

Financial Assistance for Hearing Aids and Hearing Assistive Technology for Adults who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind

Good hearing aids range in cost from \$1,000 to \$7,000, which is not affordable for many people. However, various programs exist to help people with lower incomes purchase hearing aids and other assistive hearing technology at lower out-of-pocket costs.

Government Agencies



[Division of Vocational Rehabilitation](https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/) (DVR)

<https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/>, 608-261-0050 (Voice), or 800-442-3477 (Toll Free)

DVR is part of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development. Consumers who meet DVR eligibility requirements may receive assistance with hearing aids and other assistive listening devices if they are needed to secure or retain employment. DVR offices are located all around the state.



[Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs](https://dva.wi.gov/Pages/home.aspx) (WDVA)

<https://dva.wi.gov/Pages/home.aspx>, 800-947-8387 (Toll Free)

People who meet [eligibility requirements](#) can apply for the [Assistance to Needy Veterans Grant](#), which provides funds to assist with hearing care and hearing aids.



[U.S. Veterans Administration](https://www.va.gov/) (VA)

<https://www.va.gov/>, 877-222-8387 (Toll Free), or 711 (TDD)

People who meet and maintain [eligibility requirements for VA health care](#) can receive [hearing aids, repairs, and batteries](#) at no charge.



[Medicare](https://www.medicare.gov/)

<https://www.medicare.gov/>, 800-633-4227 (Toll Free), or 877-486-2048 (TTY)

Medicare will cover cochlear implants but does not cover hearing aids or exams for fitting hearing aids. However, coverage is available under some Medicare Advantage Plans for hearing services.



[Wisconsin Medicaid](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/index.htm)

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/index.htm>,

800-362-3002 (Member Services)

Wisconsin Medicaid helps people who meet eligibility criteria pay for medical care for speech, hearing, and language disorders. Under some plans, hearing aids and cochlear implants are covered as well.



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[WisLoan](https://www.independencefirst.org/IndependenceFirst/Services/Independent-Living-Services/WisLoanTeleworks.htm)

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The WisLoan program offers loans for assistive technology, including hearing aids and assistive listening devices. The program is open to Wisconsin residents of all ages who have a disability. There are no income requirements. Under the program, banks provide loans to qualified borrowers. Loan amounts depend on the item purchased and the ability to repay the loan. Contact your [local independent living center](#) for more information or to apply.



[University of Wisconsin Speech and Hearing Clinic Hearing Aid Recycling Program \(HARP\)](https://csd.wisc.edu/harp/)

<https://csd.wisc.edu/harp/>, 608-262-3951 (Voice)

HARP provides free comprehensive hearing evaluation and hearing loss treatment services to people who have no other financial resources available to pay for them. HARP devices and services are funded by local donations. Because of this, preference is given to HARP applicants living within Dane County.

Private Agencies



[Miracle-Ear Foundation](https://www.miracle-ear.com/foundation)

<https://www.miracle-ear.com/foundation>, 800-234-5422 (Toll Free)

The Miracle-Ear Foundation provides no-cost hearing aids and hearing support services to children and adults who meet [eligibility requirements](#) and do not have access to affordable hearing care from other public or private resources. For adults there is a nonrefundable application fee.



[Wisconsin Lions Foundation \(WLF\) Hearing Project](https://wlf.info/our-work/hearing/)

<https://wlf.info/our-work/hearing/>, 877-463-6953 (Toll Free)

The WLF Hearing Project provides hearing aids and other assistive listening devices to Wisconsin residents who are hard of hearing, cannot afford to purchase a hearing instrument, and do not qualify for any existing state-funded financial assistance programs. Applicants must meet [project eligibility](#) to qualify for assistance.

Financial Assistance for TTYs, Amplified Telephones, and Captioned Telephones



[Telecommunication Equipment Purchase Program \(TEPP\)](https://psc.wi.gov/pages/programs/tepp.aspx)

<https://psc.wi.gov/pages/programs/tepp.aspx>,
844-411-3861 (Toll Free), 844-411-3862 (TTY)

TEPP helps Wisconsin residents with disabilities buy equipment they need to use basic telephone services. Examples include amplified phones, captioned phones, TTYs, and visual



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alert systems. There is no age or income limit, but a person can only receive TEPP assistance once every three years for the same type of disability. The value of a TEPP voucher is based on the type of disability, and all vouchers (except for the \$100 hard of hearing voucher) require a \$100 copay. See information below on the Telecommunications Assistance Program for financial help with the \$100 copay.



[Telecommunication Assistance Program \(TAP\)](#)

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/odhh/tap.htm>, 855-359-5252 (Voice)

TAP assists low-income individuals who are deaf, severely hard of hearing, or deaf-blind by covering the cost of the \$100 copay associated with the Telecommunication Equipment Purchase Program. TAP applicants must meet [income eligibility guidelines](#) and have a documented hearing loss.



[iCanConnect](#)

<https://www.icanconnect.org/>, 800-825-4595

iCanConnect was established by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and is also known as the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP). iCanConnect provides equipment including smartphones, tablets, computers, screen readers, braille equipment, and software to people with significant combined vision and hearing loss who meet [federal income and disability guidelines](#).

Additional Information

Over-the-counter (OTC) hearing aids

As of August 2022, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) approved a new category and provided guidelines for OTC hearing aids. This allows consumers ages 18 and older, who think they may have mild to moderate hearing loss, the opportunity to purchase OTC hearing aids without a medical exam or hearing prescription.

However, because OTC hearing aids are specifically designed for those within the range of mild to moderate hearing loss, it is beneficial to visit a hearing health provider for a comprehensive hearing evaluation. Comprehensive hearing evaluations are covered by most insurances.

To learn more about OTC hearing aids, the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) provides [OTC hearing aids information](#) and an [OTC shopping checklist](#).

If you would like more information or suggestions regarding financial assistance, contact the [Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#) by email at dhsodhh@dhs.wisconsin.gov, or by phone at 855-359-5252.



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