

# ANNUAL REPORT



2021 / 2022

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EMPOWERING PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO  
ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING, THROUGH  
EDUCATION AND SUPPORT

[NCBEGIN.ORG](https://NCBEGIN.ORG)

## Notes from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Diane Doak  
Executive Director  
BEGINNINGS

**Fiscal year 2022** was a year of transitions for BEGINNINGS and the families we serve. Some services were in person; others remained virtual. Of all our services to families, 40% were in person. However, uncertainty is difficult for families. When we looked specifically at home visits last year, parents wanted to meet with their parent educator in person 42% of the time.

The families of newly identified children were the most likely group of parents to request in-person services. Of those meeting with parent educators for the first time, 62% wanted to meet in-person. We know from experience that we all long for direct contact and need the reassurance of having another person walking beside us.

We also saw tremendous impacts upon students from the pandemic. An increased number of families chose not to return to traditional public schools, but instead attended charter schools, private schools, or public virtual schools. These alternate school placements may not have access to technology to support children with hearing loss. Children in grades K–3 struggled to master reading and math. And parents needed direction in helping their children with IEPs to develop plans to close the gap.

As we enter fiscal year 2023, BEGINNINGS is working hard to develop programs to assist parents overcome these setbacks. This summer we finalized a contract to utilize federal money through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF) to provide services to families. We will be providing advocacy training and IDEA training, as well as helping parents manage the stress brought on by COVID.

I continue to be proud of my staff as they create new and creative ways to empower parents! What's more, we are already seeing a positive trend. During our first quarter of fiscal year 2023, the number of families served has returned to pre-COVID totals.



Visit our website:  
[ncbegin.org](http://ncbegin.org)

### DID YOU KNOW?

The families we serve speak these languages:

**English: 78%**

**Spanish: 18%**

**ASL/Other: 4%**

**I can't wait to see what we can accomplish together this year!**

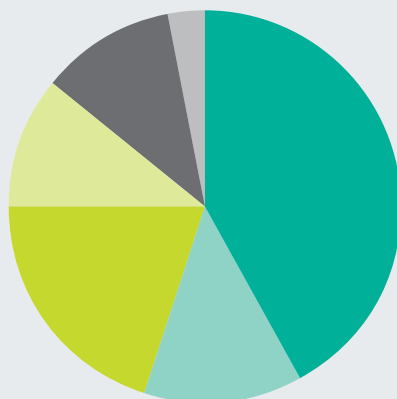
2021~2022  
**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**  
Ramping Up Services  
as COVID-19 Pandemic  
Continued

COVID-19 restrictions still had a major impact on families and children in North Carolina. However, BEGINNINGS began to return to in-person visits as soon as it was safe, while also continuing to provide hundreds of services online.

In FY 2022, we served  
**1,269 FAMILIES**  
773 returning families  
and 496 new families

**911 Home Visits**  
Provided

**379 School Meetings**  
Supported



### Age at Identification

■ Birth–3 months	42%
■ 4–12 months	13%
■ 13 months–3 years	20%
■ 4–5 years	11%
■ 6–10 years	11%
■ 11–21 years	3%

## Message from the BOARD PRESIDENT



Wade Monroe  
President, Board of Directors  
BEGINNINGS

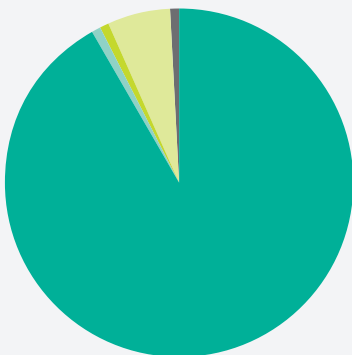
I have been on the Beginnings board for six years and have served as Board President for the past three and am supported by other board members who lend their own expertise to this amazing organization.

While we are not necessarily out of the woods post-pandemic, BEGINNINGS is returning to in-person work with families across the state. In fact, staff is providing services at the same level they did pre-COVID. This is truly awe-inspiring, considering that BEGINNINGS covers almost all of the counties in North Carolina, stretching “from Murphy to Manteo.” What’s more, the staff at BEGINNINGS offer expertise spanning a child’s life from birth to age 22. In addition to helping families cope with their newborn’s hearing loss challenges, they also prepare their sons and daughters for college and careers. No other agency in the state of North Carolina has this scope of work or delivers it so well.

As we look to fiscal year 2022–23, the Board pledges to expand our members geographically and in types of expertise. We will also continue to support Executive Director Diane Doak and her staff in their day-to-day work, while finding new ways of reaching out to North Carolina families who need our help. Please join me and the other Board members in supporting this worthwhile cause.

### FY 2021–2022 Financial Information (Audited)

REVENUE



- State Revenue: \$1,238,226  
*State Contracts (\$1,004,216) & Released State Money (\$234,010)*
- Other Contracts (NC DPI ESSERF): \$9,351
- Other Grants Released: \$8,930
- Public Support (Events/Individual Giving) \$86,409
- Earned Income: \$10,083

**TOTAL \$1,352,999**



### EXPENSES

- Admin/Fundraising: \$243,884
- Services to Families: \$1,100,210

**TOTAL \$1,344,094**

## SUPPORT BEGINNINGS!

We ask for your monthly, annual, or in honor of/in memory of gifts TO SUPPORT OUR WORK STATEWIDE!  
[ncbegin.org/donate](http://ncbegin.org/donate)

**82%: amount of income spent DIRECTLY ON NC FAMILIES needing services**



# GRANTS to PARENTS

**BEGINNINGS** continued its important Grants to Parents, supported by generous donations from the Sertoma Club and individuals. These grants help parents with unexpected hearing-loss related expenses, such as mileage to audiologist appointments, hearing aid adjustments, and more. Below are just a few of the families who applied for and received grants during FY 2021–22.



## Aiden

Aiden is a bright high-school student in Concord who takes regular classes with support. He loves math and has come a long way from being non-verbal in a centralized classroom. His mother supports the family of five on one salary and had some major medical bills come along last year. BEGINNINGS gave the family a grant to help pay Aiden’s ENT bills as well as the purchase of batteries and other equipment.



## Emma

Emma, now 2, is one of two little girls living in Lenoir with her parents. Her parents have had to manage COVID-related hospital bills as well as audiologist and allergist appointments for Emma. Emma pretends her dolls and animals have hearing loss and has taken it all in stride. Her audiologist recommended an FM system to help her with hearing loss. BEGINNINGS was able to issue a grant that covered the out-of-pocket costs of the system, along with audiology visits and mileage reimbursement between Lenoir and Chapel Hill.



## Agustin

Agustin, a smart, talkative only child, lives in Asheboro with his parents, who are Chilean and came to the United States three years ago. His mother is a teacher; his father, an engineer who is seeking employment in his field. Agustin learned English after he arrived and has made excellent progress in school. However, his hearing loss meant that he needed hearing aids fitted, an expense not covered by insurance. BEGINNINGS was able to meet this need.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**ANNUAL FUNDRAISING GALA 2023**



**THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2023, 6–10 P.M.**

Raleigh Country Club, 400 Donald Ross Dr., Raleigh, NC  
Tickets & information: [www.ncbegin.org](http://www.ncbegin.org).

Silent/Live Auctions, Dinner, Dancing  
Proceeds benefit our statewide services for families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing.



## OYSTER ROAST 2021!

Thank you to everyone who supported our work at this FALL FUNDRAISER.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022–2023

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