



## National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness

### Consortium Members

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Dear Projects, Organizations and Parent Groups:

We would like to invite you to apply to attend an exciting parent and professional development opportunity. The Perkins Training & Educational Resources Program and the National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness (NCDB) are hosting an intensive two-day workshop on providing technical assistance and support to underserved and underrepresented families of children who are visually impaired.

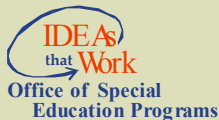
States are invited to put together a team of partners who provide services to families of children with visual impairments, including those who are deaf-blind, blind and visually impaired. *Any of the following organizations can initiate the development of the team.* Teams must consist of 3-5 people and include representatives from at least three of the following (one of which must be a representative from the state deaf-blind project).

- State deaf-blind project;
- Family specialist, state deaf-blind project ;
- State Parent Training and Information Center (PTI);
- National Family Association for Deaf-Blind (NFADB) or a state affiliate group;
- National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (NAPVI) or a state affiliate group;
- Statewide parent groups for families with children who are blind, visually impaired, deafblind, including those with additional disabilities.

Our goals for hosting this training are:

1. To increase organizations' understanding of cultural reciprocity and build the capacity to provide TA and support that is respectful to the TA recipients' cultural background
2. To increase organizations' ability to identify needs and effective technical assistance and support strategies for underserved families
3. To develop collaborative relationships between the state partners to enhance outreach to all families

This interactive training will feature Beth Harry from the University of Miami, who will help us build a strong foundation in cultural reciprocity. Mercedes Rosa and Diana Autin of the New Jersey Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN) will continue by sharing practical strategies developed and implemented to reach out to underrepresented groups. Each state team will have opportunities to learn, practice and plan - TOGETHER!



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Please read through the attached documents for additional information. If you have questions as you consider applying, please contact one of us. We welcome your questions. The deadline for submission of a team application is April 2. Teams will be selected and notified by April 9. We will be striving for geographic diversity of the teams, with the hopes of having teams from across the country.

Thank you,

Betsy McGinnity  
Perkins Training & Educational  
Resources Program

Paddi Davies  
National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness

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