

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

Submitted to

The Maryland General Assembly

December 31, 2012

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 2014. The current Program applications as well as the Program brochure are 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 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 was implemented, yet few responded to the announcement, and no one was hired. The effort to contract a part-time audiologist will be renewed in January 2013.

Program Data

The Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank began its ninth year of operation in January 2012. This eighth Annual Report for the Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank describes the status of this program between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012. At the time of this report, ten (10) infants and toddlers have requested and received hearing aids from the Loan Bank since January 1, 2012. Each child is eligible to retain the loaned hearing aids for up to six (6) months. Loan

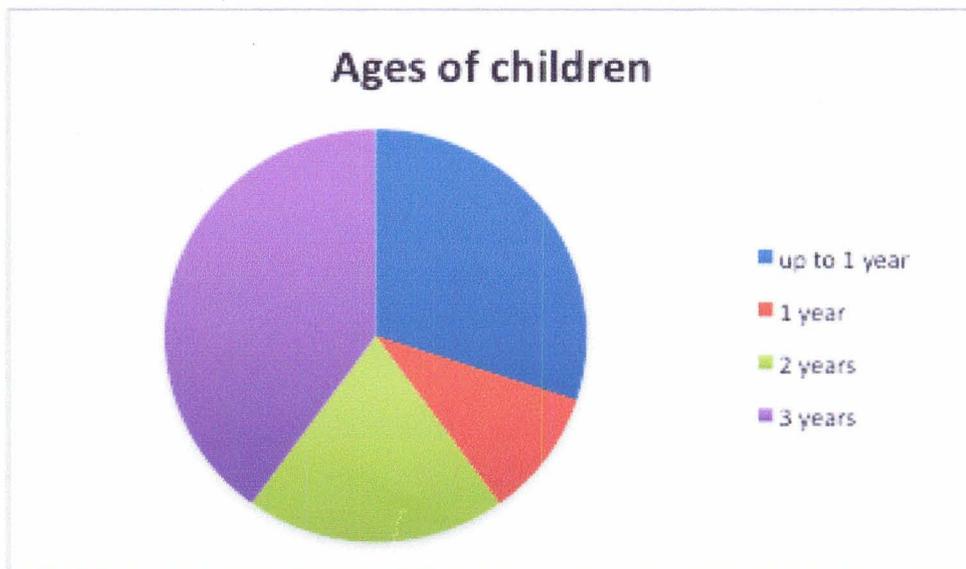
extensions may be granted after the initial loan, for three (3) month intervals. The following tables reflect detailed information about the hearing aids loaned to families.

I. The number and ages of children who received hearing aids through the Hearing Aid Loan Bank January 1 - December 31, 2012

The chart below represents the number of referrals to the Hearing Aid Loan Bank by Maryland county between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012.

COUNTY	FAMILIES REFERRED
Anne Arundel	2
Baltimore	1
Frederick	3
Howard	1
Montgomery	1
Prince Georges	2
Total = 10 (Children served)	10

The chart below represents the ages of the children who received hearing aids from the Hearing Aid Loan Bank between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012. Three (3) children under the age of one (1), one child who was one (1) year of age, two (2) children who were two (2) years of age, and four (4) children who were three (3) years of age received hearing aids.



II. The number of children who received hearing aids through the program since January 1, 2012 and subsequently received hearing aids through Medicaid, the Maryland Children’s Health Program, or private insurance

Ten (10) children/families have received hearing aids through the Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program since January 2012. Of those children/families, one (1) family whose child received loaned hearing aids during the 2012 calendar year subsequently received hearing aids through private insurance. The remaining nine (9) children/families are currently still using the loaned aids. Seven (7) of the nine (9) children/families requested and received a loan extension.

A total of seventeen (17) hearing aids from eleven (11) families were returned to the Hearing Aid Loan Bank between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012. Of those returns, four (4) children received permanent hearing aids through private insurance, and seven (7) children received permanent hearing aids through Medicaid.

III. The number of hearing aids loaned and the length of each original loan

The chart below highlights the number of hearing aids loaned each month January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012, and the length of each loan to a child/family as of December 2012.

Month Loan Originated	Number of Aids Loaned	Length of Loan (in Months)
January	2	10 *
February	2	9 *
March	0	0
April	6	7 *
May	5	6
June	0	5
July	0	4
August	0	3
September	2	2
October	0	1
November	2	-
December	TBD	-
Total	19 (as of 11/30/2012)	

*loan extension granted

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

Between the dates of January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012 there were ten (10) requests for loan extensions of at least 3 months. Seven (7) of the requests were from families who first obtained loans in 2012, and extended their loan for three (3) months. Three (3) requests for an extension were from families who extended their loan for an additional six (6) month period.

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

Seventeen (17) hearing aids were properly returned to the Hearing Aid Loan Bank between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012. To date none of the aids provided through the Hearing Aid Loan Bank have been improperly returned.

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

January 1, 2012- December 31, 2012

- *Nineteen (19) hearing aids were loaned to ten (10) eligible infants and toddlers.*
- *The age of hearing aid recipients ranged from three (3) months to three (3) years old.*
- *Three (3) children under one (1) year of age received hearing aids; one (1) child who was one (1) year of age, two (2) children who were two (2) years of age, and four (4) children who were three (3) years of age received hearing aids.*
- *Between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012 three (3) infants were referred to the Hearing Aid Loan Bank.*
- *Eleven (11) families who received loaned aids prior to December 2012 returned seventeen (17) hearing aids to the Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program.*
- *A total of twelve (12) families are using twenty-one (21) loaned hearing aids at the time of this report.*
- *In the twelve (12) month period from January 1, 2012 - December 31, 2012 ten (10) requests for hearing aid loan extensions were received and granted. This amount includes three (3) families who received loaner aids last year (2011) and were granted loan extensions, and seven (7) families who requested extensions this year.*

Cost Impact

The chart below lists the actual costs by line item for SFY 2013, including staff salaries for one full-time program manager and one part-time audiologist, equipment/supplies (such as digital hearing aids and earmolds), program outreach, program enhancement, and administrative support costs.

Costs	SFY 2013 <i>Actual</i>
*Project Manager	\$29,930 (Federal)
Part-Time Audiologist	Position Vacant (State)
Outreach	\$300 (State)
Equipment/Supplies	\$600 (State)
Total	\$30,830

This report reflects actual expenditures from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012.

*Program Manager payroll costs provided through MSDE using Federal funds for the period covering January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012.

This program has experienced several challenges, including securing an audiologist to provide administrative support. 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. A bidboard and consequent search for a part-time audiologist will be renewed in January 2013.

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.

“Thank you so much for your help! The family is really in a bind. Mom has insurance but it is very basic and does not cover hearing aid amplification for her son.”

Audiologist Testimonial

Program Enhancements

The following outlines the targeted program enhancements for SFY 2014:

I. Update Hearing Aid Inventory

Goal: Increase the number of state-of-the-art digital hearing aids available in the Hearing Aid Loan Bank inventory, in order to serve the target population. A portion of the Hearing Aid Loan Bank's inventory of hearing aids will be replaced with digital behind-the-ear (BTE) hearing aids and Baha softband sound processors with current technology.

Progress Update (January 1, 2012- December 31, 2012):

The Program Manager has met with several vendors previously utilized by the Hearing Aid Loan Bank, in order to obtain information and quotes for several digital BTE hearing aid models currently being requested by HALB clients. By this process the program manager was able to view and discuss current technologies and the inventory available through these vendors, as well as review the range of price options offered for the hearing aids. In January 2013 a bidboard to obtain price quotes for purchasing hearing aids will be redeveloped and implemented by the Program Manager. At that time vendors will have the opportunity to provide information regarding several hearing aid models and submit proposals (including quotes) based on the bidboard request. The program manager will then determine which company (or companies) will be the most cost effective to choose for hearing aid purchases.

Proposed Strategy:

- Purchase and replace hearing aids.

Outcome Measure:

- The number of state-of-the-art hearing aids available in the Hearing Aid Loan Bank inventory to serve the target population will be increased.

II. Access to Hearing Aid Loan Bank Information

Goal: The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Department of Special Education/Early Intervention will continue to partner with the Maryland Advisory Council on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in working to ensure that all information related to the Hearing Aid Loan Bank is accessible to the public, including in closed captioned format.

Proposed Strategy:

- Review all Hearing Aid Loan Bank materials and information on the Internet, determine their accessibility, and develop guidelines to transition to an accessible format.

Outcome Measure:

- Materials found not to be accessible will be in accessible format by December 31, 2013.

III. Explore Expanding Hearing Aid Loan Bank Services to Children Older than Three

Goal: Explore the feasibility of expanding Hearing Aid Loan Bank services to children beyond the age of three (3) to school-aged children and youth up to age eighteen (18).

Proposed Strategies:

- Survey the needs of school-aged children and youth who are deaf and hard of hearing and who are Maryland residents, in order to determine the level of need and potential expenses related the expansion of Hearing Aid Loan Bank services for those up to the age of eighteen (18).
- A summary and recommendations report will be created.

Outcome Measure:

- Survey results and recommendations will be reported to the Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Special Education/Early Intervention Services, the Maryland Advisory Council on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and the Maryland General Assembly by December 31, 2013.

IV. Public Awareness and Outreach Campaign

Goals: (1) Increase community awareness regarding the importance of early identification, early intervention, and early amplification for infants and toddlers with hearing loss; (2) Increase community and Infants and Toddlers Programs awareness of the availability and the benefits of utilizing the Hearing Aid Loan Bank.

Progress Update (January 1, 2012- December 31, 2012):

Recently revised information regarding the Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program is currently posted on the Maryland State Department of Education website at www.marylandpublicschools.org. Links to the Loan Bank Program fact sheet and

applications are available to the public. 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. The Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank was also promoted through dissemination of program information to parents and professionals at various activities held between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012, including the annual conference for educators of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing hosted by the Maryland Steering Committee for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students.

Proposed Strategies:

- Add a link for the Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program to the Maryland Learning Links website. Links to the Loan Bank Program brochure, fact sheet, and applications will be provided.
- Have the Program brochure and applications translated into Spanish and made available on the Maryland State Department of Education and Maryland Learning Links website.
- Distribute Hearing Aid Loan Bank brochures and fact sheets to infant and toddler service providers in all 24 Maryland jurisdictions (23 counties and Baltimore City).
- Request that the Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program brochure and applications be made available electronically on the Infant Hearing Program website (Maryland Department of Mental Health and Hygiene).
- Provide two presentations per quarter to community and/or parent groups and infant and toddler service providers regarding the importance of early identification of hearing loss and follow-up after hearing screenings.
- Continue to disseminate Program information to the community and service providers.

Outcome Measures:

- Increased Internet accessibility of Program information.
- Increased access to Program information for the public and professionals, including Maryland's Spanish-speaking population.

V. Enhanced Data Tracking System

Goals: (1) Develop and utilize tools and procedures in order to facilitate collection and tracking of pertinent information resulting from the provision of amplification to infants and toddlers through the Hearing Aid Loan Bank; (2) Use developed tools to monitor outcomes of the Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program.

Progress Update (January 1, 2012 - December 31, 2012):

In January 2012 the HALB Referrals form was developed in order to enhance data tracking and monitor annual program outcomes. When a Hearing Aid Loan Bank

application is submitted and a request is processed, specific information regarding the referral and application are recorded on this form (including age of the child, the date loaned aids were returned, and if a loan extension was requested). Utilization of this data tracking tool began January 9, 2012, and continues as of the date of this report. The HALB Referrals form may be found in the Appendices of this report.

Proposed Strategies:

- Develop a Family Survey and an Audiologist Survey to be sent to the families and audiologists who use the Hearing Aid Loan Bank.
- Develop two forms which will capture specific information from families and audiologists served by the Hearing Aid Loan Bank. A Family Survey and an Audiologist Survey will be developed and sent to the families and audiologists who utilize the Loan Bank. Through the use of these tools, additional data may be gathered and reviewed for the purpose of monitoring program outcomes.

Outcome Measures:

- Increased data collection regarding the Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program. Information 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 no later than December 31st of each calendar year.
- Comprehensive monitoring of outcomes 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 sixty (260) families across the state since May 2003, and has loaned over four hundred and seventy-five (475) hearing aids to children over the last nine (9) years. 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.

“We want to thank the Loan Bank for letting us borrow hearing aids. The service meant so much to us! Our son was able to have access to this important technology at an early age, which allowed him to reap early benefits from speech development. Your service helped us through a very difficult time of adjustment. And we found the Loan Bank invaluable. It gave us time to save up for the hearing aids he needed, which are very expensive. Thank you so much!”

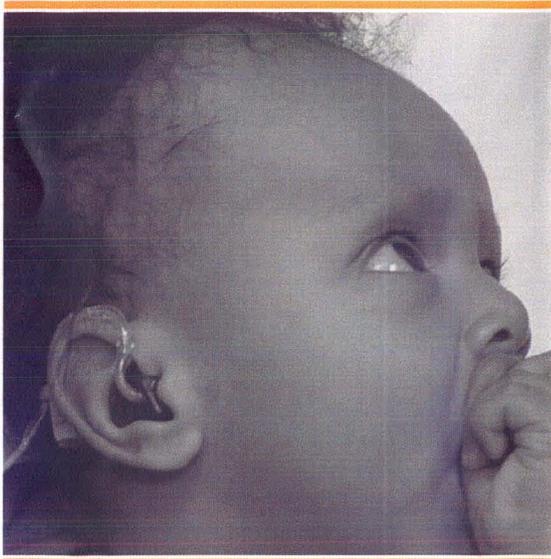
Parent Testimonial

APPENDICES

- I. Program Brochure
- II. Program Fact Sheet
- III. Program Application
- IV. Program Loan Extension Application
- V. HALB Referrals Form

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

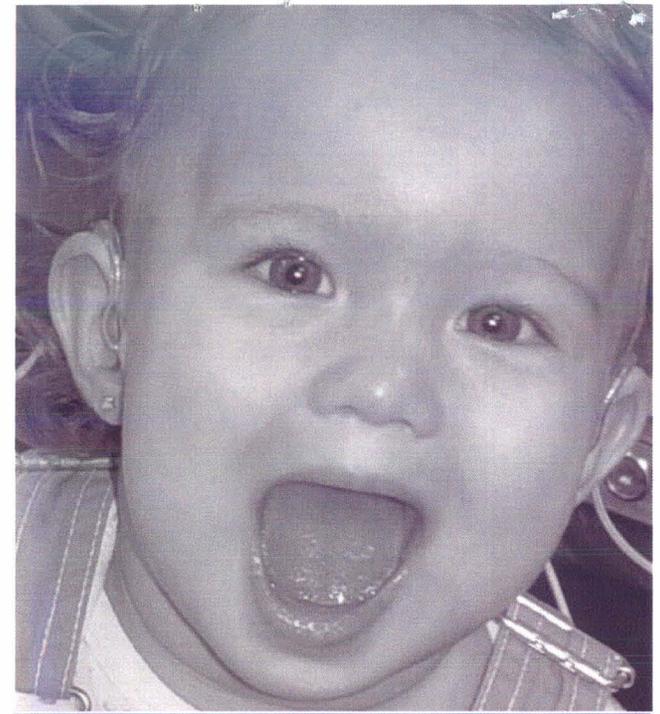
Charlene M. Dukes, Ed.D.
President, Maryland State Board of Education

Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

Marcella E. Franczkowski, M.S., Assistant State Superintendent
Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services

Martin O'Malley, Governor 12/12

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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 panel 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

Kathleen D. Heck, Ph.D.
Lead Technical Specialist-Low Incidence Disabilities and Resources
Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services
Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street
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
Programmatic Support and Technical Assistance 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 the Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program is to provide temporary hearing aids for children (**up to the age of 3**) with hearing loss, while they are waiting to receive their personal amplification device(s).

This application extends the initial six month loan for an additional period of three months. The application for loan extension **must** be submitted for every three month extension period requested. Please contact the **Hearing Aid Loan Bank at 410-767-0739 (voicemail accessible)**, if you have any questions.

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

**Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services
Programmatic Support and Technical Assistance 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

Child's Information

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian's Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Date of Original Hearing Aid(s) Loan Application _____

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

PART B

To be completed by the parent or legal guardian

1. Please describe why you are requesting to extend the hearing aid loan for your infant or toddler, and have been unable to access hearing aids for your child in the past six months.

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 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 three (3) additional 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 another 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

Requesting Audiologist Signature

