Open Hands, Open Access (OHOA): Deaf-Blind Intervener Learning Modules – An Overview

The *Open Hands, Open Access (OHOA): Deaf-Blind Intervener Learning Modules* are a national resource designed to increase awareness, knowledge, and skills related to intervention for students (ages 3 through 21) who are deaf-blind and being served in educational settings. They were developed in response to Recommendation 3 of the **Recommendations to Improve Intervener Services**.

The modules, created by a diverse group of experts in the field of deaf-blindness (state and national deaf-blind project staff, parents of children who are deaf-blind, higher education faculty, teachers, educational interpreters, interveners, and more), were designed to be used as part of comprehensive intervener training programs offered by qualified agencies or institutions. The content is aligned with Council for Exceptional Children standards that outline knowledge and skill competencies for interveners. On their own the modules do not serve as an intervener training program.

Creators & Contributors

In addition to intervener training, many people have found the modules useful for other purposes, including:

- Self-study
- Technical assistance (information, training, consultation, and coaching) by state deaf-blind projects
- University coursework

If you have any questions about the modules, contact support@nationaldb.org.

FORMATS

The modules are available in two formats

1. NCDB website version
2. Moodle learning management system version

NCDB Website Format

The NCDB website format provides access to each module's content including slide presentations, handouts, assignments, and discussion board content. It does not require registration or login and is not interactive. That is, there is no mechanism for submitting assignments, using a discussion board, or identifying users.

Because this format is not interactive, state deaf-blind projects and colleges and universities using them for in-depth training or coursework will need to use an additional tool for sharing materials, online discussion, and submitting assignments. Options include Google Classroom, a learning management system such as Blackboard, or online group platforms such as Facebook, or Basecamp.

Moodle Format

The Moodle format is only available to state deaf-blind projects or university programs providing a hosted experience for groups. It has interactive features, not available in the NCDB website version:

- Ability to enroll users
- Discussion boards
- Quizzes
- A mechanism for submitting assignments