

Funding

Read applications through carefully to decide if your family is eligible to apply. Following this section is information on programs (i.e., Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL)) for which your child or family may be eligible. Please be aware you must usually apply to programs **before** making any purchases to determine your eligibility. You may also have to consider partial funding from several sources.

Many applications may require the same documentation (be sure to have copies), such as:

1. Copy of identification of parent/guardian.
2. Proof of residency or citizenship.
3. Cost estimate or quote for hearing devices.
4. Prescription for hearing aids from audiologist or physician.
5. Verification of income.
6. Letter from family/audiologist/physician explaining the need for funding (**sample provided below**).
7. Recent audiogram.

Also consider group, personal and extended health insurance plans or benefits, such as Alberta Blue Cross or Sun Life, which often includes limited coverage for hearing devices, alerting systems, and other services (i.e., speech-language pathologist, etc.). Depending on their employment coverage, parents may have access to more than one plan.

If you are eligible for First Nations and Inuit Health (FNIHB) Non-Insured Health Benefits, hearing devices and accessories are one of the covered benefits for you and your eligible dependents.

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 include financial assistance

for healthcare (including hearing devices, special equipment and home adaptations). Contact your Regional Office for more information.

Clinics or manufacturers may offer monthly payment plans for patients and assistance for families or individuals with low income to purchase devices or equipment. Ask your dispensing audiologist about funding sources or the possibility of manufacturer discounts, donations or clinical trials.

Local agencies serving people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing may also know about local and other resources, provincial assistive technology programs, and provincial financial assistance programs for persons with disabilities. Many organizations (charities or clubs) also assist individuals, children and youth with low income with purchasing hearing aids, including but not limited to:

- Elks and Royal Purple Fund for Children, The
- Easter Seals of Canada
- Jeremy Chiao Foundation
- Kiwanis Clubs
- Lion's Hearing Aid Bank, The
- March of Dimes
- Optimist Club's Help Them Hear Program, The
- Quota International
- Rotary Clubs
- Royal Legion of Canada, The
- Royal Purple of Canada, The
- Sertoma International

-Adapted from <http://www.chha.ca/chha/projects-funding.php>

The following is a list of guidelines describing what usually needs to be included in a letter of medical necessity that describes the need for funding (often required with funding applications):

- Name of the child, names of parents
- Child's date of birth
- Relevant diagnosis or diagnoses
- Item/service requested along with quote or cost
- Why the item/service is medically necessary (refer to the organization's definition if available)
- Identify positive/negative impacts that the item/service will provide (including the financial impacts as well as functional impacts)
- Scope and duration of treatments
- Supplemental documents (letters from providers, research articles, product information, etc.)
- Funding sources NOT able to support child
- Terms to use: medically necessary, clinically-based, promoting independence, preventing secondary disability, cost-effective, safety, training period

Sample Letter of Medical Necessity:

Name of Organization

Address

RE: Child's name, Date of Birth; Parents' names

To Whom It May Concern:

Jill Smith is a 7-year-old girl who has a profound sensorineural hearing loss in both ears and has been using (insert brand name) hearing aids since mm/dd/yy. She has recently had a progression in her hearing loss from 85 to 95 decibels throughout the tested frequencies, and the (insert brand name) hearing aids can no longer give enough amplification of speech sounds to allow this child access to speech perception.

In order for Jill to access education in her mainstream second grade classroom, it is medically necessary to provide more amplification through the (insert brand name) digital hearing aids. Jill has completed a trial session with these aids on, and was able to hear at 90% accuracy in noise, compared to 30% accuracy with her older hearing aids. Jill has been a conscientious hearing aid user, and these past aids are still functional, but are no longer appropriate for her diagnosis.

Jill will need a minimum of three appointments to fit the hearing aids, and assess function at least twice over the next year. Then we will continue with our annual hearing assessment plan unless problems are noted. During those appointments, Jill and her parents will be instructed in the customizable programs for the aids, as well as given assessments and programming for hearing in quiet, noise, distance, and with the use of the FM system.

If you have any questions regarding this request for authorization for the recommended hearing aids, please do not hesitate to contact me.

NAME

NAME Audiologist

NAME Physician

- From Colorado Families for Hands & Voices, Parent Funding Toolkit, 2013

Funding Sources

Fund & Organization	Description, Eligibility & Application Information
Alberta Aids for Daily Living (AADL) <i>See attached article.</i> Alberta Health www.health.alberta.ca/	The Alberta government helps subsidize the cost of hearing aids and other assistive equipment. http://www.health.alberta.ca/documents/AADL-Hearing-Aid-brochure.pdf http://www.health.alberta.ca/services/aids-to-daily-living.html
Alberta Health Services Alberta Health www.health.alberta.ca/	Funding for assessments and specialized treatment such as cochlear implants and bone anchored hearing devices. www.albertahealthservices.ca/ Contact your community audiology service provider for more information.
AG Bell Financial Aid Programs Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing www.listeningandspokenlanguage.org/	Through advocacy, education, research and financial aid, AG Bell helps to ensure that every child and adult with hearing loss has the opportunity to listen, talk and thrive in mainstream society. http://www.listeningandspokenlanguage.org/Tertiary.aspx?id=2102
Campbell McLaurin Foundation Burns Memorial Fund http://www.burnsfund.com/	Helps individuals with low income in Southern Alberta (from Red Deer southward) with the cost of hearing aids. http://www.burnsfund.com/programs/campbell-mclaurin-foundation/
Charitable Foundation of the Family Charitable Foundation of the Family http://www.familycharity.ca/	Is a grassroots organization focused on helping others in their moment of need. They look to partner with agencies to find the best, most resourceful and self-sustaining methods to help those in need. http://www.familycharity.ca/
Children's Ability Fund Children's Ability Fund http://www.childrensabilityfund.ca/	Provides funding to enhance the independence of children with disabilities throughout northern Alberta. http://childrensabilityfund.ca/
Cochlear Implant Funding Assistance Program Canadian Hard of Hearing Association – Calgary Branch http://www.chha-calgary.ca/	Funding assistance to help offset the operational costs of cochlear implants for individuals who reside in Alberta, and are on a low or fixed income. http://www.chha-calgary.ca/resources/funding/
CTV Good Neighbour Fund CTV http://www.goodneighbourfund.ca/	Considers limited assistance to those individuals/families requiring support in exceptional cases not covered by other funding. http://www.goodneighbourfund.ca/
Disability Related Employment Supports (DRES) Alberta Human Services http://humanservices.alberta.ca/	Provides assistance to Albertans (aged 16 and over) in job search, workplace and educational supports to overcome barriers created by their disability. http://humanservices.alberta.ca/working-in-alberta/3159.html
Hearing Aid Assistance Fund (HAAF) Canadian Hard of Hearing Association – Edmonton Branch www.chha-ed.com/	The HAAF fund endeavors to assist disadvantaged Hard of Hearing individuals to purchase or repair hearing aids. http://www.chha-ed.com/funds/funds.html

<p>H.I.K.E. Fund Hearing Impaired Kids Equipment (H.I.K.E.) Fund www.thehikefund.org/</p>	<p>Provides funding for hearing aids and other assistive equipment for Hard of Hearing children (birth to age twenty). www.thehikefund.org/</p>
<p>Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) <i>See attached article.</i> Alberta Disability Services http://humanservices.alberta.ca/disability-services.html</p>	<p>Provides a wide range of services meant to help strengthen and promote healthy development and encourage a child’s participation in activities at home and in the community. http://humanservices.alberta.ca/disability-services/14855.html</p>
<p>President’s Choice Children’s Charity President’s Choice www.presidentschoice.ca/</p>	<p>Supports children with special needs by providing financial grants for essential specialized equipment and essential therapies. http://www.presidentschoice.ca/en_CA/community/pccc.html</p>
<p>Program Unit Funding (PUF) <i>See attached article.</i> Alberta Education https://education.alberta.ca/</p>	<p>Provided by Alberta Education to school authorities for children in Early Childhood Services (ECS) programs. http://education.alberta.ca/admin/supportingstudent/schoolleaders/ecs.aspx</p>
<p>Child Disability Benefit (CDB) Canada Revenue Agency www.cra-arc.gc.ca/</p>	<p>Is a tax-free benefit for families who care for a child under age 18 who is eligible for the disability amount. http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/bnfts/dsblty-eng.html</p>
<p>Disability Tax Credit (DTC) Canada Revenue Agency www.cra-arc.gc.ca/</p>	<p>To provide for greater tax equity by allowing some relief for disability costs, since these are unavoidable additional expenses that other taxpayers don’t have to face. http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/sgmnts/dsblts/dtc/menu-eng.html</p>
<p>Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) Canada Revenue Agency www.cra-arc.gc.ca/</p>	<p>Is a long-term savings plan to help Canadians with disabilities and their families save for the future. If you have an RDSP, you may also be eligible for grants and bonds to help with your long-term savings. http://www.esdc.gc.ca/eng/disability/savings/index.shtml</p>