

Please use the [club locator](#) on our website www.lionsclubs.org to contact a local club in or near your community. Simply enter the name of the town or city in which you're hoping to locate a Lions club, and all the clubs with that name in their title should be returned as part of your search results. Next to the club president's name, you may find an envelope icon, through which you may send a message to the club. In addition, some clubs have included a link to their club website, where you may find additional information about contacting the club.

You may also type the words Lions Club and your city and state into the internet search engine of your choice to locate a club.

In the event you learn that Lions are unable to provide assistance, in the U.S. you may wish to reach out to:

- Hear Now
800.328.8602
hearnow@starkeyfoundation.org www.starkeyhearingfoundation.org/hear-now
- Hearing Charities of America
Sertoma Headquarters
816-333-8300
www.sertoma.org (On their home page, there is a drop-down menu "Ways to Help." Select "Hearing Aid Resources." You can search for a Sertoma chapter in your state;
- explore the national resources:National Hearing Aid Project
(Provides a listing of national as well as state resources)
<http://www.hearingaidnations.org/resources/>
- If the senior is a Veteran, the V.A. covers hearing aids.

Others

Free Hearing Aids for the Elderly

[July 6, 2015 householdguardians](#)

Many hearing-impaired seniors living on a [fixed income](#) cannot afford the high cost of hearing aids, which, according to [Lions Club International](#), cost an average of \$3,600 each. What's more, very few [health insurance](#) policies pay for hearing aids and to the surprise of many, Medicare [does not provide coverage](#) for the devices or the exams required to fit them. Fortunately, organizations and institutions have been set up to provide relief to those who need it most.

Resources

If you're willing to do a little leg work, there are many organizations that can help you or your loved one afford hearing aids.

Your Audiologist

The best place to start looking for assistance is your audiologist. Ask if they know of any local nonprofit organizations that help seniors suffering from hearing loss obtain hearing aids at no charge. Local nonprofits sometimes offer assistance in the form of grants based on individual needs – even when they don't offer a specific hearing aid program.

AUDIENT

[AUDIENT](#) provides hearing care throughout the nation for low-income people through a network of hearing-care providers. Their services help provide access to quality hearing aids. Those looking for assistance can call their toll free number 1-866-956-5400. You can download the AUDIENT program application [here](#).

Hearing Loss Association of America

The [Hearing Loss Association of America](#) provides information about a number of financial aid assistance programs available to needy individuals, including the elderly. Although the association does not supply individuals with hearing aids, it acts as a repository of up to date information about a number of financial aid options including those for veterans and through Medicaid.

Lions Club International

Many local Lions Clubs participate in the [Lions Affordable Hearing Aid Project](#) (AHAP).

Potential recipients apply through their local Lions Club, which determines eligibility (based on income) and arranges testing by a hearing care professional. You can find your local Lions Club by using the Lions Club International [directory](#). Alternatively, you can contact Lions AHAP at (630) 203-3837 or by [e-mail](#). You can access the AHAP application form [online](#).

Sertoma

Sertoma helps people with hearing problems and runs a hearing aid recycling program known as [SHARP](#) (Sertoma Hearing Aid Recycling Program). Currently the SHARP program is active in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Nebraska. Contact your local Sertoma Club in those states for more information.

Starkey Hearing Foundation

The [Starkey Hearing Foundation](#) provides hearing aids for people with limited income under their [HEAR Now](#) program. Start by calling 1-800-328-8602 to speak with a consultant. Once you've spoken with a representative, you can download and fill out an [application](#).

Trial Programs

Contact hearing aid manufacturers and ask if there is a trial program, in which you can take part. They often seek individuals to help test their new hearing aid models while they are in

development. [Healthy Hearing](#) has a [list](#) of major manufacturers of hearing aids that can be used to make that initial contact.

Some Expert Tips

[Michelle Katz, LPN, MSN](#), author of [Healthcare Made Easy](#) and [Healthcare for Less](#) offers some additional tips for those seeking assistance obtaining free hearing aids:

- Make sure the physician or audiologist puts down the correct diagnosis. An incorrect or incomplete diagnosis can hold up or invalidate an application for financial aid.
- While private insurers rarely provide coverage for hearing aids, three states, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Arkansas require insurers to provide coverage for adults. Be sure to check your private insurance for coverage – especially if live in one of the three “mandate” states.
- Some states include some coverage for hearing aids and related services, under their [health insurance exchanges](#) run under the Affordable Care Act.
- In addition, double-check on the Department of Health and Human Services since the ACA will be going through more changes and free hearing aids may be included.
- Organizations such as [The National Institute on Deafness](#) and the [Better Hearing Institute](#) are also helpful.

Even though most insurance companies do not provide coverage for hearing aids, there are still a lot of options to make sure that seniors have affordable access to audiology care.