

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

Hearing aids are costly. The list below are programs available to help people with low incomes to purchase hearing aids and other assistive hearing technology.

Government agencies



[Division of Vocational Rehabilitation \(DVR\)](#)

<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. If you qualify for DVR, you may be able to get help paying for hearing aids or other assistive listening devices. These services must support your work goals. DVR offices are located all around the state.



[Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs \(WDVA\)](#)

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

The [Health Care Aid and Subsistence Aid Grant](#) programs provide limited financial assistance to those in need and who have exhausted all other sources of help. If you need to file hearing loss service-connected disability, contact a VA representative to help you file a claim for VA benefits.



[U.S. Veterans Administration \(VA\)](#)

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

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/>, 800-633-4227 (Toll Free), or 877-486-2048 (TTY)

Medicare pays for cochlear implants. It does not pay for hearing aids or exams for fitting hearing aids. Some Medicare Advantage plans may cover hearing services. You may still have to pay out-of-pocket costs, like deductibles or coinsurance, depending on the plan.



[Wisconsin Medicaid](#)

<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.





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

<https://www.independencefirst.org/IndependenceFirst/Services/Independent-Living-Services/WisLoanTeleworks.htm>

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 non-refundable application fee.



[Starkey Cares Hear Now](https://www.starkey.com/starkeycares)

<https://www.starkey.com/starkeycares>, 855-686-2202 (Toll Free)

Starkey Cares provides hearing aids at a reduced cost for people with limited income. Applicants must meet the income guidelines to be eligible. You may complete the online application or call to apply over the phone. If you qualify, there is an application fee. For more information, review the [PDF Starkey Cares Hear Now](#).



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

<https://wisconsinlionsfoundation.org/our-work/hearing/>, 715-677-4969, or 877-463-6953 (Toll Free)

The (WLF) Hearing Project is run by a combined effort of Wisconsin Lions and hearing health care professionals throughout the state. This project helps Wisconsin's individuals of all ages who are Hard of Hearing and cannot afford to purchase a hearing aid. Anyone interested is required to fill out an application. All applicants must obtain prior authorization from the WLF Hearing Project before ordering a hearing aid.



Financial assistance for TTYs, amplified telephones, and captioned telephones



[Telecommunications 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 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.



[Telecommunications Assistance Program \(TAP\)](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/odhh/tap.htm)

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

TAP provides financial assistance to individuals that are low-income and Deaf, severely hard of hearing, or DeafBlind. TAP can either purchase specialized devices or cover the cost of the \$100 copay associated with the Telecommunications Equipment Purchase Program (TEPP). TAP applicants must meet income eligibility guidelines and have a documented hearing loss.



[iCanConnect](https://www.icanconnect.org/)

<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.



Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Division of Public Health
P-00591 (02/2026)



ODHH
Office for the Deaf
and Hard of Hearing

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

Refurbished hearing aids

Refurbished behind the ear hearing aids are common devices that were previously owned, used, then professionally inspected, restored, cleaned, and resold. They can cost much less than the new ones, making it more accessible for people on a budget. Ask your audiologist if they have any refurbished hearing aids in stock and see if they can reprogram them to fit your hearing prescription. Everyone's hearing loss is different. What works for one person may not work for someone else.

Hearing aid leasing

Some locations offer hearing aid leasing, so people can "rent a hearing aid" instead of purchasing a new set. However, this isn't common. It's an alternative approach to paying monthly fees instead of the full amount up front. It is best to consult your hearing professional to discuss what they have to offer.

If you or your agency provides financial assistance for hearing aids for adults and want to be added to this list, send your information to dhsodhh@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

