Hearing Aid Resources

**Gift of Hearing Foundation:** <http://www.giftofhearingfoundation.org/resources.htm>

Working closely with the medical community, the Gift of Hearing Foundation will provide financial support to help a select number of economically disadvantaged patients receive cochlear implants. We will use these selected cases to highlight the gaps in reimbursement for cochlear implants and advocate for change. We can provide financial assistance to those whose insurance coverage will not provide for the cost of CI Implants.

### Health Savings Accounts:

HSAs are savings accounts where individuals deposit money and then withdraw it tax-free for eligible medical expenses. They typically are associated with employer sponsored health plans with high deductibles. The HSAs can be used to cover medical & dental services & devices not covered by their health plans including hearing aids, deductibles and copays – as long as they are considered to be deductible by the IRS.

### [Hear Now:](http://www.sotheworldmayhear.org/hearnow/%20onclick%3D)

Sponsored by Starkey Hearing Foundation, this program provides Starkey hearing aids for low income individuals. There is an application fee for the hearing aids ($125 per hearing aid). Access Fund Loans and IDAs can be used to cover the application fee.
1-800-328-8602
Website: <https://www.starkeyhearingfoundation.org/community-based-hearing-healthcare>

**Hearing Loss Association of America:** [**http://hearingloss-wa.org/**](http://hearingloss-wa.org/)

HLAA for Washington State provides as list of programs offering financial assistance for hearing aids.

### [Hearing Speech & Deafness Center:](http://www.hsdc.org/)

 Hearing Aid Scholarship: includes donated hearing aid, hearing aid and ear mold

 fitting appointment and 3 follow-up adjustment appointments.

 Client responsibilities:

* Cost of comprehensive hearing test or insurance co-pay, if necessary.
* $75 per hearing aid. Additional $45 per ear mold, if necessary.
* Payment for the above must be received in full prior to the hearing aid fitting appointment.
	+ - * Hearing aid repair costs, if necessary (approximately $250 for a six-month repair warranty).
			* You will need to maintain attendance as outlined in your enrollment forms. Failure to meet attendance guidelines for any reason may result in loss of your scholarship.

206-323-5770 (Voice)
1-800-761-2821 (TTY)
206-452-7953 (Videophone).
Website: [http://www.hsdc.org](http://www.hsdc.org/)

### IDEA/Special Education:

Schools may be obligated to cover hearing aids for children in special education if they have no other way to pay for them.

### [Labor & Industries:](http://www.lni.wa.gov/)

If you experience a hearing loss due to exposure to noise or other on the job injury while working for a Washington employer, you may qualify for hearing aids & monetary compensation. L&I will also service and provide batteries for hearing aids they purchased. To learn more, call the department at: 1-800-547-8367.
Website: <http://www.lni.wa.gov/>

**Lions Club**: <http://www.lcif.org/EN/our-work/humanitarian-efforts/hearing.php>

 **How the Affordable Hearing Aid Project Works**

Local Lions Clubs work with individuals to determine their eligibility (based on income) and arrange testing by a partner hearing care professional. The Lions club communicates with Lions AHAP to request and arrange shipping of the hearing aid(s). The selected hearing care professional then ensures proper fit of the aid, and provides follow-up care to make adjustments as needed.

Lions AHAP has also established an agreement with HearUSA for audiologists at the company's 170 stores in 10 states to provide fittings and screenings at a negotiated reduced rate. To find a store, visit [HearUSA's website](http://www.hearusa.com/).

 **How to Participate in Lions AHAP**

**For individuals:**
The AHAP program is only available through local Lions clubs; individuals may not apply independently to receive a hearing aid. Click [here](https://directory.lionsclubs.org/?language=EN) to find your local Lions club, contact Lions AHAP at (630) 203-3837 or e-mail.

[**Medicaid:**](http://www.adsa.dshs.wa.gov/pubinfo/benefits/medicaid.htm)[**http://www.hca.wa.gov/billers-providers/claims-and-billing/professional-rates-and-billing-guides#collapse19**](http://www.hca.wa.gov/billers-providers/claims-and-billing/professional-rates-and-billing-guides#collapse19)

Medicaid pays for hearing hardware and cochlear implants only for client’s age 20 and younger. The Developmental Disabilities Administration also covers hearing aids under their waiver programs and state-funded Individual and Family Services (IFS). Funding may be available for clients of any age with the understanding that any benefit available through Medicaid is accessed first. Some clients on the state-funded IFS program do not have Medicaid.

### [Medicare:](http://www.adsa.dshs.wa.gov/pubinfo/benefits/medicare.htm)

Medicare covers hearing evaluations from qualified professionals – audiologists or ear, nose & throat doctors. However, Medicare does not cover hearing aids or other assistive devices. It does cover cochlear implants provided that the client meets eligibility requirements. For more information, call a cochlear implant vendor or your audiologist.

### [Northwest Lions Foundation:](http://www.nlfoundation.org/hearing.php)

* Hearing aid bank which provides recycled hearing aids for individuals who are low income
* Patient Care program providing small grants for other hearing and vision equipment needs.

### [Pass Plans:](http://www.passplan.org/)

If you are on SSDI or have earned income, you may be able to use a PASS plan to help pay for hearing aids needed for employment or education designed to lead to employment. Pass Plans allow a person with a disability to set aside otherwise countable income and/or resources for a specific period of time in order to achieve a work goal. To learn more about Pass plans, go to [passplan.org](http://www.passplan.org/) or consult with a benefits planner.

### Private Insurance:

Most insurers do not cover hearing aids but will cover a hearing evaluation by a qualified professional – e.g., an audiologist or ear, nose & throat doctor. To find out if your insurance covers hearing aids or other hearing devices, review your policy or contact your insurance company. Coverage may be broader for children.

### [Sertoma International:](http://sertoma.org/)

A national organization committed to civil service, Sertoma works with nonprofit organizations, hospitals, and school systems to fund hearing aids and other assistive technology for hearing loss. Contact your local chapter for more information. Website: [http://sertoma.org](http://sertoma.org/)

**Starkey Foundation:** [**https://www.starkeyhearingfoundation.org/**](https://www.starkeyhearingfoundation.org/)

If you or someone you know is struggling with hearing loss and unable to afford hearing aids, call 800.328.8602 or email us, and a Hear Now representative will be in touch with you.

### Tax Deduction:

If you itemize deductions, you may able to deduct your out of pocket expenses for hearing evaluations or assistive devices including hearing aids as a medical expense. However, you may only deduct the amount by which your total medical expenses for the year exceeded 7.5% of your adjusted gross income. For more information, see IRS Publication 502, Medical and Dental Expenses (available at [http://www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov/)).

### [Veterans Administration:](http://www4.va.gov/healtheligibility/coveredservices/Special%20Benefits.asp#EyeEar)

Veterans with service-related hearing loss may qualify for hearing aids, TTYs, and telephone amplification devices at the V.A. Contact your local V.A. medical facility for more information. 1-800-827-1000 or online at http: <http://www.index.va.gov/search/va/va_search.jsp?NQ=URL%3Ahttp%3A%2F%2Fwww.va.gov%2Fhealth%2Ftopics%2F&QT=hearing+aids&submit.x=0&submit.y=0>

### [Vocational Rehabilitation:](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dvr/)

Hearing aids may be available through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Department of Services for the Blind at <http://www.dsb.wa.gov/> if needed for employment-related purposes and included in your Individual Plan for Employment.
1-800-637-5627 (Voice)

**Washington Access:** [**http://www.washingtonaccessfund.org**](http://www.washingtonaccessfund.org/)

* Low interest loans for hearing aids and other assistive technology for individuals who are deaf & hard of hearing with payment plans up to five years.
* Matched Savings program through which you can save up to $4,000 for any AT and receive up to $4,000 in matching funds.

Voice: 206-328-5116
Toll Free: 877-428-5116
TTY: 206-494-4775.
Below is information from their website for other resources.

**Washington Women in Need Health Care Gap Grant**: <http://wwin.org/grants-program/>

* **Health Care Gap Fund Grants**

WWIN offers Health Care Gap Fund Grants that cover the costs of the following services for women who have Apple Health or Medicare insurance coverage:

* + Dental crowns and bridges, and root canals on permanent bicuspid and molar teeth
	+ Glasses and contact lenses
	+ In some cases, health care provider access issues, and for reasons such as availability, geography, or language barriers (including for mental health care provider access issues)

In order to apply for a Health Care Gap Fund Grant, an applicant must be in need of one or more of the specified services listed above and meet all of the [**eligibility criteria**](http://wwin.org/eligibility/).

WWIN accepts applications for Health Care Gap Fund Grants on a rolling basis and selects new grantees monthly.

Please visit the [**Apply page**](http://wwin.org/apply/) for additional information on applying for a Health Care Gap Fund Grant.