



# Hearing Aid Assistance

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Possible funding sources to assist you in purchasing your new hearing aid(s)

## You need A Hearing Aid. Now what?

### HELPFUL TIPS

1. Make an appointment with a Hearing Health Care Provider for a hearing aid evaluation (look in the phone book under “hearing aids”). They will direct you towards the hearing aid(s) that are most suitable to your listening needs and you will find out how much the hearing aids you need cost.
2. If you can not afford a hearing aid, please notify your Audiologist/Hearing Health Care Provider as they may be able to direct you to some form of financial help or work out a payment plan option instead of paying for it all upfront.
3. Ask your Hearing Health Care Provider if they have used or discontinued hearing aids that can be purchased.

The cost of a hearing aid(s) can depend on the size, style, your hearing loss, and any other additional features. Remember when buying any hearing aid, the buyer should be given 30 days to try the aid before having to buy it outright.

### IN NOVA SCOTIA

Hearing aids for children up to 21 years of age (who are in an educational setting) are provided at wholesale cost through the Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority (APSEA). If you need more help covering the cost, tell your hearing health care provider. They can provide contact information for other organizations that might be able to help (such as Q104 Trust Fund or local clubs/charities).

## OTHER OPTIONS

If you are an adult with a hearing loss and cannot afford hearing aids, there may be other options.

- 1. Group Health Insurance Plans:** You or your spouse may have an employer insurance plan which may provide Extended Health Benefits for you and your dependents to cover some or all of the expenses related to the purchase of the aid or device. Find this out before you make an appointment for a hearing aid evaluation.
- 2. Veterans Affairs Canada:** Provides health care benefits and services to veterans and members of the Canadian Armed Forces, members and ex-members of the RCMP, and their dependents. Services and benefits can include payment for hearing aids, medical supplies, and medical travel). Contact the Regional Office for more information or [www.vac-acc.gc.ca](http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca).
- 3. WCB (Worker's Compensation Board):** This Board may go by a different name in each province but they provide generally the same services. They offer no-fault insurance for employers and their workers and provide disability benefits, including hearing health care services and the purchase of hearing aids. The hearing loss must be related to a workplace injury, and there may be a time limit to make your claim after the injury.
- 4. Charities/Clubs:** Many organizations assist low-income individuals, children and youth with purchasing hearing aids including but not limited to: *The Elks Club, The Lion's Club, the Kiwanis Club, The Abilities Foundation, Fleet Club Atlantic, and/or Disability Scholarships for students*. Contact any one of these organizations for more **information on how to apply for assistance**.
- 5. Service Canada:** The Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities can help eligible participants to pay all or a portion of the cost of expenses related to getting a hearing aid if it is related to starting your own business, increasing your employment skills, and/or getting back into the workplace. [Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities - Canada.ca](http://Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities - Canada.ca).
- 6. Social Services:** You and/or your dependents may be eligible for a subsidy or the full cost of hearing tests, hearing aids, supplies (such as batteries), devices and related services. You must apply to the programs before buying anything to determine if you are eligible. For more information go to [Income Assistance \(IA\) | Special Needs Assistance \(novascotia.ca\)](http://Income Assistance (IA) | Special Needs Assistance (novascotia.ca)).

7. **Hearing Aid Manufacturers:** Help may be available from some manufacturers. Ask your Audiologist or Hearing Health Care Provider for funding sources, or about the possibility of manufacturer discounts, donations or clinical trials (such as the “Starkey Foundation”).
8. **Dalhousie Hearing Aid Assistance Program – Community Service:** [Dalhousie Hearing Aid Assistance Program Community Services](#)
9. **First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB):** If you are eligible for FNIHB Non-Insured Health Benefits (status card), hearing aids and accessories is one of the covered benefits for you and your eligible dependents. [Non-insured health benefits for First Nations and Inuit \(sac-isc.gc.ca\)](#)

## WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

**Be Creative:** Consider partial funding from several sources operating jointly. Other possible combinations may include all of the above-mentioned programs, and benefits covered by your spouse under a different program.

**University/College Students:** Please check with your student services office for possible financial and educational assistance.

### Thanks to:

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association & Speech-Language & Audiology Canada for information from their websites.