

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR HEARING AIDS AND PERSONAL ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

- Check your health insurance as it sometimes provides limited coverage of hearing aids. Do first check out whether you might be eligible for the following sources of financial assistance.
- Children with hearing loss may be able to receive assistive technology at no cost if their Individual Education Plan 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 “How the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Applies to Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students,” at <http://clerccenter2.gallaudet.edu/KidsWorldDeafNet/e-docs/IDEA/index.html>
- In some states, people with low income qualify for hearing aids through medical coverage provided through a state program. 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, and request an appointment)
- Prospective and current college students and other people of working age may qualify for financial assistance for hearing aids, assistive technology, and other rehabilitative services from state vocational rehabilitation agencies (look under State in the Government section of the local telephone book).
- Veterans of military service may qualify for assistance with hearing aids and other rehabilitative services; contact the medical facility for the appropriate branch of the military.
- State telephone equipment programs can be found via <http://www.tedpa.org>. These programs vary quite widely in what they provide and what their eligibility requirements are, but some provide free telephone equipment to eligible residents.
- Local agencies serving deaf and/or hard of hearing people may 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.
- In some situations, a federal or state law may require an employer or organization to provide auxiliary aids and services for communication access. Some of these situations are: workplaces, government programs, 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.

The following are national or regional resources for assistance:

HEAR NOW

Provides recycled and used hearing aids to low-income persons.

9745 East Hampden Avenue

Suite 200

Denver, CO 80231-4923

1-800-648-HEAR (v, tty)

HEAR USA FOUNDATION AND HEARING AID BANK

Provides financial assistance to low-income families and persons for hearing aids.

7702 E. Doubletree Ranch Rd.

Suite 300

Scottsdale, AZ 85258-2059

1-888-835-HEAR

TRAVELERS PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FOR THE DEAF AND NEAR-DEAF

3755 Lindell Boulevard

St. Louis, MO 63108

314/371-0533 (voice)

Provides assistance for mechanical devices, medical care, and/or specialized education or treatment, to those who demonstrate financial need. U.S. citizens only. Grants may be used to purchase hearing aids, assistive listening equipment, or may help with the cost of a cochlear implant.

BETTER HEARING INSTITUTE

1-800-EAR-WELL

<http://www.betterhearing.org>

STARKEY HEARING FOUNDATION

Assistance for low-income children and families in purchasing hearing aids.

6700 Washington Avenue South

Eden Prairie, MN 55344

(612) 928-4648

(612) 929-1318 [Fax]

800-648-4327

EASTER SEALS

Over 400 local service centers with varying services; some assist low-income adults and children with hearing aids and other rehabilitative devices.

230 West Monroe Street, Suite 1800

Chicago, IL 60606

(312) 726-6200 [Voice]

(312) 726-4258 [TDD]

(312) 726-1494 [Fax]

1-800-221-6827

<http://www.easter-seals.org/>

CHILDREN OF THE SILENT WORLD

Assists low-income children with purchasing hearing aids.

P.O. Box 2425

Cridersville, OH 45806

<http://www.metroevents.com/silent/>

DISABLED CHILDREN'S RELIEF FUND

Provides disabled children with hearing aids and other assistive devices.

P.O. Box 7420

Freeport, New York 11520

<http://dcrf.com/>

HIKE FUND, INC.

Provides low-income children between 0-20 years with hearing aids and assistive devices

Supreme Council, IOJD

233 W. 6th Street,

Papillion, NE 68046

(402) 592-7987

<http://www.iojd.org>

MIRACLE EAR CHILDREN'S FUND

Assists low-income children and families with purchases of hearing aids from this manufacturer.

P.O. Box 59261

Minneapolis, MN 55459-0261

1-800-234-5422

UNITRON'S KIDS KLUB FOUNDATION

Provides support to charitable organizations (limited grants to tax-exempt 501 (c)(3) organizations) that assist with the needs and educational development of hearing impaired children.

2300 Berkshire Lane

Plymouth, MN 55441

1-800-888-8882

LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL

Assists low income individuals with purchasing hearing aids.

300 West 22nd Street

Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842

<http://www.lionsclub.org>

QUOTA INTERNATIONAL

Assists low income individuals with purchasing hearing aids

1420 21st Street NW

Washington, DC 20036

(202) 331-9694

<http://www.quota.org>

SERTOMA INTERNATIONAL

Assists low-income persons with purchasing hearing aids

1912 East Meyer Boulevard

Kansas City, MO 64132-9990

816-333-8300

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

DOROTHY AMES TRUST FUND

Assists children in New England states with hearing aids and assistive technology.

Key Trust Company of Maine

P.O. Box 1054

Augusta, ME 04332-1054

OPTIMISTS CLUB

Provides aids and services to hearing impaired youth.

Optimist International Youth Program

Help Them Hear Program

Contact your local Optimists Club

HOPE FOR HEARING FOUNDATION AND HEARING AID BANK

Assists low-income children in Los Angeles area with hearing aids, rehabilitation and education.

6535 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 255

Los Angeles CA 90048

(323) 651-2615

(323) 651-2631 [Fax]

<http://hope4hearing.org>

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 device. Check your local phone directories or the Chamber of Commerce for a listing of civic organizations in your area.

Please see the following pages for a list of state agencies for deaf and hard of hearing people.

STATE AGENCIES FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

State agencies are designed to be resources for the specific persons they serve. State agencies can often be a direct source of financial assistance and services. Please be aware that the information below may be out of date, however.

ALABAMA

Department of Rehabilitation Services
State Coordinator: Earl Lindsey
(334) 281-8780 Voice
(334) 613-2249 TTY
(800) 441-7607 V/TTY in AL

ALASKA

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
State Coordinator: Duane Mayes
(907) 561-4466 V/TTY

ARIZONA

Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing
Exec. Director: Sherri Lambert Collins
(602) 542-3323 V/TTY
(800) 352-8161 V/TTY in AZ
web: www.achi.state.az.us

ARKANSAS

Office of the Deaf and Hearing Impaired
Deputy Commissioner: Gloria Wright
(501) 296-1635 V/TTY
(501) 296-1669 TTY

CALIFORNIA

State Office of Deaf Access
Chief: Tom Lee
(916) 653-8320 Voice
(916) 653-7651 TTY
(916) 653-4001 Fax

COLORADO

Colorado Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Supervisor: Larry Gauthier
(303) 894-2515 x222 V/TTY

(303) 937-0561 V/TTY

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired

Exec. Director: Valerie R. Marino

(860) 561-0196 V/TTY

DELAWARE

Delaware Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

State Coordinator: Loretta Sarro

(302) 577-2850 V/TTY

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Rehabilitation Services Administration

State Coordinator: Marlene Jones-Kinney

(202) 727-0981 V/TTY

FLORIDA

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services Program

State Coordinator: Cecil Bradley

(904) 488-2867 V/TTY

GEORGIA

Georgia Department of Human Resources

Deaf Program Coordinator: Vacant

(404) 657-3073 V/TTY

HAWAII

Hawaii State Coordinating Council on Deafness

Program Coordinator: Marianne Chung

(808) 586-8131 V/TTY

(808) 586-8130 TTY

IDAHO

Idaho Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Exec. Director: Pennie Cooper

(208) 334-0879 Voice

(208) 334-0803 TTY

(800) 433-1323 V in ID

(800) 433-1361 TTY in ID

ILLINOIS

Division of Services for Persons who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

State Coordinator of the Deaf: Ellen Roth

(312) 814-2939 Voice

(312) 814-3040 TTY

INDIANA

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services
Deputy Director: Jerome Freeman
(317) 232-1143 V/TTY
(800) 962-8408 V/TTY (Indiana only)

IOWA

Deaf Services Commission of Iowa
Administrator: Vacant
(515) 281-3164 V/TTY

KANSAS

Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Exec. Director: Wayne C. Mnich
(913) 296-2874 V/TTY
(800) 432-0698 V/TTY in KS

KENTUCKY

Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Exec. Director: Dr. Bobbie Beth Scoggins
(502) 573-2604 V/TTY
(800) 372-2907 V/TTY in KY

LOUISIANA

Louisiana Commission for the Deaf
Exec. Director: Vacant
(504) 925-4178 Voice
(800) 256-1523 Voice
(800) 543-2099 TTY

MAINE

Division of Deafness
Office of Rehabilitation Services
State Coordinator: Norm Perrin
(207) 624-5318 Voice
(207) 624-5322 TTY
(800) 332-1003 V/TTY in ME

MARYLAND

Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services
State Coordinator: Bona A. Achinanya
(410) 554-9404 Voice
(410) 554 9411 TTY
(410) 554 9412 Fax

MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Commissioner: Barbara Jean Wood
(617) 727-5106 V/TTY
(800) 882-1155 V/TTY in MA
(800) 249-9949 in MA (after hours-emergency)

MICHIGAN

Division on Deafness
Michigan Department of Labor
Director: Christopher Hunter
(517) 373-0378 V/TTY
(517) 373-8397 V/TTY
(800) 729-2253 V/TTY

MINNESOTA

Minnesota Commission Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People
Exec. Director: Curt Micka
(612) 297-7305 V/TTY

MISSISSIPPI

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Director of Deaf Services: Gary Neely
(601) 853-5310 V/TTY
(800) 443-1000 V/TTY in MS

MISSOURI

Missouri Commission for the Deaf
Exec. Director: Dr. Roy E. Miller
(573) 526-5205 V/TTY
(800) 796-6499 V/TTY

MONTANA

Montana Rehabilitative/Visual Services Division
Contact Person: Faith Timm
(406) 727-7740 V/TTY

NEBRASKA

Nebraska Commission for the Hearing Impaired
Exec. Director: Tanya Wendel
(402) 471-3593 V/TTY
(800) 545-6244 in NE

NEVADA

Rehabilitation Division
State Coordinator of Deaf Services: Scot A. Pott
(775) 687-4452 Voice (new toll free nbr effective 12/98)

(702) 259-3894 TTY
(702) 259-6421 FAX
(888) 337-3839 Ext. 4452 in NV

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
State Coordinator: H. Dee Clanton
(603) 271-3471 V/TTY
(800) 299-1647 in NH

NEW JERSEY

Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
New Jersey Department of Human Services
Director: Richard Herring
(609) 984-7281 V/TTY
(800) 792-8339 V/TTY in NJ

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Commissioner: Robert Geesey
(505) 827-7584 V/TTY
(505) 827-7588 TTY
(800) 489-8536 V/TTY in NM
(800) 873-8897 V/TTY News Line in NM

NEW YORK

Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities
Deaf Services Coordinator: Mark Myers
(518) 486-3773 V/TTY
(800) 222-5627 V/TTY

NORTH CAROLINA

Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Department of Human Resources
Director: Frank Turk
(919) 733-5199 Voice
(919) 733-5930 TTY

NORTH DAKOTA

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
State Coordinator: Wanda Gier
(701) 328-3999 Voice
(701) 328-3975 TTY
(800) 755-2745 Voice in ND

OHIO

Rehabilitation Services Commission
Program Specialist: Karlton (Skip) Bergquist
(614) 438-1325 V/TTY
(800) 282-4536 V/TTY in OH

OKLAHOMA

Services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Interim Coordinator: Judy Fox-Goodrich
(405) 634-9937 V/TTY
(800) 833-8973 V/TTY in OK

OREGON

Deaf and Hearing Impaired Access Program
State Coordinator: Marjorie McGee
(503) 378-3142 V/TTY
(800) 358-3117 V/TTY in OR
(800) 521-9615 V/TTY in OR

PENNSYLVANIA

Office for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired
Director: Debra Maltese
(717) 783-4912 V/TTY
(800) 233-3008 V/TTY in PA

PUERTO RICO

Vocational Rehabilitation Program
Director of Division of Deaf Clients: Ivan Ramirez
(809) 782-0011 V/TTY

RHODE ISLAND

Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Coordinator: Kristin J. Mulrooney
(401) 277-1204 Voice
(401) 277-1205 TTY

SOUTH CAROLINA

Vocational Rehabilitation Department
State Coordinator: Larry Harrelson
(803) 896-6630 Voice
(803) 896-6635/6636 TTY

SOUTH DAKOTA

Communication Services for the Deaf
Director: Benjamin Soukup
(605) 361-5760 V/TTY

(800) 642-6410 V/TTY in SD

TENNESSEE

Tennessee Council for the Hearing Impaired
Exec. Director: Sherri Rademacher
(615) 313-4913 V/TTY
(615) 313-5695 TTY Ans Mac 24 hours

TEXAS

Texas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Exec. Director: David Myers
(512) 451-8494 V/TTY

UTAH

Utah Community Center for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing
Utah State Office of Rehabilitation
Administrator: Gene Stewart
(801) 263-4860 V/TTY
(800) 860-4860 V/TTY in UT

VERMONT

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
State Coordinator: Rene Pellerin
(802) 241-2186 V/TTY

VIRGINIA

Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Director: Susan Walker Buckland
(804) 225-2570 V/TTY
(800) 552-7917 V/TTY in VA

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Division of Disabilities and Rehabilitation Services
Administrator: Sedonie Halbert
(800) 774-0930 Voice in VI
(809) 773-2323 V

WASHINGTON

Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services
Director: Leon Curtis
(360) 753-0703 V/TTY
(360) 753-0699 TTY
Message only lines:
(800) 422-7930 Voice
(800) 422-7941 TTY

WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia Commission for the Hearing Impaired

Exec. Director: Hubert Anderson Jr.

(304) 558-2175 V/TTY

(304) 558-0026 TTY

WISCONSIN

Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Department of Health and Social Services

Director: Richelle Hammett

(608) 243-5625 Voice

(608) 243-5635 TTY

WYOMING

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

State Coordinator: Carl Shapard

(307) 856-2393 V/TTY