

**Report of the
Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program**

**Submitted to
Governor Martin O'Malley
And the
The Maryland General Assembly**

December 31, 2011

**Maryland State Department of Education
Division of Special Education/
Early Intervention Services**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the 2011 Maryland General Assembly Session, Senate Bill 754 was authorized, establishing a Permanent Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program in the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). This bill charged the MSDE with the implementation and maintenance of the Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank, including the purchase and maintenance of suitable hearing aids for loan, and carrying out the process of loaning hearing aids to eligible infants and toddlers up to the age of three (3) years.

The Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank was initially established in the MSDE in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2002, to create a bridge between early identification and early intervention for infants and toddlers with hearing loss and their families. The statutory provisions establishing the original program terminated June 30, 2004; however, the MSDE continued to operate a Hearing Aid Loan Bank beyond the date of the original statute due to the need for this critical resource.

Through the Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program, families of infants and toddlers with confirmed hearing loss who do not have insurance coverage for hearing aids, or who are experiencing delays in obtaining or purchasing aids, can obtain hearing aids from the bank for a period of up to six months. The Hearing Aid Loan Bank ensures that children up to the age of three (3) years have access to maximum auditory input during the most critical period of language development.

This Annual Report for the Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank serves to inform the State General Assembly of the status of the Program. The report includes details regarding the numbers and ages of children served this year, the Maryland counties from which referrals were generated, the length of each original loan and/or loan extension, and the number of children who subsequently received permanent hearing aids or a cochlear implant through Medicaid, the Maryland Children's Health Program, or private insurance. In addition, this report outlines projected Program Enhancements for SFY 2012. The current Program applications, policies and procedures, and the Program brochure are also included in the Appendices of this report.

“The service is a great asset. It is a valuable tool that allowed better evaluation of our child’s course of treatment. It was appreciated that the hearing aids did not have to be purchased only to find out that it would not help my child. It reduces the monetary stress temporarily and allowed us to focus on what was important, our child’s development. Thank you so much.”

Parent Testimonial

Historical Overview

Infants and toddlers with hearing loss do not have full access to communication through the auditory channel of hearing. Even mild hearing loss can significantly affect receptive and expressive language and educational performance. The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders reports that the earlier deafness or hearing loss is identified, the better the chances a child will acquire language, whether it be spoken or signed. In addition, when intervention to address hearing loss occurs at an early age, the child can benefit from exposure and perception of sound within his/her environment during the first few years of life. Studies have found that early amplification of hearing through the use of hearing aids or cochlear implants is essential to support emerging language skills, cognitive skills, and healthy social/emotional development, all of which form a solid foundation for school readiness and success. The Hearing Aid Loan Bank was formed to provide essential services to meet the needs of deaf and hard of hearing children in the state of Maryland before they enter the formal educational environment.

Following passage of the original bill establishing the Bank, initial efforts for the Hearing Aid Loan Bank in SFY 2002 focused on recruiting and hiring an audiologist with clinical pediatric experience. Before the recruitment and interviewing process could be completed, the State hiring freeze went into effect, prohibiting the use of State funding to support the positions of Program Director and Office Secretary. Although the Department requested and was granted an Exception Request to hire a federally funded Program Director, as a result of the State hiring freeze there was a considerable delay in hiring qualified staff to facilitate Program activities. In SFY 2002 the MSDE was able to hire a licensed audiologist to assume the role as Program Director, who served in this capacity from SFY 2002- SFY 2008.

In March of SFY 2011, Dr. Kathleen Heck joined the Department as the Lead Technical Specialist for Low Incidence Disabilities and Resources, and assumed the management of the Loan Bank. Dr. Heck is a nationally certified and Maryland licensed speech-language pathologist with a background in speech, language, and hearing. While Dr. Heck oversees the Program, an effort is currently underway to contract the services of a licensed audiologist on a part-time basis to assist in the management of the Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program.

Program Data

The Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank began its eighth year of operation in January 2011. This seventh Annual Report for the Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank describes the status of this program between July 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011. At the time of this report, nine (9) infants and toddlers have requested and received hearing aids from the Loan Bank since July 1, 2011. Each child is eligible to retain the loaned hearing aids for up to six (6) months. Loan

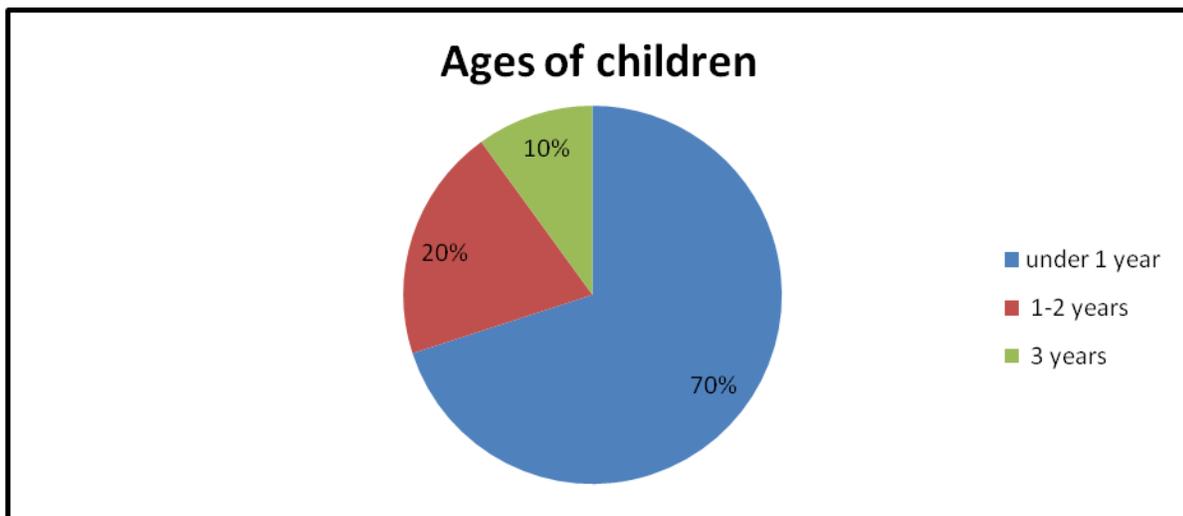
extensions may be granted after the initial loan, for three (3) month intervals. The following tables reflect detailed information about the hearing aids loaned to families.

I. The number and ages of children who received hearing aids through the Hearing Aid Loan Bank July 1- December 31, 2011

The chart below represents the number of referrals to the Hearing Aid Loan Bank by Maryland county between July 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011.

COUNTY	FAMILIES REFERRED
Anne Arundel	1
Frederick	5
Montgomery	1
Prince Georges	2
Total = 9 (Children served)	9

The chart below represents the ages of the children who received hearing aids from the Hearing Aid Loan Bank between July 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011.



II. The number of children who received hearing aids through the program since July 1, 2011 and subsequently received hearing aids through Medicaid, the Maryland Children’s Health Program, or private insurance

Currently all nine (9) children who have received hearing aids are still in possession of the loaned aids and have yet to receive permanent aids or cochlear implants.

III. The length of each original loan

The chart below highlights the number of hearing aids loaned each month July 1 – December 31, 2011, and the length of each loan to a child/family as of December 2011.

Month Loan Originated	July	August	September	October	November	December
Number of Hearing Aids Loaned	3	0	0	3	2	1
Length of Each Loan in Months	3 hearing aids loaned in July for 5 months as of December 2011	0	0	3 hearing aids loaned in October for 2 months as of December 2011	2 hearing aids loaned in November for 1 month as of December 2011	1 hearing aid loaned in December

IV. The number of times that each original loan was extended and the length of each loan extension.

Between the dates of July 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011 there were no requests for loan extensions.

V. The number of times that hearing aids were not properly returned to the loan bank

Eight hearing aids have been returned to the Hearing Aid Loan Bank since July 1, 2011. All of the returned hearing aids were loaned prior to July 1, 2011, and were returned within the acceptable six month period. Hearing aids loaned since July 1, 2011 are still out on loan and within the original loan period.

VI. Additional information that the State Superintendent believes is relevant to evaluating the costs and benefits of the program

Hearing Aid Loan Distribution Summary for the period

July 1, 2011- December 31, 2011

- *Seventeen (17) hearing aids were loaned to nine (9) eligible infants and toddlers.*
- *The age of hearing aid recipients ranged from two (2) months to three (3) years old.*
- *Six (6) children under one (1) year of age received hearing aids; two (2) children between one (1) and two (2) years of age received hearing aids, and one (1) child who was three (3) years of age received hearing aids.*
- *Within six (6) months of age four (4) infants were referred to the Hearing Aid Loan Bank.*
- *Eight (8) families who received loaned aids prior to July 1, 2011 returned fifteen (15) hearing aids to the Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program.*
- *A total of nine (9) families are using hearing aids on loan at the time of this report.*
- *In the six (6) month period from July 1, 2011- December 31, 2011 no requests for hearing aid loan extensions were received.*

Cost Impact

As noted in the fiscal estimate, the chart below lists the projected funding costs to operate the Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program in SFY 2012 and SFY 2013:

Funding Summary	SFY 2012 Funds Available	SFY 2013 Funds Requested
General Funds		\$20,200
Other Funds (Federal)	\$15,000	
Total	\$15,000	

The chart below lists the actual costs by line item for SFY 2012 and projected costs for SFY 2013 including staff salaries for one full-time program manager and one part-time audiologist, equipment replacement (specifically, updated hearing aid technology), program outreach, program enhancement, and administrative support costs.

Costs	SFY 2012 <i>Actual</i>	SFY 2013 <i>Projected</i>
*Project Manager	\$21,201	\$42,402
Part-Time Audiologist	Position Vacant	\$15,150
Outreach	\$0	\$2,000
Equipment	\$0	\$5,050

Funds were exhausted in SFY 2012 as projected. In order to keep the program operational, the Program Manager was tasked with assuming the administrative functions that would have been assigned to the part-time audiologist.

* Program Manager payroll costs provided through MSDE using Federal funds for the period covering July 1, 2011- December 31, 2011.

Community Based Partnerships

The Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank is a vital link between hearing screenings and early intervention services, and works with other agencies within the State to address the needs of the infant and toddler population. Each year the Maryland Infant Hearing Program (IHP) serves as a critical community-based partner in identifying approximately 50-80 infants with permanent hearing loss. These children are diagnosed through a series of hearing screenings administered through the state funded Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program. Through a collaborative partnership the Loan Bank, IHP, and EHDI Programs all provide a valuable service to infants and toddlers with hearing loss and their families.

“My son needed a cochlear implant because hearing aids were not enough for him to hear. However, we think that the program you have is wonderful, as our son still needed hearing aids first in order to be considered for a cochlear implant. We are very grateful, pleased, and humbled by all of the help we received.”

Parent Testimonial

Public Awareness and Outreach Campaign

Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank information may currently be accessed on the Internet through two websites, which are the Maryland State Department of Education, www.marylandpublicschools.org, and the Early Childhood Gateway, www.mdecgateway.org. In addition, the Loan Bank continues to be linked to the State of Maryland Newborn Screening

Advisory Council and the Maryland Advisory Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Interagency collaboration and support will continue to be provided to facilitate services to families throughout the State.

Program Enhancements

The following activities outline the targeted program enhancements for SFY 2012:

I. Update Hearing Aid Inventory

Goal: Provide an updated inventory of hearing aids that have current technology. A portion of the Hearing Aid Loan Bank's inventory of hearing aids will be replaced with current state-of-the-art technology hearing aid instruments, including digital behind-the-ear (BTE) hearing aids and Baha softband sound processors.

Strategy:

- Purchase and replace hearing aid inventory at the rate of eight (8) hearing aids per year.

Outcome Measure:

- Increase in the overall number of current technology hearing aids that are available to serve the targeted population.

II. Public Awareness and Outreach Campaign

Goal: Educate and inform parents and professionals about the Program through outreach activities.

Strategy:

- Information about the Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program will be added to the new Maryland Learning Links website. Links to the recently revised and updated Program brochure, fact sheet, and applications will be provided.
- The Program brochure will be translated into Spanish and disseminated statewide.

Outcome Measures:

- Increased Internet accessibility of Program information.
- Increased access to Program information for Maryland's Spanish-speaking population.

III. Enhanced Data Tracking System

Goal: Provide procedures and tools to monitor outcomes of the Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program.

Strategy:

- Develop a Family Survey and an Audiologist Survey to be sent to the families and audiologists who use the Hearing Aid Loan Bank.

Outcome Measure:

- Facilitate collection and tracking of pertinent information resulting from the provision of amplification to infants and toddlers through the Hearing Aid Loan Bank. Report data will be shared with the Governor, the Maryland General Assembly, the Assistant State Superintendent of the Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services, and other interested stakeholders.

IV. Provide Technical Assistance to Community-Based Groups and Infant and Toddler Service Providers

Goal: Educate community-based groups and local infant and toddler service providers about the Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program and the importance of early identification of hearing loss.

Strategies:

- Work closely with community-based groups and local infant and toddler service providers to promote awareness of the Hearing Aid Loan Bank services.
- Provide two presentations per quarter to community or parent groups, and infant and toddler providers.
- Distribute Hearing Aid Loan Bank brochures and fact sheets to infant and toddler service providers.

Outcome Measures:

- Increased community awareness and knowledge regarding the importance of early detection, early intervention, and early amplification for infants and toddlers with hearing loss.
- Increased knowledge and outreach efforts to promote the availability and the benefits of the Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program.

Summary

The Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program has proven to be a vital and successful service to infants and toddlers with hearing loss and their families. The Hearing Aid Loan Bank has assisted two hundred and fifty (250) families across the state since May 2003. The MSDE recognizes the importance of laying an adequate foundation for school readiness, educational development, and success through early intervention. There continues to be a need for the services of the Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program. The program provides hearing aids to families without insurance, as well as those who have limited insurance or who are experiencing financial hardship.

The MSDE remains committed to the implementation of the Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program through enhanced program support and funding. We are grateful to the Maryland Legislature for the continued support of the program, and we look forward to continuing the partnership on behalf of infants and toddlers with hearing loss and their families.

APPENDICES

I. Program Brochure

II. Program Fact Sheet

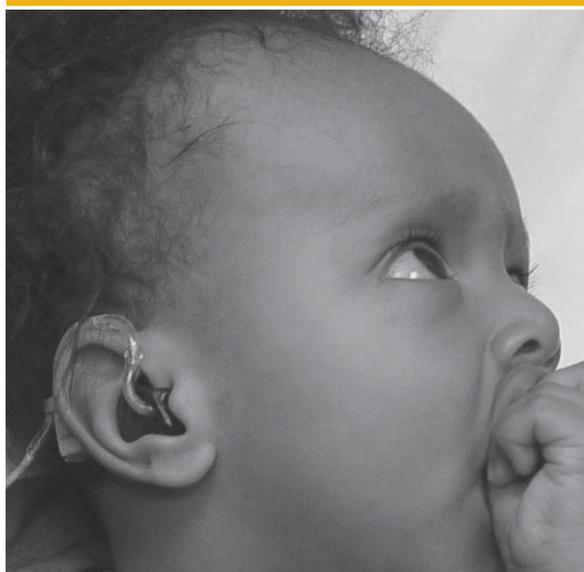
III. Program Application

IV. Program Loan Extension Application

V. Program Policies and Procedures

Why hearing aids?

Studies have provided evidence that early amplification for a child with hearing loss (prior to a child reaching 6 months of age) may increase the child's language ability over time.



The Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank provides access to amplification as soon as possible after a diagnosis of hearing loss in an infant or toddler. This is essential for emerging language and healthy social-emotional development—the foundation for school readiness and success.

More Resources for Families

The Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program provides early intervention services and support to young children with disabilities and their families. For information on early intervention services in Maryland, please call the number listed below for your county.

Allegany	301-759-2415
Anne Arundel	410-222-6911
Baltimore City	410-396-1666
Baltimore County	410-887-2169
Calvert	410-414-7034
Caroline	410-479-3246
Carroll	410-876-4437, x277
Cecil	410-996-5444
Charles	301-609-6808
Dorchester	410-221-1111, x1023
Frederick	301-600-1611
Garrett	301-334-1189
Harford	410-638-3823
Howard	410-313-7017
Kent	410-778-7164
Montgomery	240-777-3997
Prince George's	301-265-8415
Queen Anne's	410-758-0720, x4456
Somerset	410-623-2037
St. Mary's	301-475-4393
Talbot	410-820-0319
Washington	301-766-8217
Wicomico	410-677-5250
Worcester	410-632-5033

Maryland School for the Deaf 410-480-4545
Maryland School for the Blind 410-444-5000

Maryland State Department of Education
Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services
200 West Baltimore Street, 9th floor, Baltimore, MD 21201
410-767-0244 phone • 1-800-535-0182 toll free
410-333-8165 fax • www.MarylandPublicSchools.org

James H. DeGraffenreid, Jr., President
Maryland State Board of Education

Bernard J. Sadusky, Interim State Superintendent of Schools

Marcella Franczkowski, Assistant State Superintendent
Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services

Martin O'Malley, Governor

8/11

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The Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank

Bridging the Gap to Communication

For Infants and Toddlers with Hearing Loss



Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services

For infants and toddlers ages birth to 3 years with hearing loss, the **Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank** provides an important bridge *from early identification to full participation in early intervention.*

Questions and Answers About the Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank

How do we know if a child needs hearing aids? If a child fails the newborn screening at birth *and* a one month follow-up rescreen, then additional testing will be conducted by an audiologist to confirm the severity of hearing loss and the need for hearing aids.

Hearing aids are expensive. What if a child needs hearing aids but the family is not able to obtain them? The Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank may be able to help—by providing hearing aids on a temporary basis to infants and toddlers ages birth to 3 years with confirmed hearing loss. Through the Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank families may access hearing aids if their insurance does not provide coverage for hearing aids *or* if the family is experiencing delays in obtaining or purchasing aids.

How does a family borrow hearing aids from the Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank?

Once an audiologist recommends hearing aids for a child, a *Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank Application* can be completed by the audiologist together with the child's family. The application may be obtained online at www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/earlyinterv/Special_Ed_Info or by calling 1-800-535-0182 or faxing 410-333-8165.

Are the hearing aids sent to the child's family? Since hearing aids are highly-technical prescribed electronic devices, they are sent directly to the audiologist for fine tuning and fitting, as needed.

How often will a child need new aids? A child may need new hearing aids every three to five years. Ear molds for hearing aids may need to be replaced about every two to three months.

How long can a child keep hearing aids from the Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank? The standard length of time is 6 months. However, a loan extension, in 3-month intervals, may



be requested by the child's parents through the audiologist. A loan extension request form may be obtained online at www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/earlyinterv/Special_Ed_Info or by calling 1-800-535-0182 or faxing 410-333-8165.

Are hearing aids the only help a child with hearing loss may require? In addition to hearing aids, a child may require extensive language stimulation and various communication options from parents and providers. Resources can be explored through local Infants and Toddlers Programs that provide early intervention services and supports for young children with disabilities and their families. (*See back cover for details.*)

For more information about the Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank, call toll free: 1-800-535-0182.

Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank

Purpose

The Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank was created to provide infants and toddlers up to the age of three years immediate access to hearing aids following confirmation of hearing loss by an Audiologist. A six-month loan period may be granted to provide parents, or legal guardians of infants and toddlers, adequate time to secure permanent amplification through personal resources, insurance, or community assistance programs.

Background

The State made a significant commitment to the early intervention of congenital hearing loss by passing legislation in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2002 to create a Hearing Aid Loan Bank for the purpose of providing early intervention for infants and toddlers with hearing loss. The Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank was established to create a bridge between early identification and early intervention for infants and toddlers with hearing loss and their families. In May 2011, the Maryland State Legislature passed Senate Bill 754 / House Bill 1013 - *State Department of Education - Permanent Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program - Establishment and Operation* establishing a permanent Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program in the Maryland State Department of Education.

Summary

Access to amplification as soon as possible after a diagnosis of hearing loss in an infant or toddler is crucial to language and healthy social/emotional development that are the foundation for school readiness and success. The Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank provides hearing aid technology to families of infants and toddlers with confirmed hearing loss, who do not have insurance coverage for hearing aids and/or experience delays in obtaining or purchasing aids. In addition, those in need of hearing aids for cochlear implant candidacy may obtain devices on a temporary basis.

Contact Information

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Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services
Maryland State Department of Education
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Baltimore, MD 21201
(410) 767-0739
kheck@msde.state.md.us

Miriam Jefferson
Secretary
(410) 767-7548
mjefferson@msde.state.md.us

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services
October 2011



**MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Division of Special Education/ Early Intervention Services**

**MARYLAND HEARING AID LOAN BANK
HEARING AID LOAN APPLICATION FORM**

The purpose of this program is to provide temporary hearing aids for children with hearing loss **up to the age of 3** while they are waiting to receive their personal amplification devices. Please contact the **Hearing Aid Loan Bank at 410-767-0739 (voicemail accessible)**, if you have any questions.

Please complete Parts A-D of this application and return to:

**Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services
Student Achievement & Professional Development Branch
Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street, 9th Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2595
ATTN: Kathleen Heck
Phone: (410) 767-0739 Fax: (410) 333-8165**

The information contained on this form will be kept confidential.

PART A

Audiologist's Information

Name: _____

MD Audiology License #: _____ Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

Child's Information

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian's Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

**Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank
Hearing Aid Loan Application Form**

PART B

To be completed by the referring audiologist

In order for this request to be processed, a copy of any audiologic testing, medical clearance from the child's ENT, and an agreement form signed by the parent or legal guardian must be provided with this application. Please make copies or fax, as this paperwork will not be returned.

Was this child referred to you based upon failure of the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening protocol? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, from which hospital _____

What is the configuration and degree of hearing loss?

Is this a binaural or monaural fitting? _____

Please indicate the make and model of hearing aid that you would recommend for this child, numbering preferences 1-3. While we cannot guarantee the exact make and model, please be assured that every attempt will be made to match your request.

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____

Please specify color of the hearing aid needed: _____ Please note that every attempt will be made to provide the recommended color.

The hearing aid(s) will be sent to the requesting audiologist within three (3) days of receiving the application and required documentation.

Audiologist Signature

Date

**Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank
Hearing Aid Loan Application Form**

PART C

To be completed by the parent or legal guardian

1. Please describe why you cannot provide immediate access to hearing aids for your child.

2. Do you currently have insurance coverage to secure permanent hearing aids for your child? If yes, have you contacted your insurance company to apply for hearing aids? Please indicate the insurance company name, and the status of your contact.

3. Are you currently eligible for Medical Assistance? If yes, have you contacted Medical Assistance to apply for hearing aids?

4. Do you need information regarding resources to secure permanent hearing aids?

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

Date

Address

Phone

**Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank
Hearing Aid Loan Application Form**

PART D

HEARING AID LOAN AGREEMENT

_____ I agree that my child will receive (a) loaned hearing aid (s) from the Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank, located in the Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services.

_____ I agree to provide a brief statement indicating the reason assistance from the Loan Bank is requested.

_____ I agree that it is my responsibility to maintain and care for the hearing aid (s) and that I will be responsible for any loss or damage not covered by the hearing aid warranty up to \$100.00. This excludes normal wear and tear.

_____ I agree that my child will have use of this/these hearing aid (s) for up to 6 months. If my child has not received his/her personal amplification device (s) within that time, I may extend the loan period by three (3) months, by completing an extension agreement.

_____ I agree to seek permanent hearing aid(s) or a cochlear implant for my child.

_____ I agree that when my child receives his/her personal amplification device(s), I will return the loaned hearing aid(s) to my child's audiologist, to be returned to the Loan Bank.

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date

**MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Division of Special Education/ Early Intervention Services**

**MARYLAND HEARING AID LOAN BANK
HEARING AID LOAN EXTENSION FORM**

The purpose of this program is to provide temporary hearing aids for children with hearing loss **under the age of 3** while they are waiting to receive their personal amplification devices. Please contact the **Hearing Aid Loan Bank at 410-767-0739 (voicemail accessible)**, if you have any questions.

This application is for the purpose of extending the initial six-month loan for a period of three-months.

Please complete Parts A-C of this application and return to:
**Maryland State Department of Education
Student Achievement & Professional Development, 9th Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
ATTN: Nicole Bradley
Phone: (410) 767-0244 Fax: (410) 333-8165**

The information contained on this form will be kept confidential.

PART A

Child's Information

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian's Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

2. Do you need information regarding resources to secure permanent hearing aids?

**Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank
Hearing Aid Loan Extension Form**

PART C

HEARING AID LOAN EXTENSION AGREEMENT

_____ I AGREE THAT MY CHILD WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE (A) LOANED HEARING AID(S) FROM THE MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION/EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES.

_____ I AGREE TO PROVIDE A BRIEF STATEMENT INDICATING THE REASON ASSISTANCE FROM THE LOAN BANK IS REQUESTED.

_____ I AGREE THAT IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN AND CARE FOR THE HEARING AID(S) AND THAT I WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE NOT COVERED BY THE HEARING AID WARRANTY UP TO \$100.00. THIS EXCLUDES NORMAL WEAR AND TEAR.

_____ I AGREE THAT MY CHILD WILL HAVE USE OF THIS/THESE HEARING AID(S) FOR UP TO 6 MONTHS. IF MY CHILD HAS NOT RECEIVED HIS/HER PERSONAL AMPLIFICATION WITHIN THAT TIME, I MAY EXTEND THE LOAN PERIOD BY 3-MONTHS, BY COMPLETING AN EXTENSION AGREEMENT.

_____ I AGREE TO SEEK PERMANENT HEARING AID(S) FOR MY CHILD.

_____ I AGREE THAT WHEN MY CHILD RECEIVES HIS/HER PERSONAL AMPLIFICATION, I WILL RETURN THE LOANED HEARING AID(S) TO MY CHILD'S AUDIOLOGIST, TO BE RETURNED TO THE LOAN BANK.

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services

MARYLAND HEARING AID LOAN BANK PROGRAM

Policies & Procedures

A. Eligibility criteria for infants and toddlers with hearing loss and their families

1. A child up to the age of 3 years old with documentation of a confirmed diagnosis of hearing loss from a referring Audiologist
2. A family of a child up to the age of 3 years old presenting a need for a temporary loan of hearing aids, while making arrangements to secure permanent amplification through insurance or other means

B. Required documentation for application to the Hearing Aid Loan Bank

Required documentation from the referring Audiologist:

1. Otoacoustic Emissions/Auditory Brainstem Response screening results and diagnostic test results
2. Audiometric Data
3. Acoustic immittance audiometry, if performed
4. A written recommendation from the referring Audiologist for suitable amplification for the infant or toddler tested
5. Medical clearance for hearing aid fitting from the child's physician

Required documentation from parent(s) or legal guardian(s):

1. Documentation stating the reason why the parent or legal guardian has no immediate* access to hearing aids
2. Documentation of insurance coverage, and or medical assistance eligibility
3. A signed agreement stating the terms and conditions of the hearing aid loan

C. Length of hearing aid loan period and conditions for extended loan periods

The length of a standard loan period for hearing aids shall be six (6) months from the date of issuance of hearing aids by the Program Manager. The Program Manager may extend the original loan period for an additional three (3) month period, if, prior to each loan extension, the Program Manager determines that:

1. The child does not have immediate access to another hearing aid under Medicaid, The Maryland Children's Health Program, medical assistance, or private insurance;
2. The child's parent or legal guardian currently does not have the financial means to obtain immediate access to hearing aids; and
3. The child's parent or legal guardian is making reasonable efforts to obtain access to hearing aids

D. Responsibility of parents/guardians who borrow hearing aids from the Loan Bank

A parent or legal guardian who borrows a hearing aid for an eligible child shall:

1. Be the custodian of the hearing aid(s);
2. Return the hearing aid(s) immediately to the child's Audiologist upon expiration of the loan period or receipt of suitable permanent hearing aid(s), whichever occurs first;
3. Be responsible for the proper care and use of the hearing aid(s);
4. Be responsible for any damage to or loss of the hearing aid(s) not covered by the hearing aid warranty up to \$100.00. This excludes normal wear and tear;
5. Complete a signed agreement stating the terms and conditions of the loan; and
6. Complete a signed agreement stating the terms and conditions for extension of the loan, if applicable.

E. Shipment and return of hearing aids to the Loan Bank

1. After receiving all required documentation from the referring Audiologist, suitable hearing aids will be shipped from the Loan Bank directly to the Audiologist for fitting.
2. Upon completion of the six (6) month loan period the hearing aids will be returned by the parent to the child's Audiologist for return to the Loan Bank.

F. Hearing aid earmolds

If the family of an infant or toddler requires assistance with obtaining earmolds to complete fitting of the hearing aids, the referring Audiologist should include this request when submitting the application for the hearing aids. The Loan Bank may provide information to the Audiologist to purchase the earmolds directly, at a cost predetermined by the Program Manager.

**The term “immediate” will be defined as a period not to exceed two weeks*