

### **Consider This....If You Are Still In The Process Of Making A Purchase**

Consider the environments in which your child needs amplification. Do you know how the hearing aids or assistive listening device will be used on the playground? In the classroom? At home?

Ask the audiologist to explain his or her recommendations. Why one type of Assistive Listening Devices over another? Know what options exist. Some devices connect directly to hearing aids. Will this assistive device be "worthless" should the hearing aids change?

Some devices are totally separate and portable. Knowing your child, which kind will he or she be more likely to feel comfortable using? Comfortable means more likely to comply with use! Compliance is something which is sometimes paramount in your decision making process, particularly if your child is getting his/her first amplification device at an older age.

### **Consider This.....Once You Have Them Insurance**

When you purchase hearing aids from an audiologist they are typically "covered" for one year against loss or damage. Most audiologists have information about companies who will insure your hearing aids after that point. However, if you own a home or have renter's insurance, check to see if you can add them on as a rider. It is almost always cheaper.

### **School**

When your child is using hearing aids or an assistive listening device at school which you have purchased, be sure to specify who at school has the responsibility to insure that these devices are working properly.

Likewise, if the school has procured the assistive listening device, be sure you ask how it will be maintained, and how your child's listening needs will be addressed in the event of a malfunction.

### **Resource**

The Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf offers many resources and supports to parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Alexander Graham Bell Association  
3417 Volta Place NW  
Washington, DC 20007  
1-800-HEAR KID (432-7546)  
Web: [www.agbell.org](http://www.agbell.org)

For further information on types of assistive listening devices or hearing aids contact:



NH Family Voices  
1-800-852-3345 X 4525  
(in state only) or  
(603) 271-4525  
[www.nhfv.org](http://www.nhfv.org)

# **How to Fund Hearing Aids and Assistive Listening Devices**



**NH Family Voices**  
Family to Family Health  
Information and Education Center

## How to Fund Hearing Aids and Assistive Listening Devices

Families often encounter barriers to funding for hearing aids or assistive listening devices. NH Family Voices has created this brochure to help with accessing funding sources.

### Private Insurance

Hearing aids, when covered by private insurance are usually listed under "Durable Medical Equipment." Check this section of your policy to see if they are covered or excluded. Some policies will pay for one hearing aid only. Keep in mind, however, that some families have successfully appealed initial denials, even when hearing aids are not covered on the plan.

NH Family Voices has "Sample Letters of Justification" available or visit [www.listen-up.org/haid](http://www.listen-up.org/haid) for samples.



## Public Funding Sources

### NH Healthy Kids Gold - 1-877-464-2447

NH Healthy Kids Gold, NH Medicaid, covers hearing aids for children who meet eligibility guidelines.

### NHDHHS, Special Medical Services - 800-852-3345 X 4488 or (603) 271-4488

Program for Children with Special Health Care needs. Income eligibility requirements.

### Division of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation (Voc Rehab) - 1-800-299-1647

Funding for individuals over 14 yrs of age, if you can demonstrate they are required for employment.



## Private Funding Sources and Grants

Some of these organizations have applications available online. If you need assistance in accessing them call NHFV.

### The HIKE Fund

(Hearing Impaired Kids Endowment)  
c/o International Center for Job's Daughters  
Tel: (352) 688-2579  
Web: [www.thehikefund.org](http://www.thehikefund.org)

Request must come directly from the family, and must be submitted and approved *prior* to purchase. Newborn - 20 yr olds are eligible.

### Disabled Children's Relief Fund

Tel: (516) 377-1605  
Web: [www.dcrf.com](http://www.dcrf.com)

Applications available between April and September with average grants about \$200. Children up to age 18 yrs. are eligible.

### Miracle Ear Children's Foundation

Tel: 1-800-234-5422  
Web: [www.miraclear.com](http://www.miraclear.com)

Family income level must exceed limits for public support, but be too low to make hearing aids affordable (approx. \$20-50,000 gross). The child must be a U.S. Citizen and aged 16 yrs or younger.

### First Hand Foundation c/o Cerner Cooperation

Tel: (816) 201-1569  
Web: [www.cerner.com/firsthand](http://www.cerner.com/firsthand)

Must demonstrate financial need of family and health benefit to child.

### Dorothy Ames Trust Fund

Tel: (207) 632-5527

Help for New England children who need aids, auditory trainers and FM systems to pursue education. Contact for required documentation.

### The Starkey Hearing Foundation Hear Now Program

Tel: (866) 354-3254

Web: [www.sotheworldmayhear.org](http://www.sotheworldmayhear.org)  
Assist with financial support as well as takes donations of salvaged hearing aids and assistive devices.

### Travelers Protective Association of America, Scholarship Trust for the Deaf and Near Deaf

Tel: (800) 882-0760  
Web: [www.tpahq.com](http://www.tpahq.com)

Provides financial assistance to individuals of all ages. Completed applications must be returned by March 1st each year.

### Louise Tumarkin Zazove Foundation

6858 North Kenneth Ave  
Chicago, IL 60712  
E-mail: [eari@ltzfoundation.org](mailto:eari@ltzfoundation.org)  
Web: [www.ltzfoundation.org](http://www.ltzfoundation.org)

Applications are available via website and must be submitted before May 31st each year.

### NH Informational Resource:

NH Vision/Hearing Network  
ATEC Services  
Tel: (603) 226-2900  
Web: [www.nhvhn.org](http://www.nhvhn.org)

Northeast Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services  
Tel: (800) 492-0407 or (603) 224-1850  
Web: [www.ndhhs.org](http://www.ndhhs.org)