

Funding Resources for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Phone: (202) 337-5220

Website: <https://www.agbell.org/> (go to “Connect” and then “Financial Aid & Scholarships”)

They have 3 programs that can assist children with hearing loss. Preschool-Age Financial Aid Program; Parent-Infant Financial Aid Program; School-age Financial Aid Program. You can also email financialaid@agbell.org for financial assistance for hearing technology.

Audient – Epic Hearing Healthcare

Phone: (866) 956-5400 x. 2 (ask for Audient low-income program)

Website: audientalliance.org

AUDIANT helps low-income people nationwide access quality hearing aids and related care at a significantly lower cost. AUDIENT income qualifies families to be eligible for a discount on brand name hearing aids available through the AUDIENT Alliance's national network of dedicated hearing care providers. Brand selection includes Oticon, Phonak, Siemens, Widex, & Unitron hearing aids.

CaptionCall

Phone: (877) 557-2227

Website: captioncall.com

CaptionCall is a revolutionary telephone for anyone who has difficulty hearing on the phone. CaptionCall makes it easy to communicate confidently with friends, family and colleagues by phone.

Similar to captioned television, CaptionCall communication assistants use voice recognition technology to quickly provide written captions of what callers say on a large, easy-to-read screen. Plus, CaptionCall offers exceptional sound quality with amplification and customizable audio settings to match an individual's unique hearing loss. To qualify for this free service, an individual must have a hearing loss, a valid U.S. Social Security number or tax ID.

Cerner Charitable Foundation (formerly known as First Hand Foundation)

Phone: (816) 201-1569

Website: <https://www.cernercharitablefoundation.org/>

The Foundation assists individual children who have clinical, health-related needs and no financial safety net to cover these expenses.

Cochlear Implant Awareness Foundation (CIAF)

Website: <http://www.ciafonline.org>

Established in 2005, the Cochlear Implant Awareness Foundation (CIAF) is a non-profit organization based in Springfield, Illinois. The mission of CIAF is to raise awareness of how cochlear implants restore sound to the hearing impaired and to provide cochlear implant equipment to qualified applicants in need.

Dallas Hearing Foundation

Website: <https://dallashearingfoundation.org/about-us/>

Phone: (972) 424-7711

The Dallas Hearing Foundation (DHF) is a needs-based nonprofit that links people with hearing loss back to the world of sound. We work with children and adults who experience hearing loss in the greater Dallas, Texas area, across the U.S. and in nations across the globe. Apply for financial aid under the resources tab.

Hearing Aid Project

Website: <https://hearingaiddonations.org/>

Phone: 816-895-2410

The Hearing Aid Project was created by Hearing Charities of America to refurbish and dispense hearing aids to those who need them. Applications can be found under “Get an Aid” tab on website.

Help America Hear Program

Phone: (888) 580-8886

Website: <https://helpamericahear.org/>

This program provides new hearing aids to applicants nationwide that meet criteria of Tier 1, 2, or 3 as indicated on the website.

Heuser Hearing Institute (Listen Up! Project)

Website: <https://thehearinginstitute.org/>

Phone: (502) 584-3573

The Listen Up! Project allows you or a loved one to volunteer at one of the Heuser Hearing Institute’s charitable foundation partners around Louisville in exchange for credit toward the purchase of a hearing aid. For more information on this project, visit <https://thehearinginstitute.org/hearing-clinic/listen-up-project/> and contact listenup@thehearinginstitute.org if interested in participating.

Hike Fund

Website: thehikefund.org

The Hike Fund provides hearing devices for newborns to those aged 20 with hearing losses whose parents are unable to meet this special need financially.

iCanConnect The National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program

Website: www.icanconnect.org

The goal of this program is to get technology into the hands of Americans with combined hearing and vision loss so they can connect with family, friends, and community. For those who qualify, technology equipment used for distance communication is provided free. The types of equipment available include: Braille devices, Phones, Computers, Signalers, and Mobile devices (hearing aids are not included).

Contact information for Kentucky (operated by Helen Keller National Center for Deaf Blind Youths and Adults):

<https://www.icanconnect.org/how-to-apply/kentucky/>

Phone: (516) 393-7733

Fax: (516) 393-7597

Marilyn C. Trader, MSW, mtrader@helenkeller.org

Janice Harvey, jhanvey@helenkeller.org

Jacob's Ride for Hearing

Contact: info@jacobsride.org

Website: <https://www.jacobsride.org>

Jacob's Ride provides financial support to help a select number of patients receive cochlear implants that either have no health insurance coverage or otherwise cannot afford the cost of surgery.

Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC)

Phone: (877) 675-0195

Website: katlc.ky.gov

The Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC) offers low interest loans for qualified applicants with disabilities who need assistive technology. This includes Hearing aids.

Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services-Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services

Phone: (502) 564-4456

Website: <https://dbhdid.ky.gov/dbh/dhhs.aspx>

Three community mental health center regions in KY have specialized Deaf Mental Health Services: Seven Counties Services, New Vista, and Cumberland River Behavioral Health. Visit the website for more information.

Kentucky Deaf-Blind Services

Website:

<https://kcc.ky.gov/Vocational-Rehabilitation/Blind-Services/Pages/Deaf-Blind-Services.aspx>

Through vocational rehabilitation services are provided to those identified as having a combination of significant hearing and vision loss. This can include the purchase of assistive technology including hearing aids.

Kentucky Medicaid Hearing Services

Phone: (502) 564-6890

Website: chfs.ky.gov/dms/hearing.htm

Audiologist Information:

<https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/provider/Pages/Audiologist.aspx>

Hearing Aid Information:

<https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/provider/Pages/HearingAid.aspx>

Hearing and hearing aid evaluations performed by audiologists, and hearing aids dispensed by hearing aid dealers are covered for persons under age 21. Follow-up visits, checkups and certain hearing aid repairs are also covered.

Kentucky Medicaid Waivers (no age limit)

Supports for Community Living Waiver

Phone: (844) 784-5614

Website: <https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/dca/Pages/scl-waiver.aspx>

Hearing aids can be provided for individuals enrolled in the Supports for Community Living (SCL) Waiver Program.

Home and Community Based Waiver

Phone: (844) 784-5614

Website: <https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/dca/Pages/hcb-waiver.aspx>

The Home and Community Based waiver can provide \$3,500 toward the cost of hearing aids.

Acquired Brain Injury and Michelle P. Waiver

Phone: (502) 564-1647 or (844) 784-5614

These waivers can provide hearing aids only when the consumer directed option is being used.

Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs (KDVA)

Phone: (502) 564-9203

Website: veterans.ky.gov

The KDVA can guide eligible veterans through the process of receiving services from the Federal Veterans administration this can include hearing aids.

Kentucky Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs

Phone: (800) 232-1160

Website: <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/ccshcn/Pages/default.aspx>

The Commission can cover hearing aids for children/teenagers up to age 21

Kentucky Office for Vocational Rehabilitation Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services

Phone: (800) 372-7172 (V/TTY)

OVR provides vocational services to individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing. This can include the purchase of assistive technology including hearing aids.

Kentucky Relay

Website: <https://hamiltonrelay.com/kentucky/how-it-works/captel-captioned-telephone.html>

Providers of telecommunications relay services for Kentucky including TTY, voice carry over (VCO), hearing carry over (HCO), speech-to-speech (STS), Spanish and CapTel. Dial 711 and a communication assistant will connect on the phone with you.

Kentucky's Statewide Hearing Aid Reuse Program SHARP

Phone: (800) 327-5287

Website: katsnet.org

<https://www.katsnet.org/funding/sharp/>

The goal of this program is to make it easier for Kentuckians with hearing loss make repairs to their hearing aids. To achieve this goal, we are providing the following services to residents of Kentucky when funds are available:

- Assistance with the repair of hearing aids
- Assist in finding hearing providers that work with the Hear Now program
- Donation of hearing aids that are no longer needed: (donations help fund SHARP)

To donate no longer needed hearing aids (any age, any condition), as well as hearing aid remotes, transmitters, and charging cases. Contact the KATS Network (SHARP) to request a self-addressed stamped mailer to place the hearing aids in. If requested, a receipt for tax purposes may be provided for the donation.

Lions Club International

Website: <http://www.lionsclubs.org>

Can assist low-income individuals with purchasing hearing aids. This program can only be accessed through a local Lions club. To find if there is a local Lions Club near you go to <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-approach/club-locator>

Miracle-Ear Foundation Gift of Sound Program

Phone: (877) 403-8834

Website: miracleearfoundation.org

The Miracle-Ear Foundation serves and support children and adults who have a hearing loss. The Gift of Sound program provides at no-cost hearing aids and hearing support services to families or individuals who have income that are significantly limited. (There is a \$150 application fee for adults)

Optimist International Help Them Hear Program

Phone: (800) 500-8130

Website: <http://www.optimist.org>

Provides college scholarships to hearing impaired youth. Some local clubs can assist with obtaining hearing aids. To learn more about local clubs near you visit <https://www.optimist.org/member/clubdirectory/city.cfm?country=US&state=KY>

Private Insurance

Kentucky law requires health benefit plans, including those issued by HMOs, to cover one hearing aid per hearing-impaired ear and all related services up to \$1,400 every 36 months for children under age 18. The benefit is subject to all applicable copayments, coinsurance, deductibles, and out-of-pocket limitations. (Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 304.17A-132 and 304.17A-005(19) Check your policy. There may be exemptions.

Starkey Cares-Neighbors in Need

Phone: (855) 686-2202

Website: www.starkey.com/starkeycares

Provides hearing aids at no cost to patients if they meet income limits. If qualified to participate in the program, there is a \$300 application fee.

Telecommunication Access Program (TAP)

Phone: (800) 372-2907

VP: (502) 416-0607

The TAP is administered by Kentucky Commission for the deaf and hard of hearing KCDHH and provide specialized telecommunications equipment at no charge to deaf, hard of hearing, speech impaired or deaf-blind Kentucky residents.

TPA Scholarship Trust for the Deaf and Near Deaf

Phone: (877) 872-2638 and (636) 724-2227

Website: tpahq.org

The Travelers Protective Association of America established the TPA Scholarship Trust for the Deaf and Near Deaf in 1975 to provide financial aid to children and adults who suffer deafness or hearing impairment and who need assistance in obtaining mechanical devices, medical or specialized treatment or specialized education as well as speech classes, note takers, interpreters, etc. and in other areas of need that are directly related to hearing impairment.

Kentucky Hearing Loss Association of America Chapters:

Kentucky Home Chapter (Bardstown)

Phone: (502) 349-6792

Email: info@hearinglosskyhome.org

Bowling Green Chapter

Email: infobg@hlaa-ky.org

Kentuckiana Chapter (Louisville)

Email: info@hearinglossky.org

Website: <https://www.hearinglosskentucky.org/>

Lexington Chapter

Email: jean@hlaa-ky.org

Additional Websites:

- American Society for Deaf Children – deafchildren.org
- Association of Late-Deafened Adults – <https://www.alda.org/>
- Better Hearing Institute – betterhearing.org
- Healthy Hearing – healthyhearing.com
- Diglo – <https://www.diglo.com/>
- Hear More – www.hearmore.com
- Helen Keller Services – helenkeller.org
- Helen Keller National Center – hknc.org
- KY Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing – kcdhh.ky.gov
- KY School for the Deaf – ksd.k12.ky.us
- Let Them Hear Foundation – letthemhear.org
- MEDICAID and CHIP Programs – <https://www.medicaid.gov/>

- National Association of the Deaf – nad.org
- National Center on Deaf-Blindness – nationaldb.org
- National Technical Institute for the Deaf Scholarship Listings – ntid.rit.edu
- Rienzi Foundation for Cochlear Implants – rienzifoundation.org
- Sertoma – <http://www.sertoma.org/>

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