FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: PROGRAMS AND FOUNDATIONS

The first step for financial assistance resources for hearing aids is to check with your health care insurance provider to find out if they carry hearing aid coverage. After that, check out the resources below to see if you might be eligible for any of the programs listed herein.

CHILDREN WITH HEARING LOSS
Children with hearing loss might be able to receive hearing assistive technology at no cost if their Individualized Education Program (IEP) which specifies that they need the assistive technology (such as hearing aids or FM systems) in order to receive a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). For more information, see the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

COLLEGE STUDENTS / WORKING PEOPLE
Prospective and current college students and other people of working age might qualify for financial assistance for hearing aids, assistive technology, and other rehabilitative services from state vocational rehabilitation agencies. If you are working but concerned you could lose your job because of your hearing loss, you might be eligible for services on that basis.

HEARING AID BANKS / PROGRAMS
Local agencies serving people who are hard of hearing or deaf might also know about local hearing aid banks and other resources, such as clinics that provide services on a sliding scale basis according to income, state assistive technology loan programs, and state financial assistance programs for children with disabilities.

Some states might also have hearing aid loan programs. For example, the Kansas Infant/Toddler Hearing Aid Loan Bank is a short-term hearing aid loan program for children up to three years old who have been newly identified with a hearing loss.

MEDICAID
In some states, people with low income might qualify for hearing aids through Medicaid. People with higher income may temporarily qualify for assistance with medical expenses, including hearing aids, through the “medically needy program” administered by the county social service agency. Look in the Government section of the telephone
book under County Social Services, and request an appointment to determine your eligibility for Medicaid.

STATE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS
State assistive technology programs might provide temporary loans of equipment, loans for purchasing equipment, information and referral services, and demonstration centers. To find out more about your state’s programs, visit the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) Catalyst Project website.

STATE TELEPHONE PROGRAMS
State telephone equipment programs can be found via the Telephone Equipment Distribution Program Association (TEDPA). These programs vary quite widely in what they provide and what their eligibility requirements are, but some provide free or low-cost telephone equipment to eligible residents.

VETERANS
Veterans of military service might qualify for assistance with hearing aids and other rehabilitative services; contact the medical facility for the appropriate branch of the military.

Reduced cost assistive listening systems for retired and active-duty military service members and their families – In an effort to improve the quality of life for those who serve our country, Williams Sound has proudly teamed with the Military Audiology Association (MAA) to offer the Retiree Assistive Listening Devices (RALD) program to both retired and active-duty military service members and their families. The RALD program was created to provide these individuals access to assistive listening devices (ALDs) at a reduced cost, along with free personalized telephone support. For more information on RALD, please visit Williams Sound or Military Audiology Association

Veterans Now Eligible for Telecommunications Equipment from Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH) – Program provides equipment for military veterans living with hearing or speech loss. Adaptive telecommunications equipment, including text telephones (TTY), captioned telephones and other devices are available to individuals who meet certain qualifications. To learn
more about VDDHH, Virginia Relay and TAP for veterans, call 800.552.7917 (V/TTY) or visit VDDHH.

WORKPLACE
In many situations, organizations, government agencies, educational institutions and employers are required by federal or state law to provide auxiliary aids and services for communication access (but not hearing aids). Some of these situations are: employers with 15 or more employees, hotels, hospitals, senior centers and residential facilities. If you are inquiring about communication assistance in one of these situations, call the Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center at 800.949.4232 (V/TTY) for more information or visit their website at ADATA.

RESOURCES – Resource names also are linkable

Many of your local civic organizations, such as the Kiwanis, may be able to provide financial assistance to purchase or acquire hearing aids and other assistive devices. Check your local phone directories or your local Chamber of Commerce for a listing of civic organizations in your area.

The following are national or state resources for assistance:

AUDIENT ALLIANCE
An affiliate of the EPIC Hearing Healthcare and Northwest Lions Foundation

17870 Castleton Street, Suite #320
City of Industry, CA  91748
866.956.5400
626.435.0188 Fax
Email: info@audientalliance.org
http://www.audientalliance.org/

BETTER HEARING INSTITUTE
Financial Assistance Guide
1444 I Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC  20005
CAROLINA CHILDREN’S COMMUNICATIVE DISORDERS PROGRAM
State funded program for North Carolina. Provide full coverage of hearing aids to children. Located at the University of North Carolina; however, families are welcomed and encouraged to receive their hearing aid fitting and care locally. Also are able to provide assistance with cochlear implant costs.

The Children’s Cochlear Implant Center at UNC
5501 Fortunes Ridge Drive, Suite A
Durham, NC  27713
919.419.1449 – Voice
919.419.1399 – Fax
http://www.med.unc.edu/earandhearing/pediatric-services/ccdpgrant/coverage

CHILDREN OF THE SILENT WORLD
Assists children from low-income families with purchasing hearing aids

P.O. Box 2425
Cridersville, OH  45806

DISABLED CHILDREN’S RELIEF FUND
Provides assistance to families of children with disabilities, with preference for children with physical disabilities and little or no health insurance.

P.O. Box 89
Freeport, NY  11520
516.377.1605 – Voice
516.377.3978 – Fax
http://www.betterhearing.org/hearingpedia/hearing-loss-resources/children/disabled-childrens-relief-fund

**DOROTHY AMES TRUST FUND**
Assists children in New England states with hearing aids and assistive technology.

Key Bank Trust Client Services
Attn: Ed Deluccia
Mail Code NY-31-66-0442
66 South Pearl Street, 4th Floor
P.O. Box 22042
Albany, NY 12201
866.238.8650 – Voice
518.257.9662 – Voice
518.257.9670 – Fax
http://www.betterhearing.org/hearingpedia/hearing-loss-resources/financial-assistance/dorothy-ames-trust-fund

**EASTER SEALS**
More than 400 local service centers with varying services; some assist low-income adults and children with hearing aids and other rehabilitative devices.

233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 2400
Chicago, IL 60606
312.726.6200 – Voice
312 726.4258 – TTY
312 726-1494 – Fax
800-221-6827
http://www.easter-seals.org/
FOUNDATION FOR SIGHT & SOUND
The Foundation for Sight & Sound provides hearing aids to individuals with limited financial resources.

P.O. Box 1245
Smithtown, NY 11787
888.580.8886
Email: info@foundationforsightandsound.org
http://www.foundationforsightandsound.org/

GEORGIA LIONS LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION
The Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation provides hearing aid assistance for approximately 1,000 low-income Georgia residents every year. The Lighthouse partners with 150 hearing providers across the state, four hearing aid manufacturers, and multiple other health organizations to provide these services. The program is funded in large part by the Georgia Public Service Commission.

5582 Peachtree Road
Atlanta, GA  30341
404.325.3630 – Voice
800.718.7483 – Voice, Outside Metro Atlanta
404. 636.5549 – Fax
http://www.lionslighthouse.org/

GIFT OF HEARING FOUNDATION
Working closely with the medical community, the Gift of Hearing Foundation will provide financial support to help a select number of economically disadvantaged patients receive cochlear implants. Can provide financial assistance to those whose insurance coverage will not provide for the cost of cochlear implants.

95 Old Boston Neck Road
Narragansett, RI  02882
617.661.4327 (HEAR) – Voice or Text
HEARINGHEALTH4U
Helping low income people break the barrier of the high cost of hearing aids by providing quality new and used hearing aids at a very affordable price. Financial assistance is available.

6003 West Overland Road, Suite 105
Boise, ID  83709
208.724.3155
Email: raydeardorff@hearinghealth4u.org
http://www.hearinghealth4u.org/

HELP KIDS HEAR
Founded by parents of children with hearing loss and is dedicated to helping parents find the information and resources they need in dealing with a deaf/hard of hearing child.

Email: info@helpkidshear.org
http://www.helpkidshear.org/

HIKE FUND, INC.
Provides low-income children from birth up to the age of twenty years with hearing aids and assistive devices. (Supported by Job’s Daughters International)

The HIKE Fund, Inc.
c/o John Hauser, Executive Secretary
530 Elliott Street
Council Bluffs, IA  51503-0202
712.325.0812
Email: Johnhauser11@gmail.com
http://www.thehikefund.org/
**JOHN TRACY CLINIC**
The John Tracy Clinic provides parent-centered services worldwide to young children with hearing loss, offering hope, guidance and encouragement.

806 West Adams Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90007-2505
213.748.5481 Voice
213.749.1651 Fax
213.747.2924 TTY
800.522.4582
Email: web@jtc.org
http://www.jtc.org/

**LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL**
Assists individuals on low income with purchasing hearing aids.

300 West 22nd Street
Oak Brook, IL  60523-8842
630.571.5466
Email: districtadministration@lionsclubs.org
http://www.lionsclubs.org/

**MIRACLE-EAR FOUNDATION**
The Miracle-Ear Foundation™ is designed to support underserved Americans with a limited income and no other resources for hearing aids, such as insurance, Medicaid, VA, or other state or federal programs. Visit a Miracle-Ear store to learn about eligibility or to apply.

5000 Cheshire Parkway North
Plymouth, MN 55446
800.464.8002
http://www.miracle-earfoundation.org/
OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
Provides aids and services to hearing impaired youth.

Optimist International Youth Program
Help Them Hear Program
Contact your local Optimist Club
800.500.8130
http://www.optimist.org/

SERTOMA
Assists persons on low-income with purchasing hearing aids.

1912 East Meyer Boulevard
Kansas City, MO 64132-9990
816.333.8300 – Voice
816 333.4320 – Fax
http://www.sertoma.org/

STARKEY HEARING FOUNDATION
Provides hearing aid assistance for individuals on low-income in the U.S. Each person we help is fit with new, top-of-the-line digital hearing aids that are customized to their hearing loss.

Twin Cities Office
6700 Washington Avenue South
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
Hear Now Program
800.328.8602
952.828.6900 – Fax
Email: hearnow@starkeyfoundation.org
http://www.starkeyhearingfoundation.org/hear-now
TRAVELERS PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
Provides assistance for mechanical devices, medical care, and/or specialized education or treatment, to those who demonstrate financial need. Grants may be used to purchase hearing aids, assistive listening equipment, or may help with the cost of a cochlear implant. Applies to U.S. citizens only. Go to website, click on Scholarship Trust.

3755 Lindell Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63108
314.371.0533 – Voice
314.371.0537 – Fax
http://www(tpahq.org/

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND HEARING AND SPEECH CLINIC
Provides speech-language therapy, hearing evaluations, and aural rehabilitation services to the community at reasonable fees. NOTE: This is one example of a university that offers these services. Check universities in your area with hearing and speech clinics, they might offer similar services.

0100 Samuel J. LeFrak Hall
College Park, MD 20742
301.405.4213 – Voice
301.314.2023 – Fax
Email: clinic@hesp.umd.edu
http://hesp.umd.edu/landing/Clinic

Disclaimer: The information noted herein is provided in the websites listed. We are not responsible for contact information that is not current or valid. If you find any contacts not working, please let us know by email to inquiry@hearingloss.org.

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