



Funding Resources for Children with Hearing Differences

April 2025

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The Iowa Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program understands that caring for a child with hearing differences impacts families financially. This funding resource packet is intended for families who are facing financial barriers to resources and tools they need for their children with hearing differences.

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list and there may be more resources available that are not included in this packet. These resources are organized by topic, and then alphabetically. To the best of our knowledge, the information is correct as of April 2025.

If you have questions or need additional resources beyond what is included in this packet, please reach out to the EHDI team by calling (833)-496-8040 or by email: ccid@hhs.iowa.gov.



Hearing Equipment Funding

Self-insured plans or private insurance companies may not cover hearing devices and equipment. Other resources that may provide financial assistance to families are available and are organized by state and national resources. Please note that most resources will not refund you for a device that has already been purchased.

A helpful tip before you begin is to create a portfolio to organize all your documents in one place that you will likely need to apply for funding, and to keep on hand for people who may be working with your child. Helpful information to include:

1. Medical history
 - a. Cover letter describing child's current situation
 - b. Medical records and history
 - c. Surgery dates and outcomes
2. Assessments, lab results and medications
 - a. Reports from Audiology/Otology (ENT)
 - b. Neurology / Genetics
 - c. MRIs, CAT scans, other test reports
 - d. List of current medications
3. Medical equipment
 - a. Providers (warranty info, repair info, contacts)
 - b. Replacement equipment list (cords, batteries, cables etc.)
4. Evaluations and education reports
 - a. Speech and Language assessments
 - b. Occupational/Physical therapy assessments/reports
 - c. Special Education Evaluations (Early ACCESS IFSPs, IEPs, 504 plans)
 - d. Written correspondence from school if necessary
5. Emergency Information
 - a. Parents and other emergency contacts (names, numbers and addresses)
 - b. Doctors, pharmacy and hospital information
6. Insurance information
 - a. Copy of insurance/eligibility card
 - b. Copies of referrals to specialists related to hearing differences
 - c. Written correspondence
7. Miscellaneous
 - a. Current research regarding children with hearing differences
 - b. Contact information for family support, mentors, advocacy groups, early interventionists and others.

State Funding Resources in Iowa

There are many resources available to help financially with covering hearing technology or equipment. Most audiologists are familiar with resources that may help, and some have small amounts of funding for children they serve. Check with your child's audiologist as a first step to see what is available.

Able Up Iowa

Able Up Iowa offers low-interest loans for assistive tech, disability related modifications, and credit improvement to qualifying Iowans.

- [Helping Iowans Become Financially Independent | Able Up Iowa](#)

Children at Home Grant

The Children at Home Grant is designed to help families care for their child with special needs. The program is available to help find the services and supports the family wants, locate funding sources and provide limited supplemental funding.

- [Children at Home - Iowa Family Support Network](#)

Easter Seals Iowa

The Easter Seals Iowa Assistive Technology Program may be able to help or a lending device for use for individuals in need.

- [Easter Seals Iowa | Assistive Technology Program](#)

Hawki

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is offered through the Healthy and Wellness Kids in Iowa (Hawki) program. Iowa offers Hawki for uninsured children of working families who qualify.

- [Hawki - Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa | Health & Human Services](#)

Hearing Aid and Audiological Services Funding

The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (Iowa HHS) provides funds for children in need of hearing aids and/or audiological services. Funds are limited; therefore, claims will be processed on a first come, first serve basis and considered as payer of last resort.

- [EHDI - Funding | Health & Human Services](#)

Home and Community-Based Services Waivers Program (HCBS)

In Iowa, there are seven programs called Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waivers that help people stay in their own homes or communities and provide funding for individuals who qualify to receive the care they need.

- [Home and Community-Based Services \(HCBS\) Waivers Program](#)

Iowa Compass

Iowa Compass connects people with disabilities and complex health-related needs to services and supports in their communities throughout Iowa.

- [IOWACOMPASS - HOME - Iowa Compass](#)

Iowa Masonic Charities

The Iowa Grand Lodge Charity Funds through the Iowa Masonic Assistance Program awards grants to Iowa families in need through an application process. Contact your local Masonic Lodge to apply.

- [Iowa Masonic Charities – Grand Lodge of Iowa A.F. & A.M.](#)

Lions Club Hearing Aid Bank

The Iowa Lions Club Hearing Aid Bank provides hearing aids for those who have a need and find themselves in the position of not being able to meet that need financially.

- [We Serve... – Lions Clubs of Iowa](#)

Medicaid

Medicaid provides health coverage to Iowans including low-income adults, children, pregnant women, older adults and people with disabilities who meet qualifications.

- [Iowa Medicaid | Health & Human Services](#)

Medicaid for Kids with Special Needs (MKSN)

Medicaid for Kids with Special Needs (MKSN) is a program that helps pay medical bills for children with special needs due to a disability. You must meet the eligibility requirements to qualify.

- [Medicaid for Kids with Special Needs \(MKSN\) | Health & Human Services](#)

Quota of Cedar Rapids

Quota of Cedar Rapids assists families with food, housing, education and medical needs for those who need it.

- [Home - Quota of Cedar Rapids, Inc.](#)

Sertoma Club

The Sertoma Club has several ways they help people with hearing differences. The Hearing Aid Project (HAP) is dedicated to helping individuals with hearing differences by providing them with hearing aids that would otherwise be discarded. Check with local Sertoma Clubs in your area to see if they might be able to provide financial assistance as well.

- [Cedar Valley Sertoma](#)
- [Fort Dodge Sertoma](#)

Vocational Rehabilitation

The mission of the Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services is to work for and with individuals who have disabilities to achieve their employment, independence and economic goals. If a person received services and equipment is needed for employment, they may find resources to help fund things.

- [Vocational Rehabilitation \(VR\) Services | Iowa Workforce Development](#)

National Funding Resources

Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

The A.G. Bell Association's Parent-Infant Financial Aid Program assists with expenses with getting educational and therapeutic services such as: assistive listening devices, auditory support services, cochlear implant maintenance, co-pays, hearing aids, pre-school fees/tuition, speech-language therapy and transportation.

- [Financial Aid – Alexander Graham Bell Association](#)

CareCredit

The CareCredit credit card is a flexible way to pay for a wide range of health and wellness wants and needs for your family. There are multiple options including no interest options for up to 24 months, and reduced APR and fixed monthly payments until paid in full.

- [Health and Wellness Credit Card - CareCredit](#)

Cochlear™ Lend an Ear Program

The Cochlear™ Lend an Ear Program provides children a non-surgical Baha® Start System while the insurance approval process takes place. This allows the child to have access to critical sounds as early as possible to help them hear, learn and develop essential communication skills.

- [Lend-an-Ear-Program.pdf](#)

Dallas Hearing Foundation

The Dallas Hearing Foundation serves children and adults nationwide for hearing aid, cochlear implant support and CI surgeries. Surgeries must take place in Texas; however, funds can be sent nationally.

- [Dallas Hearing Foundation - Bringing Sound to Life](#)

Ear Community

The Ear Community is a source of support for families with children who have microtia/atresia. The nonprofit will assist for a first-time sound processor for a child or adult of any age who has microtia/atresia. Surgically implanted devices are excluded.

- [Application For a Bone Conduction Hearing Device | Ear Community](#)

HealthWell Foundation

The HealthWell Foundation is a nonprofit that fills the gap when health insurance is not enough. HealthWell Foundation assists with copays, premiums, deductibles and out of pocket expenses.

- [Patients - HealthWell Foundation](#)

HearStrong

The HearStrong Program matches recipients with an approved local provider to schedule an appointment for complete hearing evaluation, diagnosis and equipment.

- [Pay It Forward | HearStrong | Gift Hearing Aids](#)

Help America Hear

The Help America Hear program provides access to high-quality prescription hearing aids for individuals in need nationwide.

- [Help America Hear](#)

HIKE Fund

The HIKE Fund provides hearing devices for children with hearing loss between the ages of newborn and twenty years whose parents are unable to meet the need financially.

- [The HIKE Fund, Inc. –](#)

Joyful Life Cochlear Implant Fund

The Joyful Life Cochlear Implant Fund helps cochlear implant recipients keep their sound processors working to ensure they have stable hearing to participate in daily life of the hearing world.

- [Cochlear Implant Product Support Application](#)

Mandy Project

The Mandy Project helps children with hearing loss to become productive citizens by providing financial grants to the family experiencing hardship due to the child's hearing loss. Grants can help cover the costs of hearing aids, speech therapy, surgery or other related expenses.

- [Mandy Project](#)

Miracle-Ear Foundation

The Miracle-Ear Foundation's Gift of Sound Hearing Aid Program is designed to meet the needs of people who otherwise would not be able to afford hearing health solutions.

- [The Miracle-Ear Foundation: The Gift of Sound™ | Miracle-Ear](#)

My Gym Foundation

The My Gym Foundation is a registered nonprofit dedicated to helping children with disabilities and those struggling financially by awarding critically needed gifts that improve their quality of life.

- [Apply for a Gift | My Gym Foundation](#)

National Hearing Aid Project

The Hearing Aid Project addresses the demand for hearing aids by providing hearing aids to low-income individuals on a national scale.

- [GET AN AID - Hearing Aid Project](#)

Oracle Health Foundation

The Oracle Health Foundation provides pediatric grants that cover a wide variety of clinical, equipment, travel and lodging and vehicle modification costs related to children's healthcare needs.

- [Request Funding | Oracle Health Foundation](#)

Sertoma Club Hearing Aid Project

The Sertoma Club has several ways they help people with hearing loss. The Hearing Aid Project (HAP) is dedicated to helping individuals with hearing loss by providing them with hearing aids that would otherwise be discarded.

- [Hearing Aid Project](#)

Starkey Cares

The Starkey Cares program helps communities struggling to afford hearing aids by helping them acquire technologies that they wouldn't otherwise be able to afford.

- [Starkey Cares | Starkey](#)

TPA Hearing Trust Scholarship Fund

The TPA Hearing Trust provides financial aid to people who experience deafness or hearing loss and who need assistance in obtaining mechanical devices, medical or specialized treatment of education as well as speech classes, note takers, interpreters, etc. and in other areas of need that are directly related to hearing loss.

- [Hearing Trust - Supporting Hearing Health with TPA](#)

UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation

The UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation provides medical grants for medical devices that are not covered by a commercial health benefit plan. It provides funding for needed medical equipment, medical treatment, medical therapy, and prescription drugs.

- [UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation](#)

American Sign Language Class Opportunities

For families that choose to learn American Sign Language (ASL) as a communication method for their child, there are many resources to begin learning. Some resources are offered for free, while some do have a cost. If you cannot afford to pay out of pocket for some of the resources, the funding section can help you find programs that may cover the cost of learning ASL for your family. There are several colleges or universities in Iowa that offer ASL classes for fees that are not included in the below list.

American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC)

The American Society for Deaf Children is committed to empowering families with deaf and hard of hearing children by embracing full language and communication access. The Sign On program includes 5 free ASL sessions for members as well as opportunities to connect to Deaf Mentors and the Friends Like Me Program.

- [SignOn with ASDC - American Society for Deaf Children](#)

ASL Connect

ASL Connect offers two pathways for learning American Sign Language. The first is a Professional Studies and an undergraduate training, and the other is online American Sign Language classes.

- [ASL Online Courses | Gallaudet University](#)

ASL Virtual Academy

ASL Virtual Academy offers ASL classes for foreign language credit.

- [ASL Virtual Academy – ASL Virtual Academy](#)

Deaf Dome

Deaf Dome is a Deaf-owned business in Iowa with the goal of providing inclusive and accessible services, education and advocacy while engaging the broader community. ASL classes are offered virtually and in person.

- [Deaf Dome](#)

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program

Iowa EHDI provides family support services to families of deaf or hard of hearing children ages birth to three. Available support includes Family and Deaf Partners and Book Club for Tots that teaches ASL and reading skills monthly.

- [EHDI Families | Health & Human Services](#)

Iowa School for the Deaf

Iowa School for the Deaf (ISD) offers many resources to learn ASL. They have free ASL classes both in person and virtually for families of a deaf child in Iowa. They also offer Deaf Mentor services and Deaf Language Coaches for children who are deaf or hard of hearing in Iowa.

- [American Sign Language Classes | Iowa School for the Deaf](#)

Language First

Language First has many resources for parents and caregivers of deaf or hard of hearing children to learn techniques, strategies and ideas for signing with their children.

- [Learn ASL — Language First](#)

Language Priority

Language Priority is a Deaf-owned business that raises awareness about deafness, language acquisition, ASL, Deaf culture, the Deaf community and ASL classes.

- [ASL Classes – Language Priority](#)

Life Print

Life Print is an excellent resource for learning ASL at your own pace for free with their ASL lessons, as well as looking up vocabulary.

- [ASL American Sign Language](#)

Oklahoma School for the Deaf

Oklahoma School for the Deaf offers free, self-paced online ASL classes.

- [Oklahoma School for the Deaf](#)

Signing Savvy

Signing Savvy is a sign language dictionary containing several thousand videos of ASL signs, fingerspelled words and other common signs used.

- [Signing Savvy | ASL Sign Language Video Dictionary](#)

Signing Time

Signing Time is a fun way to include your child in learning ASL. There are multiple seasons of Signing Time videos to help teach vocabulary and conversational skills.

- [Signing Time Home Page - Signing Time](#)

SignSchool

SignSchool is a free resource for learning ASL at your own pace.

- [SignSchool | Learn American Sign Language Online](#)

Start ASL

Start ASL's complete course will cover true American Sign Language that will get you communicating right away.

- [American Sign Language \(ASL\) - Learn Online Faster & Easier](#)

Telecommunications Equipment Funding

Here are resources that could help cover the costs of telecommunications equipment like phones, iPads, speech devices or specialized phones and equipment.

iCanConnect

iCanConnect provides free equipment and training for people with both hearing and vision loss who meet the program's eligibility requirements.

- [Homepage - iCanConnect](#)

Telecommunications Access Iowa

Telecommunications Access Iowa helps Iowans who are deaf, hard or hearing or have speech difficulties get specialized telecommunications equipment at little or not cost.

- [Home - Telecommunication Access Iowa](#)

Hearing Service Dogs Organizations

Hearing service dogs are specially trained to assist people who are deaf or hard of hearing. They can alert their partner to sounds around the home and in public.

Assistance Dogs International

Assistance Dogs International is a coalition of nonprofit programs that place Assistance Dogs. Partnerships include guide dogs, hearing dogs and service dogs. They can help you locate an organization near you for an Assistance dog.

- [Assistance Dogs International](#)

Canine Companions

Canine Companions provides service dogs to adults, children and veterans with disabilities. Children must be 5 years of age or older and have cognitive disabilities. For a hearing service dog, individuals must be over the age of 18 to apply.

- [Is a Dog Right for You? - Canine Companions](#)

Deafinitely Dogs!

Deafinitely Dogs! is an organization that enriches the lives of people with disabilities by placing highly trained dogs, trained specifically for their individual needs.

- [Deafinitely Dogs!](#)

Duo Dogs

Duo Dogs is a nonprofit organization that trains and connects dogs with people to cultivate positive change in individuals, families and communities. Duo Dogs trains mobility assistance dogs, hearing assistance dogs, and PTSD assistance dogs. For a hearing assistance dog, individuals must be over the age of 18.

- [Is a Dog Right for You? - Canine Companions](#)

NEADS World Class Service Dogs

NEADS offers hearing service dogs for individuals aged 15 and older who are deaf or have severe hearing loss as well as service dogs for children with autism or other developmental disabilities ages 8-12.

- [Apply for a Service Dog - NEADS World Class Service Dogs](#)

Paragon Service Dogs

Paragon Services Dogs trains pups to serve as valuable companions to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. Applicants must be over the age of 18 and meet other qualifications to apply.

- [Hearing Service Dog Training | Programs | Paragon Service Dogs](#)

PAWS with a Cause

PAWS with a Cause offers hearing dogs to assist people who are deaf or hard of hearing to alert them to common sounds. Must be over the age of 18 to apply and meet other qualifications.

- [HEARING DOGS - PAWS WITH A CAUSE](#)