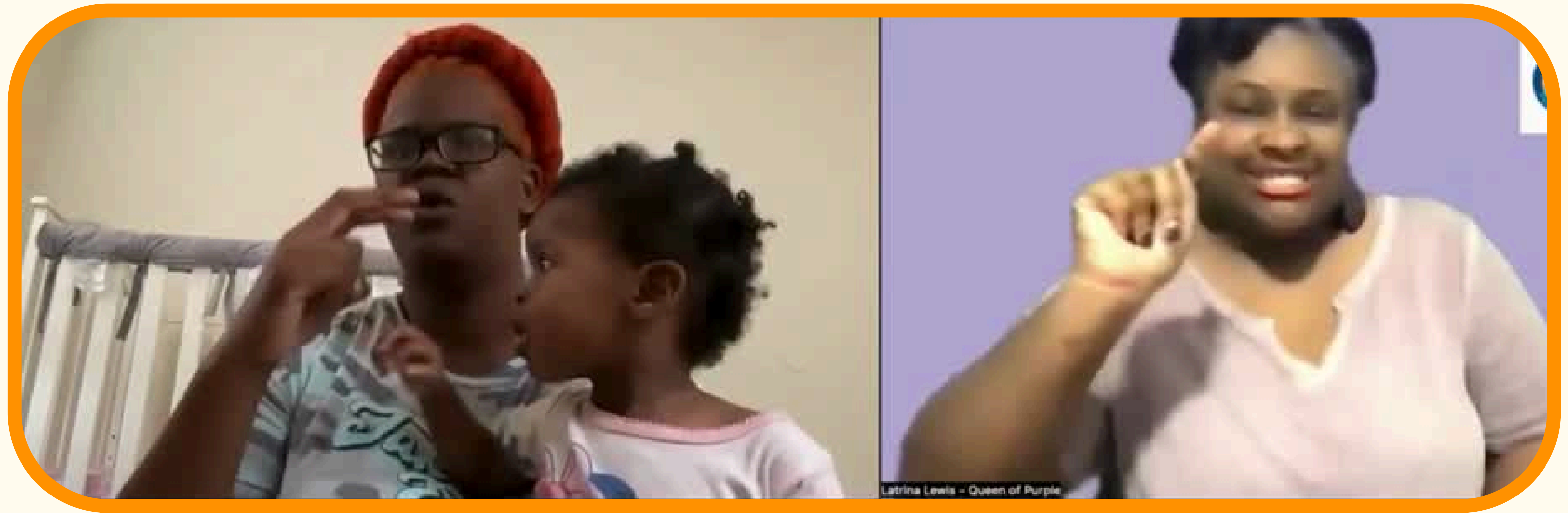


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***DEAF+ CHILD, FAMILY CONNECTION & MULTICULTURAL ROLE MODELS**

***Deaf PLUS = Deaf & additional disabilities**



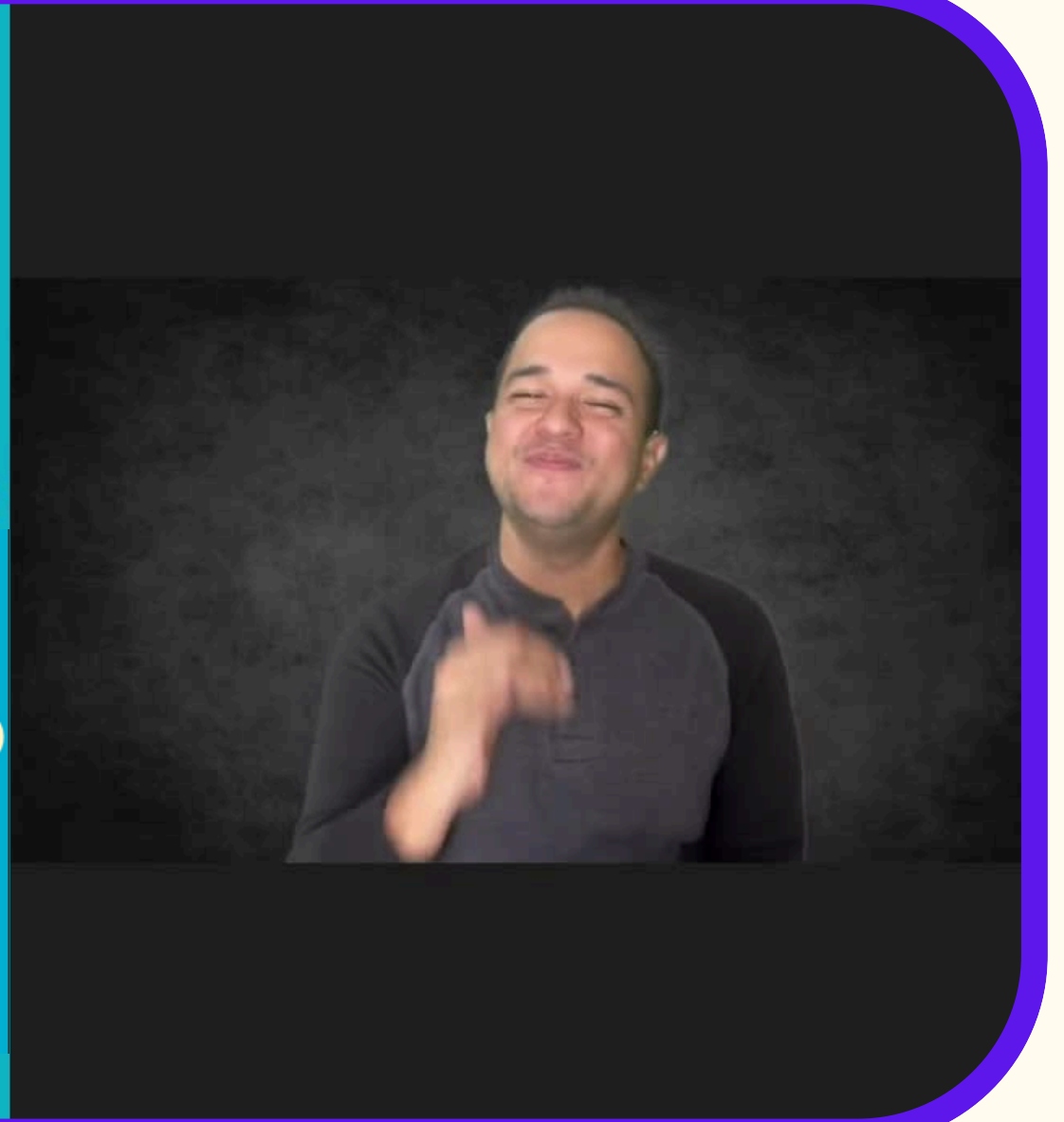


A CLIP OF OUR LESSON

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YOU EXCITED?

YOU EXCITED?
ME TOO!



FAMILY'S COMPREHENSIVE LEVEL OF ASL



**END OF EACH
LESSON:
Assessment
checklist to monitor
level of ASL
progress**

Family's Comprehensive Level of ASL						
Lesson 1: Visual Communication and Gesturing	Excellent: Follows, produces and/or comprehends with 90% - 100% accuracy	Good: Follows, produces and/or comprehends with 80% - 90% accuracy	Adequate: Frequent errors with following, producing and/or comprehending with 70% - 80% accuracy	Emerging: Difficulty in following, producing and/or comprehending with 60% - 70% accuracy	Developing: Not able or follows, produces and/or comprehends with 60% or below accuracy	
Able to produce appropriate gestures						
CAREGIVER #1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
CAREGIVER #2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Able to comprehend gestures						
CAREGIVER #1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
CAREGIVER #2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Able to include the intensity of gestures						
CAREGIVER #1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
CAREGIVER #2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Able to use "pointing" correctly						
CAREGIVER #1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
CAREGIVER #2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Able to create a role-play scenario(s) to communicate with gestures						
CAREGIVER #1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
CAREGIVER #2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Able to state 'I don't understand' or 'Please repeat'						
CAREGIVER #1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
CAREGIVER #2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	



CARE PACKAGE



ASL at Home

WHAT FAMILIES ARE SAYING



“I cannot thank you enough for teaching me so much in ASL and kindness. You have been very caring, compassionate. It has been loads of fun and plenty of hard work.”

-Alabama Parent

93%

of families felt
the length was
right

100%

of families
enjoyed the
experience

100%

of families
would
recommend this
program



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WHAT FAMILIES ARE SAYING

“She was amazing! She made me feel very comfortable with learning ASL and always was willing to go the extra mile by sending me more about Deaf Art culture. She’s opened my world with new possibilities and I’m grateful for that.”

-Tennessee Parent

“There are honestly no words that can describe just how blown away me and my husband are by this program. I know this will truly help my child. My child is already drawn to the experience and now that we can add education to that it’s even better.”

-Mississippi Parent

HOW FAMILIES REQUEST FOR FLCP SERVICE:

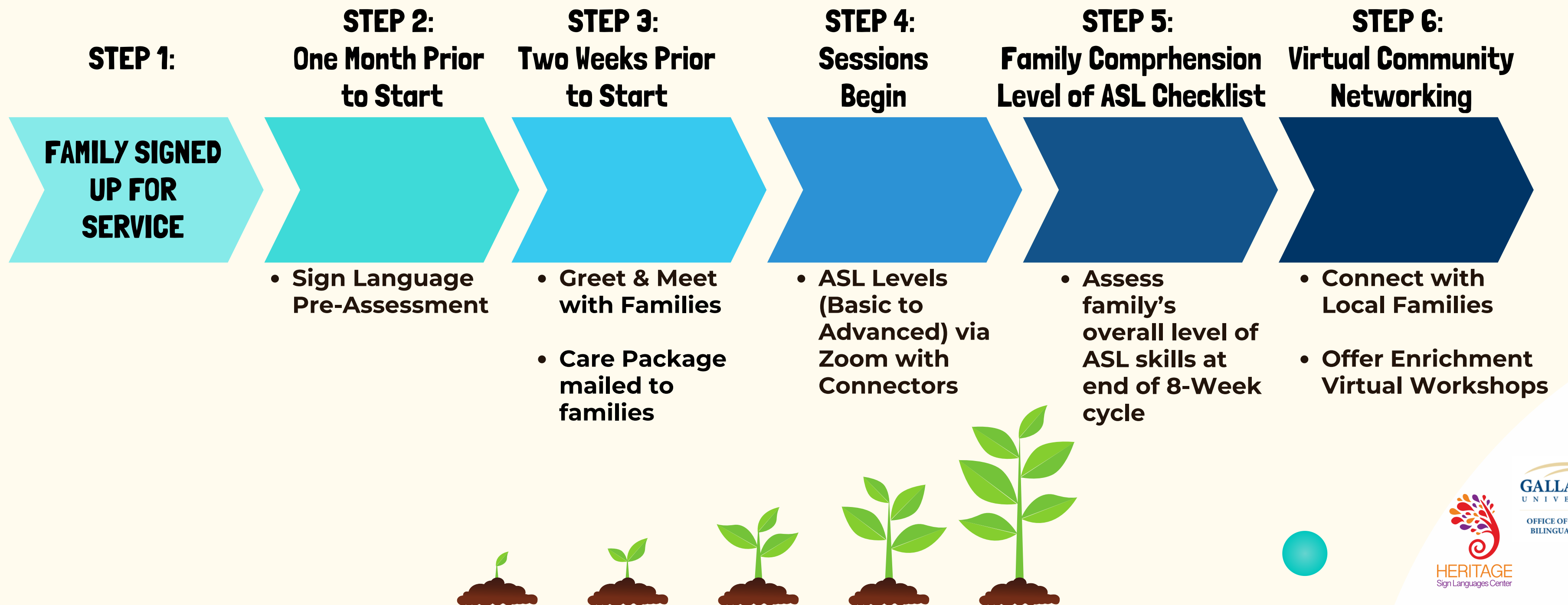
**1. Ask for an
IFSP or IEP
meeting**

**2. Request
for FLCP sign
language
services**

**3. School
district or
agency to
cover the
costs**

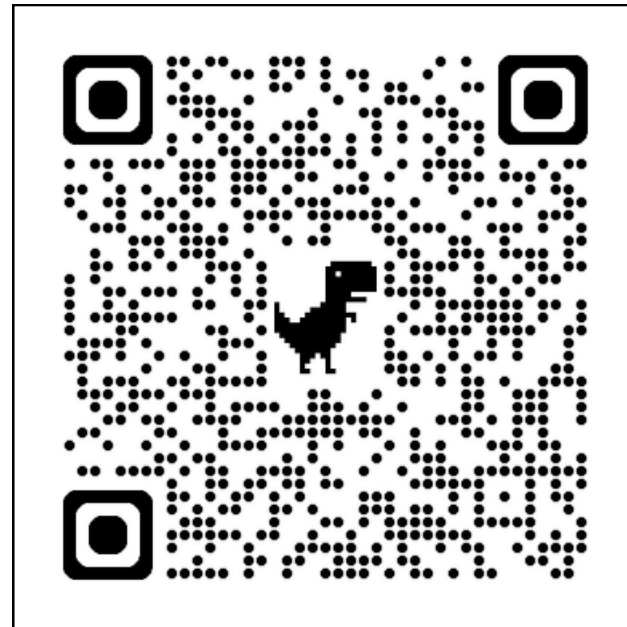
**4. FLCP provide
assessment
results to
district or
agency**

FLCP TIMELINE FOR SIGNED UP FAMILIES



Questions or Comments?

Fill out this Google Form!



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Website



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- **US' current web-based locations/referrals to Deaf Mentor programs: <https://www.infanthearing.org/dhhadultinvolvement>**

SPANISH-SPEAKING PARENTS GROUP SELECTED REFERENCES

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