



# 2021

# ASHA ADVOCACY: A YEAR IN REVIEW

## INTERSTATE COMPACT (ASLP-IC)



**9 STATES ADDED**  
Increasing the total to 15 states

Alabama, Colorado, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Nebraska, New Hampshire, and Ohio

## GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

**37,500 MESSAGES**



ASHA advocates sent over **37,500 messages** to state and federal elected officials

## ASHA-PAC

**\$243,330 RAISED**

ASHA-PAC had a record-breaking year, raising **\$243,330** from **8,263 donors**

Learn more about ASHA Advocacy

[www.asha.org/advocacy](http://www.asha.org/advocacy)



**ASHA**  
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

## TELEPRACTICE COVERAGE

- **Expanded Telehealth Access Act** was introduced, which would give audiologists and SLPs permanent telehealth authority under Medicare
- Advocated for **state practice acts** to include the **full scope** of practice for audiology and speech-language pathology in **telepractice permissions**
- **Expanded Medicare telehealth coverage** for all ASHA recommended audiology and speech-language pathology procedures for the duration of the public health emergency



## DIVERSITY & DISPARITIES

- **Allied Health Workforce Diversity Act** was introduced, which would provide resources to help expand the diversity of future audiologists and SLPs
- Secured directive for the CDC to address **pediatric hearing health care disparities among racial and ethnic minorities**, and other medically underserved populations

## COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Tracked **state-by-state changes to COVID-19 public health emergency policies** nationwide

Created a new resource to monitor school reopening policies in **all 50 states**

## FUNDING

Succeeded in advocating for increased FY 2022 appropriations funding for:

### IDEA

**Individuals with Disabilities Education Act**

Part B (state grants) by

**\$2.6B**

Part C (infants and toddlers) by

**\$250M**

Preschool grants by

**\$105M**

### EHDI

**Early Hearing Detection & Intervention**

grants to support states by

**\$1.7M**

### NIDCD

**National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders**

**\$24.7M**

## SERVICES AND REIMBURSEMENT

- Key provisions from the **Medicare Audiologist Access and Services Act** passed by U.S. House of Representatives
- Led advocacy efforts that eliminated roughly **8% of scheduled Medicare payment reductions**
- Stopped a **5% payment cut** to skilled nursing facilities
- Implemented **7 new audiology codes** to capture evoked potential procedures for 2021

## ASSISTANT CERTIFICATION

Expanded **acceptance of ASHA C-SLPA** in states for both **health care** and **school settings**