

Michigan Association for Deaf and Hard of Hearing

1-800-968-7327 • 517-487-0066 • info@madhh.org • www.madhh.org



Hearing Aid Purchasing Alternatives

The following may be options for people who are unable to afford necessary hearing aids. Each program has specific eligibility criteria. Although MADHH does not administer these programs, we would appreciate hearing from you if one of these options works for you. Please **send us a note** with a brief description of your experience. This will help us as we make referrals to others. (Programs are listed alphabetically.)

AUDIENT Alliance

How it Works:

AUDIENT is a national program providing hearing assistance to low-income people. AUDIENT recipients participate in the cost of the hearing aids. The program is offered in collaboration with a local hearing aid provider who is affiliated with the AUDIENT program.

AUDIENT will collaborate with vocational rehabilitation programs. In order to start the process, download an application from: http://www.audientalliance.org/patient_application.htm and have the customer complete the application, sign it, and send it to AUDIENT with proof of income.

Once income qualified, AUDIENT can begin the provider search. If you know providers who may be interested in serving their community through this three way collaboration, AUDIENT will contact them for recruitment.

Requirements:

Complete an application and meet income guidelines.

Contact:

206-838-7194 or 1-877-AUDIENT

info@audientalliance.org

www.audientalliance.org

Hear Now

How it Works:

A private, non-profit organization that provides hearing aids for adults and children who are residents of the United States, who are deaf or hard of hearing and who have limited income. Hear Now is a provider of last resort. All other options for service must be used before benefit can be approved. Hear Now maintains the National Hearing Aid Bank, which provides new and reconditioned hearing aids to deaf and hard of hearing people who cannot afford them. These hearing aids are distributed through hearing health care providers in communities nationwide. Providers are asked to waive fitting and follow-up fees for the first year of warranty coverage.

Requirements:

Clients pay for their hearing evaluations and a non-refundable Hear Now processing fee per aide. The application is on the Hear Now web site.

Contact:

1-800-648-4327

<http://www.sotheworldmayhear.org/hearnow/>

Lions Hearing Aid Assistance

How it Works:

Michigan's Lions Clubs receive donations of used hearing aids. The used hearing aids are delivered to a hearing aid laboratory. In return, the laboratory provides a credit for each used hearing aid received. A "withdrawal" from this credit account is made when an order for a hearing aid comes from a participating Lions Club.

When an application is received from an individual who meets income guidelines, it is forwarded to the Lions Hearing and Speech Committee Chairperson or one of the 11 Lions Districts.

The local Lions arrange for an audiological screening at a reasonable cost. The audiogram is forwarded to the laboratory where the hearing aid is made. A hearing aid is then constructed, based on the audiogram, and is programmed to the person's specific hearing loss. The hearing professional fits and adjusts the hearing aid. Depending on the number of donated aids and supporting funds, most people receive a hearing aid within about 6 months.

Requirements:

Must be at or below 100% of Federal poverty guidelines (see application) and or receive public assistance. Customers may be required to pay \$50 to \$150 depending on the local Lions Club policy.

Contact:

Lions of Michigan 517-887-6640 Ext. 10

Lions Hearing Center

How it Works:

Low income people receive a full range of audiological services at the Lions Hearing Center or through participating audiologists. Lions Hearing Center accepts Medicaid.

Requirements:

To obtain hearing aids through the program, customers must complete an application and meet income guidelines (at or below 200% of the poverty level). Residents of Wayne, Oakland, Monroe and Macomb counties MUST use Lions Hearing Center for Lions provided hearing aids.

Contact:

Detroit: 1-888-LHC-MICH
Bloomfield Hills: 248-335-9800
Southfield: 248-357-4151
www.lhcsm.org

Medicaid

How it Works:

The exact specifics of which medical and hearing services Medicaid will cover, and for whom, varies from year to year based on state budget negotiations.

Requirements:

Must be eligible for Medicaid, the hearing aid dispenser must accept Medicaid as payment, and the individual must meet Medicaid criteria for hearing care.

Medicaid Contact:

Hearing aid dispensers who accept Medicaid should know, or be able to find out, if Medicaid will pay for hearing aids for a specific individual. Apply for Medicaid through Michigan Department of Human Services in your county.

Michigan Rehabilitation Services

How it Works:

This government agency assists people with disabilities with obtaining and maintaining employment. If hearing loss is interfering with job performance or obtaining a job, Michigan Rehabilitation Services may pay for some of the cost of hearing aids as a part of the Individualized Plan for Employment.

Requirements

The individual must apply for and be determined eligible for services based on the presence of a disability and other factors. There are no income guidelines for services. Each applicant is assigned to a rehabilitation counselor who will explain the program and determine eligibility.

Contact:

517-335-0399
800-605-6722
TTY: 888-901-7392
www.michigan.gov/mrs

Sertoma

How it Works:

Sertoma International is a civic service organization that is comprised over 600 clubs nationwide. These clubs function as their own entities within the national organization, and choose what local projects they support. Sertoma's national mission is hearing and speech health and some of our clubs work with non-profit organizations, hospitals, or school districts within their area in order to fund hearing aids or other hearing and speech related needs.

Requirements:

There must be a Sertoma Club near you. Eligibility requirements may vary.

Contact:

<http://www.sertoma.org>

To find a club in your area, please go to "Find a Club" on the Sertoma web site to find contact information. If there is no e-mail, phone number, or web site link listed, please e-mail your request to infosertoma@sertomahq.org and a Sertoma International representative will contact the club nearest you.

Traveler's Protective Association Trust

How it Works:

The objects and purposes of this Trust in general are the giving of financial aid or assistance to residents 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.

Traveler's Protective Association Requirements:

Submit a grant application, due by March 1 annually. Applicants demonstrating the greatest financial need are given preference regardless of race, creed, age or sex.

Contact:

support@tpahq.org
<http://www.travelersprotectiveasn.com/>

Loan Options

Assistive Technology Loan Fund

How it Works:

A low interest loan that makes allowances for credit problems resulting from health care. Applicants unable to obtain a conventional loan may be eligible for this special loan program.

Requirements:

An application and budget must be completed. Loan applicants must have sufficient income to pay off the loan along with other living and debt obligations. Monthly payments of principle and interest are required.

Contact:

Applications may be completed at the local Center for Independent Living, on the web at www.michiganloanfunds.org/atlf/index.htm or by phone: 1-800-828-2714.

Hearing Aid Dispenser Financing

How it Works:

A conventional loan program, providing money at interest, and requiring regular monthly payments of principle and interest.

Requirements:

Good credit history.

Contact:

Only a few of the larger hearing aid dispensing companies offer loan programs.

Personal or Home Equity Loan

How it Works:

A conventional loan through a bank or credit union. Cost of interest on a home equity loan may be tax deductible.

Requirements:

Good credit history and equity in real estate for a home equity loan.

Contact:

Consumer bank or financial institution.