

## Possible Hearing Aid Funding Resources - Last Updated: 1/20/18

In response to the immediate need for hearing aid funding, Let Georgia Hear has compiled a list of possible resources that may be able to help you as you work to obtain hearing aids for your children. If you come across a resource that has been useful to your family, please email us at [info@letgeorgiahear.org](mailto:info@letgeorgiahear.org), and we will update this document. Funds which have been most helpful to our families are at the top of the document with an asterisk. Make sure to check on your insurance eligibility with your benefits administrator before utilizing these funds. Go to [www.letgeorgiahear.org/hearingaidhelp](http://www.letgeorgiahear.org/hearingaidhelp) for a guide to help you navigate the hearing aid funding process.

If you cannot get funding through insurance or if you do not have insurance, we recommend trying the following organizations in this order.

### 1. Georgia's Hearing Aid Loaner Bank

<https://dph.georgia.gov/services-unhsi>

404-657-5761

Getting hearing aids for your baby should be your first priority. As you navigate the insurance and funding process, please contact our state loaner bank to help you bridge the gap. Loaners are available for six months and both BAHAs and traditional hearing aids are available. If you do not qualify for any reason, please contact us at [info@letgeorgiahear.org](mailto:info@letgeorgiahear.org).

### 2. Medicaid

You may want to consider applying your child for Medicaid to see if he/she would qualify. If you or someone in your family needs health care, you should apply for Medicaid even if you are not sure whether you qualify. Some income and assets do not count against you. For example, owning your home will not stop you from getting Medicaid. You may find a Medicaid application at the following Web sites: DFCS: [www.dfcs.dhr.georgia.gov](http://www.dfcs.dhr.georgia.gov); DCH: [www.dch.ga.gov](http://www.dch.ga.gov) and DHR: [www.dhr.georgia.gov](http://www.dhr.georgia.gov). Go to <https://medicaid-help.org/Georgia-Qualifications> for eligibility criteria.

### 3. Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation

<http://www.lionslighthouse.org>

404-325-3630

The program has been expanded starting January 2015 to serve children 19 and under who are at 400% of federal poverty guidelines and below. There is a partnership with both Phonak and Oticon to help you obtain the best hearing aids or BAHAs possible for your children, and copayments have been reduced significantly effective January 1, 2018. You can read about

income qualifications and obtain an application form at <https://lionslighthouse.org/childrens-hearing-programs/>.

#### **4. UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation, Inc.**

[www.uhccf.org](http://www.uhccf.org)

1-855-698-4223

The UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charity dedicated to facilitating access to medical-related services that have the potential to significantly enhance either the clinical condition or the quality of life of the child and that are not fully covered by the available commercial health benefit plan. This "support" is in the form of a medical grant to be used for medical services not covered or not completely covered by commercial health benefit plans. You do not need to possess United Healthcare insurance to apply for funding.

#### **5. 20/20 Hearing**

<http://www.2020hearing.org>

(770) 841-5154

20/20 Hearing is an Atlanta based 501(c)(3) non-profit charity founded by Jack McConnell, a young man affected by hearing loss. He has used his hearing loss as a platform to help others. His organization works closely with the Lions Lighthouse and the UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation to assist families in providing technology and audiological care to children all over the world.

## Additional Funding Sources

If you are not eligible for the resources above, please try those below.

### AG Bell

[www.agbell.org](http://www.agbell.org)

AG Bell is a wonderful resource and often has scholarships that can assist your family. They also keep a list of resources for financial assistance at <http://www.agbell.org/Connect/Financial-Assistance-for-Hearing-Technology>. These resources are included in this document, but they may update it from time to time.

### Audient

<http://www.audientalliance.org/>

1-866-956-5400 x2

AUDIENT helps low-income people nationwide access quality hearing aids and related care at a significantly lower cost.

### CareCredit

<http://www.carecredit.com>

800-677-0718

CareCredit, a part of GE Capital, offers healthcare financing for consumers. Continued advancements in technology, and procedures that are often not covered or fully covered by insurance, have created new choices for care, increasing the demand for financing options. CareCredit is a healthcare credit card that can be used as a payment option for certain expenses not covered by insurance or to bridge situations when desired care exceeds insurance coverage.

### Children's Medical Services

<https://dph.georgia.gov/CMS>

404-657-2850

This is a public health program that can offer assistance with hearing aids for those financially eligible. Their mission is to provide a comprehensive system of healthcare for children and youth with eligible chronic medical condition from birth to twenty-one years of age.

### Deeming Waiver (also known as Katie Beckett)

678-248-7449

For more information on this process, see <http://dch.georgia.gov/>. Our understanding is that families were successful in securing these funds for their children's hearing aids in the past but that this has become more difficult in recent years.

### **Disabled Children's Relief Fund**

<https://rarediseases.org/organizations/disabled-childrens-relief-fund/>

516-377-1605

Disabled Children's Relief Fund is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that provides disabled children with assistance to obtain wheelchairs, orthopedic braces, walkers, lifts, hearing aids, eyeglasses, medical equipment, physical therapy, and surgery. Recipients are children who are blind, deaf, amputees, and those who have been diagnosed with disabilities. DCRF focuses special attention on helping children throughout the U.S. that do not have adequate health insurance, especially the physically challenged.

### **Easter Seals Champions for Children**

<http://www.championsforchildrenga.org>

1-866-584-3742

[info@swga-easterseals.org](mailto:info@swga-easterseals.org)

If you have been denied Medicaid and Katie-Beckett (Deeming Waiver) funding you should try this organization. Their charter is to provide direct financial assistance and support services for Georgia's medically fragile and special needs children and their families.

### **First Hand Foundation**

<https://www.firsthandfoundation.org>

(816) 201-1569

First Hand Foundation is a nonprofit organization that helps children with health-related needs when insurance and other financial resources have been exhausted. Their mission is to directly impact the health status of a young life.

### **Foundation for Sight and Sound - Help America Hear Program**

<https://www.foundationforsightandsound.org>

888-580-8886

The Foundation for Sight and Sound, through its *Help America Hear Program*, provides hearing aids for men, women, and children with limited financial resources.

### **Friends of Man**

<http://www.friendsofman.org/index.php>

303-798-2342

Friends of Man helps people of all ages with a large variety of needs including hearing aids.

### **Global Medical Relief Fund**

<http://www.globalmedicalrelieffund.org>

718-448-6984

The Global Medical Relief Fund partnered Let Georgia Hear to provide hearing aids for children in Georgia without insurance coverage. Income requirements are \$100,000 annual income for a family of four. An application can be downloaded at [http://www.letgeorgiahear.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Funding\\_Application-GMRF-Georgia-Childrens-Hearing-Aid-Fund.pdf](http://www.letgeorgiahear.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Funding_Application-GMRF-Georgia-Childrens-Hearing-Aid-Fund.pdf) which can be submitted to [info@letgeorgiahear.org](mailto:info@letgeorgiahear.org).

### **Georgia Families**

<https://www.georgia-families.com/>

1-888-423-6765

Georgia Families is the program for people in Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids that guides them in choosing a health plan and a Primary Care Provider. Most Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids members must enroll in Georgia Families and choose a health plan and a provider.

### **Georgia PINES**

[www.gapines.info](http://www.gapines.info)

404-300-5905

Georgia Parent/Infant Network for Educational Service. This is our statewide early intervention program for families of children birth to five years of age with diagnosed hearing impairment and/or vision loss. They *may* have access to *loaner* aids for your child.

### **Hearing Charities of America**

<https://hearingcharities.org>

1-816-333-8300

The purpose of Hearing Charities is to support those impacted by speech and hearing disorders by expanding awareness, volunteerism, and philanthropy in the communities Hearing Charities serves. The above link is a list of available resources for hearing aids.

### **The HIKE Fund, Inc. (Hearing Impaired Kids Endowment Fund)**

<http://www.thehikefund.org/>

Supported by Job's Daughters International, 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 this special need financially. Approximately 100 children are provided with hearing devices each year through this fund.

### **Katie Turner Memorial through UGA College of Education Foundation**

Contact Carol Ann Raymond / Clinic Director  
593 Aderhold Hall  
Athens, GA 30602  
706-542-4598

This is a foundation to aid in paying for children's (0-18 years old) hearing aids, assistive listening devices, FM systems and other related costs. This would include high cost devices such as hearing aids or lower cost devices such as bed shaker alarms. It is sponsored by the Turner family in memory of their daughter Katie.

### **Miles 4 Major**

<http://www.miles4major.com>

miles4major@gmail.com

Miles-4-Major is a non-profit organization that raises awareness and financial support for families who have young children with hearing loss and are in need of hearing aids. The application for funding is available on their website.

### **Miracle-Ear® Children's Foundation**

<https://www.miracle-ear.com/foundation-eligibility>

The Miracle-Ear® Children's Foundation serves and supports children who have a hearing loss by providing no-cost hearing aids and hearing support services to children whose families have incomes that are significantly limited and who are unable to afford the high costs of quality hearing instruments.

### **Oticon Loaner Bank**

<https://www.oticon.com/~media/oticon%20us/main/professionals/tools%20and%20support/peds%20loaner%20bank%20program%20brochure.pdf?la=en>

Oticon is a hearing aid manufacturer and their Loaner Bank is specifically for children age birth to 3 years of age. It is a loaner program and is designed for short-term use. You must apply for this service through a private audiologist.

### **PeachCare for Kids**

[www.peachcare.org](http://www.peachcare.org)

877-427-3224

If you apply for Medicaid for your children and learn they are not eligible, ask about PeachCare for Kids. You can apply online.

### **Starkey Hearing Foundation - Hear Now Program Hear Now**

<http://www.starkeyhearingfoundation.org/>

800-328-8602

This is a national non-profit program committed to assisting low income individuals permanently residing in the U.S. who are deaf or hard of hearing and have no other resources to acquire hearing aids.

### **Travelers Protective Association Scholarship Trust for the Hearing Impaired**

<http://www.tpahq.org/scholarshiptrust.html>

636-724-2227

The Travelers Protective Association of America established the TPA Scholarship Trust for the Hearing Impaired to provide financial aid to children and adults who suffer deafness or hearing impairment and who need assistance in obtaining mechanical devices, medical or specialized treatment or specialized education as well as speech classes, note takers, interpreters, etc. and in other areas of need that are directly related to hearing impairment.