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## 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



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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



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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](mailto:info@audientalliance.org)

<http://www.audientalliance.org/>

### **BETTER HEARING INSTITUTE**

Financial Assistance Guide

1444 I Street, NW, Suite 700

Washington, DC 20005



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202.449.1100 – Voice

202.216.9646 – Fax

800.327.9355 (EAR-WELL)

Email: [mail@betterhearing.org](mailto:mail@betterhearing.org)

<http://betterhearing.org/publications/eGuides/index.cfm>

### **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/cccdpgrant/coverage>

### **CHILDREN OF THE SILENT WORLD**

Assists children from low-income families with purchasing hearing aids

P.O. Box 2425

Cridersville, OH 45806

<https://www.answers4families.org/family/grandparent-caregivers/health-care/funding-toolkit-parents/children-silent-world>

### **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



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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, 4<sup>th</sup> 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/>



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## **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](mailto: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



Email: [info@giftofhearingfoundation.org](mailto:info@giftofhearingfoundation.org)  
<http://www.giftofhearingfoundation.org/>

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Johnhauser11@gmail.com)  
<http://www.thehikefund.org/>

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## **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](mailto:web@jtc.org)  
<http://www.jtc.org/>

## **LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL**

Assists individuals on low income with purchasing hearing aids.

300 West 22<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842  
630.571.5466  
Email: [districtadministration@lionsclubs.org](mailto: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/>





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## **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](mailto:hearnow@starkeyfoundation.org)

<http://www.starkeyhearingfoundation.org/hear-now>



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## **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](mailto: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](mailto:inquiry@hearingloss.org).*

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