

FOUNDATION FOR HEARING RESEARCH, INC.
dba Weingarten Children's Center

Strategic Plan Summary



June 2022

MISSION STATEMENT

Transform lives of children who are deaf or hard of hearing, teaching them to listen, speak, and learn through:

- ***proven spoken language and cognitive development curriculum***
- ***family-centered education***
- ***innovative technology***

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Foundation for Hearing Research, Inc. dba Weingarten Children’s Center (“FHR”) is a California 501(c)(3) that teaches listening and spoken language (LSL) to children ages 0 – 6 who are deaf or hard of hearing. FHR operates four lines of service: (i) **Weingarten Children’s Center** (“WCC”), the leading specialized early-intervention school and clinic on the San Francisco Peninsula, (ii) the **BabyTalk** Teleintervention Program developed by FHR in conjunction with Stanford University, (iii) **TeachLSL™** Distance Listening and Spoken Language program bringing education, therapy, and parent coaching to children throughout the state of California and their families, and (iv) **Talk2Me™** Digital Parent Learning with Live Coaching Program. FHR is seeking strategic, technology, and financial partners to further develop digital, online, and onsite therapy and education programs, enhance remote delivery capabilities, and extend geographic reach.

Impact. Intensive early-intervention and effective specialized education transform the lives of children who are deaf or hard of hearing (“D/HH”), far surpassing the impact of later intervention when neurological pathways and brain development are substantially less receptive. This rare window of opportunity for early-intervention with life-changing impact:

- Enables full access to mainstream education,
- Saves approximately **\$192,000 per student** in special education costs through high school¹, and
- Empowers beneficiaries personally, socially, and economically throughout their lives.

Alternative to Impact: Up to ninety percent of children who are D/HH do not receive these intensive interventions. Despite access to advanced hearing technologies, they drastically underperform their potential. Hearing technology is not perfect, expectations are often low, and children fall progressively further behind hearing peers. Approximately fifty percent of U.S. children who are D/HH graduate from high school with a fourth-grade level of literacy or below².

Strategy. Since its founding in 1967, FHR’s specialists in listening and spoken language have provided effective early intervention, individualized therapy, specialized cognitive education, expert training, and multifaceted support to young children and their families, preparing students to succeed in mainstream schools with hearing peers. Teaching parents to facilitate their children learning spoken language is central to FHR’s success. FHR’s strategy is to build on its WCC center of excellence and established BabyTalk teleintervention capabilities to serve significantly more families of children who are D/HH in California, nationwide, and beyond who currently lack adequate listening and spoken language services. FHR works with outstanding strategic partners, including Stanford and UCSF, to develop, staff, and fund transformative programs and technology that can serve children anywhere.

Reach. FHR’s Weingarten Children’s Center serves 55 students onsite, 43 with education and therapy, and 12 therapy-only. FHR’s BabyTalk Teleintervention Program currently provides remote instruction statewide via FaceTime or Zoom using a parent coaching model to 43 families of children aged 0 – 3 who are D/HH.

¹ \$27,000 per California special education student versus \$10,000 per mainstream student, first through 12th grade. Source ed100.org.

² Traxler C B (2000) The Stanford Achievement Test, 9th edition: National norming and performance standards for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education*, 5(4), 337-348.