HEARING AIDS
List of resources for low-income assistance

AMERICAN SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION
Hearing aids are the most common devices needed by deaf and hard of hearing people. In certain instances, some of the agencies listed can provide new or reconditioned aids free of charge or at reduced rates. Other agencies may offer assistance in obtaining these aids. In some states, Medicaid will help cover the cost of purchasing a hearing aid. Check with your health insurance company regarding its policy coverage for hearing aids. You may also wish to contact the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) for information on insurance coverage of hearing aids and related service. ASHA keeps abreast of current developments and change in the coverage of hearing health care expenses by private insurance, Medicaid, and Medicare.
ASHA
2200 Research Blvd.
Rockville, MD 20850-3289
301-897-5700 V/TTY
800-498-2071 V/TTY
800-638-8255 V/TTY
Email: actioncenter@asha.org
Website: http://asha.org/

AUDIENT ALLIANCE
Program developed by SightLife™ formerly Northwest Lions Foundation for Sight & Hearing
EPIC Hearing Services
17870 Castleton St., Suite 320
City of Industry, CA 91748
1-866-956-5400 ext 2 (ask for AUDIENT)
Email: hear@epichearing.com
Website: http://www.audientalliance.org

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Office of Deaf Access
744 P Street, M.S. 11-91
Sacramento, CA 95814
Chief: Joseph Hoffman
916-653-7651 T
916-653-8320 V
916-653-4001 FAX
Email: deaf.access@dssca.gov
Website: http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/pg145.htm
DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING SERVICES
California State Department of Rehabilitation
916-324-1313 V
916-558-5807 T
Email: dhhs@dor.ca.gov
Website: http://dor.ca.gov/

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 TTY
312-726-1494 Fax
1-800-221-6827 Toll-free
Website: http://www.easterseals.com/

FOUNDATION FOR SIGHT & SOUND
The Foundation for Sight & Sound has partnered with EarQ Group to provide hearing aids to individuals with limited financial resources.
P.O. Box 1245
Smithtown, NY 11787
631-366-3461
Email: info@foundationforsightandsound.org
Website: http://www.foundationforsightandsound.org/projects.html

HEARING & SPEECH CENTER of NORTHERN CALIFORNIA (HSCNC)
A non-profit clinic and center, the Hearing and Speech Center is dedicated to supporting individuals through a comprehensive set of programs addressing clinical, educational, and social needs. The HSCNC has a wide range of professional expertise. Their office houses seven audiologists, with specialization in Tinnitus, Hyperacusis, Pediatrics, and Central Auditory Processing Disorder, four Speech/Language Pathologists, and other professional support staff. Their programs aim to provide people with the technology, skills and knowledge to live fully and independently. They provided complete audiology testing, as well as fitting, repairing, and dispensing hearing aids.
HSCNC
1234 Divisadero Street
San Francisco, CA 94115
415-921-7658
Website: www.hearingspeech.org
HEAR NOW
This unique national program provides assistance to individuals and families with limited financial resources. 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. HEAR NOW also has a cochlear implant program that raises funds to provide cochlear implant and related service to both adults and children. In addition, HEAR NOW has developed the National Hearing Assistance Directory (NHAD), which provides state-by-state listings of financial and social resources offered through government agencies and private organizations.

6700 Washington Avenue South
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
800-648-4327 V/TTY
952-947-4997 FAX
Email: nonprofit@starkey.com
Website: http://www.sotheworldmayhear.org

SERTOMA INTERNATIONAL HELP FOR HEARING LOSS PROGRAM
Sertoma is a civic, service organization with a national mission of hearing health. See their website listed below for a comprehensive list of organizations that have programs to assist disadvantaged individuals to receive hearing devices. Also, for information contact Colette Noble, Mondays, Tuesdays, or Wednesdays at Phone #916-349-7612 or Email: cnoble@norcalcenter.org
Website: http://www.sertoma.org

LET THEM HEAR FOUNDATION
This is listed under Financial Aid on page 17 of the Spring 2014 magazine, The Hearing Loss Californian (which HLAA members who reside in California receive), and appears to focus on surgical intervention.
Website: http://letthemhear.org

LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL
Assists low income individuals with purchasing hearing aids.
300 West 22nd Street
Oak Brook. IL 60523-8842
Website: http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/programs_hear.shtml
MIRACLE-EAR CHILDREN’S FOUNDATION
This program provides new or reconditioned “Miracle-Ear” hearing aids and service free of charge to families who have hearing impaired children ages 16 years or younger, with an income level that does not allow them to receive public support. Dahlberg, Inc. is a corporate sponsor, which donates hearing aids for needy children and underwrites the foundation’s administrative costs. Eligibility for hearing aids & other services requires disclosure of complete financial information for individuals residing in the same household.
Miracle-Ear Children’s Foundation
1-888-283-9450
Website:  http://www.miracle-ear.com/

STARKEY HEARING FOUNDATION
Assistance for low-income individuals permanently residing in the U.S. with no other resources to acquire hearing aids.
6700 Washington Avenue South
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
800-328-8602 (voice-ask for Hear Now)
952-947-4997 Fax
Website:  http://www.sotheworldmayhear.org

U.S. DEPT. OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA)
PSAS (Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service) - Hearing Aids
To receive hearing aids through VA, you must first register at the health Administration/enrollment section of the VA Medical Center of your choice. The following documents are usually needed at the time of registration: a copy of the Veteran’s DD214, driver’s license and health insurance (if available). There are several ways to enroll:

- In person at any VA Medical Center or Clinic
- Online by filling out the Form 10-10EZ
- By mailing completed Form 10-10EZ to the Medical Center of your choice (please be sure to sign your application or it cannot be processed for enrollment)

Once registered (or if already registered), a referral to the Audiology and Speech Pathology Clinic may be requested through your assigned VA Primary Care Provider. The audiologist will complete an evaluation and make a clinical determination on the need for hearing aids and/or other hearing assistive devices. If you are eligible, your hearing aids, repairs, and future batteries will all be at no charge to you.

For more information and additional links, click on the website below:
Website:  http://www.prosthetics.va.gov/hearing_aids.asp
How to order replacement batteries online:

You can now order batteries online using the Remote Order Entry System-Public (ROES-Public) application. In order to ensure your personal information is kept secure you will need to obtain access credentials prior to placing your first order. The instructions for obtaining credentials can be found at [www.va.gov/eauth](http://www.va.gov/eauth)

If you have access to VA's My HealtheVet (yes, correct spelling) application, you may already have established your credentials. Look for the ROES-Public application at [www.va.gov/eauth/roes](http://www.va.gov/eauth/roes) and follow the easy steps to place an order for batteries.

Some additional other websites with information for veterans:


**WILLIAMS SOUND**

Reduced Cost ALDs for Vets and their Families

A global manufacturer of wireless listening technology for more than 30 years, has teamed with the Military Audiology Association to offer a Rald™ program to retired and active-duty military service members and their families. The Rald™ program was created to provide these veterans and service men and women access to assistive listening devices (ALDs) at a 20% saving over retail cost, along with free personalized telephone support. ALDs are devices to help individuals with hearing difficulties hear more clearly in a wide array of social situations, whether those needs are specific to listening on the phone, to a television, in a group setting or during one-on-one conversations. An ALD is designed to pick up sounds from the sound source and bring it directly to the listener's ear, without the distraction of background noise.

Williams Sound LLC
10300 Valley 'View Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
Call Barb Cleland at:
800-843-3544
952-943-2252
**Website:** [http://info@williamssound.com](http://info@williamssound.com)
LOCAL AGENCIES/PROGRAMS
Some of your local civic organizations may be able to provide financial assistance to purchase or acquire hearing aids and other assistive devices. Clubs often recondition hearing aids and donate them to needy individuals. Local agencies sometimes receive donations or private funds to assist with various needs. Speech and hearing centers may provide hearing aids at a reduced rate for clients who have used their service for audiological assessment. Check your local phone directories or the Chamber of Commerce for a listing of civic organizations in your area. The following are some of the organizations that typically offer this type of assistance:

Child Health Centers
Deaf Community Centers
The Eric Fund:  http://ericfund.org
Hearing Aid Banks
Kiwanis Clubs:  http://www.kiwanis.org/
Lions Clubs International:  http://www.lionsclubs.org/  (see above)
March of Dimes:  http://www.marchofdimes.com
National Easter Seal Society:  http://www.easterseals.com/  (see above)
Optomist International:  http://www.optimist.org
Organizations for Older Adults & Seniors
Other Organizations for Deaf & Hard of Hearing people
Pioneers:  http://www.telecompioneers.org/
Religious organizations/institutions
Rotary Clubs:  http://www.rotary.org/
United Way:  http://national.unitedway.org/
Veterans Affairs  http://www.prosthetics.va.gov/hearing_aids.asp  (above)

Those listed above contain the best information available when this was compiled. Feel free to contact Jeannine Scott Email:  jneen@napanet.net  to let us know of any outdated information or additional listings to consider adding. Thanks.

Compiled by HLAA – Napa Valley Chapter
May 2014