

**What is the WV Hands & Voices Parent Support Program?** It is a program of West Virginia Hands & Voices that helps to assist families navigating the WV Early Hearing Detection & Intervention system. Our program provides follow-up and outreach services on behalf of the Newborn Hearing Screening Project offering unbiased information and support to family members by parents who have similar experience raising a child who is deaf or hard of hearing. These individuals are called Parent Support Specialists.

**Who are Parent Support Specialists?** A Parent Support Specialist is a parent of a child who is deaf, hard of hearing, deaf/blind, or is deaf with additional developmental disabilities and/or health care needs. The training of Parent Support Specialists is extensive and ongoing. A Parent Support Specialist provides support in the way that best meets the family's needs (in person or remotely utilizing different forms of technology). In addition, Parent Support Specialist will be gathering and reporting data regarding hearing screening status to ensure all infants receive appropriate newborn hearing screening follow-up.

**What's so different about that?** West Virginia Hands & Voices, along with the Parent Support Program, is a parent led organization and is part of a larger grassroots international Hands & Voices organization ([www.handsandvoices.org](http://www.handsandvoices.org)). We understand the challenges and the celebrations of parenting a deaf or hard of hearing child. Most importantly, our organization offers support without any bias towards one communication method. We realize success is achieved in many different ways, and "What works for your child makes the best choice."

**Currently we have one opening for a Parent Support Specialist.**

Required Qualifications:

- Must be a parent of a child who is deaf, hard of hearing or deaf-blind
  - Must be (or be willing to become) an active member of WV Hands & Voices
  - Must be able to provide information in an **unbiased** manner, especially regarding communication options.
  - Must pass a background check
  - Must have a valid West Virginia Driver's License and reliable transportation required.
  - Must have experience with using MS Office Suite (e.g. Word, Excel, PowerPoint) as well as social media.
- Experience using web-based database systems preferred.

Conditions of Work: This is a contracted, grant-funded part-time, flexible position, up to 20 hours a week. Reimbursement for mileage. No benefits.

Application Procedures:

Provide the following information: Completed Application, Resume, Two current letters of recommendation with contact information (email and phone)

Please email the completed packet to:

Christina Payne  
West Virginia Hands & Voices  
[christina.payne@wvhandsandvoices.org](mailto:christina.payne@wvhandsandvoices.org)

Or apply online at: [www.wvhandsandvoices.org](http://www.wvhandsandvoices.org)



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