

Resources for Buying Hearing Aids

Insurance Coverage, Financial Assistance, and Recycling Programs

Provided by the MA Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing



1. Insurance Coverage

- If you have Medicaid coverage, costs for hearing aids will be covered.
- Traditional Medicare, however, does not cover any of the cost for hearing aids.
- Some Medicare Advantage Plans may cover some of the cost of a hearing aid. Check with your health plan to see if they will cover the expense.
- If you have other private health insurance coverage, check with your insurer to see if they will cover the expense before exploring other options for financial assistance.
- If you are eligible to receive medical care from the US Veterans Administration, VA Outpatient Clinic Audiology Department at 150 South Huntington Avenue, Jamaica Plains, MA, contact the department for information at 617 232-9500, extension 4730

2. Financial Assistance to Buy Hearing Aids

Below are financial assistance programs for hearing aids. Some options for financial assistance come through government agencies, some through non-profit agencies, and some are offered by private foundations. Eligibility for assistance varies depending on financial need, age, and / or other eligibility requirements. Please contact each individual agency for the details of that specific program.

Federal Funding:

Independent Living Centers of MA

In Massachusetts, you can apply for federal money available to all of the Independent Living Centers in Massachusetts from Title VII Part B funding. However, this program is intended as a “last resort” only for individuals who are not eligible elsewhere; so, all other possible sources of funding should be explored, and evidence of such search should be kept, before applying for this service. This funding may be used for the purchase of equipment and services to assist people to maintain or achieve independence. Unfortunately, there is a long waiting list to receive this financial assistance.

The program can provide funding for assistive technology, assistive listening devices and other disability-related equipment. It can also pay for one-time or very limited provision of other services such as the cost of an appointment with an audiologist. Contact your regional Independent Living Center for more details.

State Agencies:

Mass. Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Assistive Technology Fund

600 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111
617 740-1700 TTY
617 740-1600 Voice
Contact: Mary Macone

Mass. Department of Public Health Diagnosis and Support

250 Washington St., 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02108
Contact: Community Support Line
1 800 882-1435
617-624-5992 TTY

MassHealth Customer Service Center

800-841-2900
800-497-4646 TTY

MassMATCH

Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission
600 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111
1-866-682-9955 (Toll Free)
617-204-3851 (V)
617-204-3815 (TTY)
info@massmatch.org

Private Foundations:

American Medical Resources Foundation

(recycles hearing aids)
P.O. Box 3609
36 Station Avenue
Brockton, MA 02404
401 789-4527 Voice
401 789-1849 Fax
www.amrf.com/

Assistive Technology Exchange in New England

Karen A. Langley, Director,
Independent Living & Assistive Technology
Services
Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission

27 Wormwood Street
Boston, MA 02210-1616
617 204-3851 x3623 Voice
www.getatstuff.org/

Audient Program

Northwest Hearing Care
901 Boren Avenue, Suite 810
Seattle, WA 98104
206 838-7194 Voice
206 838-7195 Fax
www.audientalliance.org

Boston Guild for Hard of Hearing Northeastern University

Hearing Outreach Program

Behrakis Health Sciences Center
30 Leon Street, 503
617 373-8927 TTY
617 373-2492 Voice
617 373-8756 Fax

www.northeastern.edu/bouve/slpa/index.html

Disabled Children's Relief Fund

P.O. Box 89
402 Pennsylvania Avenue
Freeport, NY 11520
516 377-1605 Voice

The Hearing Impaired Kids Endowment Fund**The HIKE Fund, Inc.**

10115 Cherryhill Place
Spring Hill, FL 34608
352 688-2579 Voice/Fax
www.thehikefund.org/

Knights of Columbus

P.O. Box 194
470 Washington Street
Norwood, MA 02062
781 551-0628 Voice
781 551-0490 Fax
<http://massachusettsstatekofc.org/>

Massachusetts Lions Club

District 33-S, Hearing Foundation
Richard Pessin, President
RBP360@aol.com
Gretchen Olney, Advocate
gretchen1398@hotmail.com
Please contact your local Lions Club for additional sources.

Miracle Ear Children's Foundation

P.O. Box 59261
Minneapolis, MN 55459

800 234-5422 Toll Free Voice

763 268-4295 Fax

www.miracle-ear.com/miracle-ear-foundation

NUUsed Pilot Program

A collaboration of the MCDHH and NU's Dept. of Speech, Language Pathology and Audiology for recycling hearing aids; Contact: Sandra Cleveland, Director, Audiology
617-373-2496 Voice

sa.cleveland@neu.edu

Behrakis Health Sciences Center
30 Leon Street, 503
Boston, MA 02115

The Starkey Hearing Foundation Hear Now

6700 Washington Avenue South
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
866 354-3254 Voice
800 648-4327 Toll Free Voice
952 828-6946 Fax
www.sotheworldmayhear.org
(funding and recycling)

Travelers Protective Association of America Scholarship Trust for the Hearing Impaired

3755 Lindell Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63108-3476
314 371-0533 Voice
314 371-0537 Fax
www.tpahq.org/sample-post-09

United Cerebral Palsy of Berkshire County

208 West Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
413 442-1562 TTY/ Voice
413 499-4077 Fax
www.ucpberkshire.org

National Ear Care Plan/Group Membership

6825 E. Tennessee Avenue, Suite 415
Denver, CO 80224-1632
303-399-1212 TTY/Voice
800-766-3363

NECP is the largest audiology provider organization in the United States. Current members of certain subscriber organizations (such as SHHH, AFL-CIO Int'l, Co-Health/AAA, etc.) and their immediate families living in the same household are eligible. A \$10

annual enrollment fee allows you and your family to access the NECP provider network and receive substantial discounts on products and services, such as: No charge for Annual Hearing Screening; Discounted fees for Comprehensive Audiologic Assessment and Acoustic Emittance Testing; 20% savings on hearing aids, related products and repairs (excluding batteries); No charge for annual follow-up cleaning and check of hearing aids purchased through the program.

3. Hearing Aid Loan Banks

Below are programs that loan equipment or provide refurbished / recycled hearing aid equipment. Buying recycled hearing aids is an excellent way for many people who are cannot otherwise buy this necessary and expensive technology. Eligibility for assistance varies depending on financial need, age, and / or other eligibility requirements. Please contact each individual agency for the details of that specific program.

Peak Rehabilitation Group

15 Belmont Street
Worcester, MA 01602
508-792-8700 Voice
508-792-8727 TTY
508-334-8751 Fax

Eden Prairie, MN 55344
800-648-HEAR (4327) TTY/Voice

Hear Now (HN) provides hearing aids and cochlear implants for individuals with limited financial resources. HN coordinates a national hearing aid bank and accepts hearing aid donations from people all over the country. HN is also involved in increasing public awareness of the need for available and affordable assistive technology for persons with hearing impairments.

American Medical Resource Foundation

56 Oakhill Way
Brockton, MA 02304
508-580-3301

*accepts donated hearing aids

HEAR NOW

6700 Washington Avenue S

Warranty and Insurance Plans - FYI

Agencies listed below provide insurance for hearing devices against loss and/or accidental damage. Insurance can be purchased directly, or through the hearing aid dispenser, by completing an application and returning it with a check for the appropriate amount.

Midwest Hearing Industries

4510 West 77th Street, #201

Minneapolis, MN 55435

800-821-5471 Voice

952-835-9481 Fax

www.mwhi.com

Discovery Hearing Aid Co-op

4318 Downtowner Loop, Suite K

Mobile, AL 36609

800-525-7936 Voice

251-342-2158 Fax

www.discoverear.com

Esco Ear Service Corporation

3650 Annapolis Lane, Suite 107

Plymouth, MN 55441

800-992-3726 Voice

612-559-4247 Fax

www.earserv.com

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(<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/hearing-aid-purchase-planfinancing>). Organized and reformatted by MCOA (August 2019)