



January 27, 2023

Ryan Gollner, Project Director
Wisconsin Educational Services Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WESP-DHH)
309 W. Walworth Ave
Delavan, WI 53115

Dear Mr. Gollner,

I am writing to you on behalf of Helen Keller National Center North Central Region with regard to our collaboration with Wisconsin Educational Services Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WESP-DHH) as you apply for continued funding to provide technical assistance on behalf of children and young adults who are deafblind through the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) CDFA 84.326T. We are aware that the needs of these students are unique and require staff with a targeted skill set in order to provide accurate intervention and educational best practices.

During the past grant cycle (2018-2023) we have worked with WESP-DHH through membership on the Advisory Board, planning for and implementation of strategies to improve postsecondary transition. We look forward over the 2023-2028 grant cycle to continued engagement and collaboration with WESP-DHH to improve transition services for youth with deafblindness and support a smooth transition to independent living and vocational rehabilitation. In particular, we are excited to collaborate with WESP-DHH regarding the development of a DeafBlind teen council. The council will provide continued engagement to families and teens as it relates to their transition goals.

We understand that, as defined by OSEP, the focus of these grants is to provide technical assistance in a variety of methods and on different levels; universal/general, targeted/specific, and intensive/sustainable. We are committed to working with WESP-DHH across these levels and determining which fit is best for our needs. HKNC is committed to exploring connections across the initiatives outlined by WESP-DHH throughout the course of the next five-year cycle.

Helen Keller National Center supports the application from WESP-DHH and its mission to enhance life opportunities for children and young adults who are deafblind throughout the state of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Filek".

John Filek
Regional Service Coordinator
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Helen Keller National Center
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