



## Funding Sources for Hearing Aids and Hearing Assistive Technology

The first step when seeking financial assistance is to check with your health insurance provider to see if you have hearing aid coverage. If there is no coverage, then check out the resources below.

- **Children**

Children may be able to receive assistive technology at no cost if their IEP (Individualized Education Program) specifies that they need assistive technology (hearing aids & FM systems) in order to receive a Free and Appropriate Public Education. See: <http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/idea/>

- **People with low income**

People with low income may qualify for hearing aids through Medicaid. A “medical needy program” may provide hearing aids to people with higher income who may temporarily qualify for assistance with medical expenses such as hearing aids. See: <http://www.michiganinbrief.org/edition07/Chapter5/HealthCareAcc.htm>

- **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 Michigan Rehabilitation Services if hearing loss is interfering with classroom or job performance. See: [www.michigan.gov/mrs](http://www.michigan.gov/mrs)

- **Veterans**

Veterans of military service may qualify for assistance with hearing aids and other rehabilitative services. See: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veterans-health-care/va-provided-hearing-and-vision-benefits.html>

- **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 to

offer the 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: [www.williamssound.com/RALD](http://www.williamssound.com/RALD) or [www.militaryaudiology.org](http://www.militaryaudiology.org)

- **Telephone equipment program**

Michigan does not have a telephone equipment program.

- **Federal or state law requirements**

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 see: [www.adata.org](http://www.adata.org).

Information above is taken in full, part or paraphrased from the Hearing Loss Association of America Website: [hearingloss.org](http://hearingloss.org)

## **Other financial resources:**

### **Audient Alliance**

AUDIANT, an alliance for accessible hearing care, is designed to assist income qualified hard of hearing people - nationwide - to access quality hearing aids and related care at significantly reduced costs. The AUDIENT program was developed by the non-profit Northwest Lions Foundation for Sight & Hearing and made possible through the help of dedicated providers and suppliers. See: [www.audientalliance.org](http://www.audientalliance.org)

### **Care Credit**

Care Credit is a GE card service offering a full range of payment plans offering convenient low monthly payments with a fixed interest rate. See: [www.carecredit.com](http://www.carecredit.com)

### **Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund (MATLF)**

The Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund allows people with disabilities and seniors (or their family members) to purchase assistive technology devices or services. (MATLF) supports the purchase of needed technology through low interest rates and loan guarantees. Loans, which must be paid back. The program is a unique partnership of United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan and Option 1 Credit Union in Lansing. Assistive technology is defined as any item,

piece of equipment, or device that enables an individual with a disability to improve individual independence and quality of life. See: <http://ucpmichigan.org/at/loan-funds/michigan-assistive-technology-loan-fund/>

### **Lions Hearing Aid Assistance**

The Lions hearing Aid Recycling Program (HARP) enables Lions to provide affordable hearing aids for individuals with limited financial resources. See:

<http://members.lionsclubs.org/EN/serve/hearing/index.php#sthash.k7B4KqrM.dpuf>

### **Hear Now**

Starkey Hearing Foundation is an application-based program that provides hearing help to low-income Americans. Each person helped is fit with new, top-of-the-line digital hearing aids that are customized to their hearing loss. See:

<http://www.starkeyhearingfoundation.org/programs#/hearnow>

### **First Hand Foundation**

First Hand is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that provides funding for individual children with health-related needs when insurance and other financial resources have been exhausted.

See: <https://applications.cerner.com/firsthand/>

First Hand Foundation/Answers4Families provides services to children in Nebraska. Their website provides a comprehensive "Funding Toolkit for Parents." See:

<http://www.answers4families.org/family/grandparent-caregivers/health-care/funding-toolkit-parents>

### **Disabled Children's Relief Fund (DCRF)**

DCRF provides children who have hearing loss with assistance to obtain hearing aids. Grant applications may be used for modest request (most range between \$25 to \$200) for assistive devices. See: <http://www.publicsafetygrants.info/GrantDetails.aspx?gid=33794>

### **The Hike Fund (Hearing Impaired Kids Endowment)**

Provides hearing devices for children with hearing losses between the ages of newborn and twenty years whose parents are unable to meet this special need financially. See:

<http://www.thehikefund.org/AboutHIKE/Information.htm>

### **Foundation for Sight and Sound**

Provides hearing aids for men, women and children with limited financial resources. See:

<http://www.foundationforsightandsound.org/index.php>

**AARP (American Association for Retired Persons)**

Provides a guide for paying for hearing aids. See: <http://www.aarp.org/health/conditions-treatments/info-05-2011/paying-for-hearing-aids.html?intcmp=AE-MIV-HEARINGRC-AIDS>

**Gift of Hearing Foundation**

Works closely with the medical community to provide financial support to help a select number of economically disadvantaged patients receive cochlear implants. Uses these selected cases to highlight the gaps in reimbursement for cochlear implants and advocate for change. Provides financial assistance to those whose insurance coverage will not provide for the cost of CI Implants. See: [http://www.giftofhearingfoundation.org/what\\_we\\_do/financial\\_assistance.htm](http://www.giftofhearingfoundation.org/what_we_do/financial_assistance.htm)

**Travelers Protective Association Scholarship Trust for the Hearing Impaired**

The objects and purposes of this Trust in general are the giving of financial aid or assistance to citizens of the United States or its' possessions who suffer deafness or hearing impairment; who will benefit from medical, mechanical, specialized treatment or specialized education and who are unable to provide the funds therefore themselves. See:

<http://www.tpahq.org/assets/tpa/pdf/Scholarship%20Trust%20Application.pdf?lbisphpreq=1>

**Quota Clubs in Michigan**

Quota Clubs support the needs of people in Michigan who have hearing loss. Some receive a cash match from Michigan Rehabilitation Services to provide hearing screening and hearing aids. See: [https://www.google.com/?gws\\_rd=ssl#q=quoto+clubs+in+michigan](https://www.google.com/?gws_rd=ssl#q=quoto+clubs+in+michigan)

**KT Maviglia Fund for Hearing**

KT Maviglia, Miss Michigan of 2014, raises funds to financially assist children in Michigan to receive proper hearing aids. To obtain an application see:

<http://ktmavigliahearing.com/application/>

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