

**Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.**  
State Superintendent of Schools

December 1, 2018

The Honorable Larry Hogan  
Governor  
State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, Jr.  
President of the Senate  
100 State Circle, H-107  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Michael E. Busch  
Speaker of the House  
101 State Circle, H-101  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Hearing Aid Loan Bank Report (MSAR #8672)

Dear Governor Hogan, President Miller, and Speaker Busch:

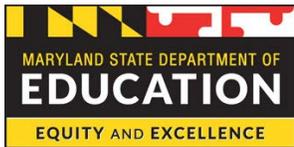
During the 2011 legislative session, the Maryland General Assembly passed Senate Bill 754, stipulating that beginning in 2011, the State Superintendent shall annually submit a report on the Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program to the Governor and General Assembly.

The completed report is attached for your review. Should you have questions or need additional information, please contact Marcella E. Franczkowski, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Early Intervention/Special Education Services at (410)767-0238 or via email to [Marcella.Franczkowski@maryland.gov](mailto:Marcella.Franczkowski@maryland.gov).

Best Regards,

Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.  
State Superintendent of Schools

c: Sarah Albert (DLS Library – 5 copies)



Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.  
State Superintendent of Schools

200 West Baltimore Street • Baltimore, MD 21201 • 410-767-0100 • 410-333-6442 TTY/TDD • [msde.maryland.gov](http://msde.maryland.gov)

## **Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program** *2018 Annual Report*

Submitted to:  
The Maryland General Assembly  
December 31, 2018



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

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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During the 2011 session of the Maryland General Assembly, the passage of Senate Bill 754 authorized the permanent establishment of a Hearing Aid Loan Bank by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). This bill charged the MSDE with the implementation and maintenance of the Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank (HALB), 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 three years of age. On April 12, 2016, Governor Larry Hogan signed House Bill 596, expanding eligibility for the program to include all children up to age 18, effective July 1, 2016.

Through the HALB, families of children with confirmed hearing loss who are experiencing challenges in obtaining or purchasing aids can borrow hearing aids from the bank, without cost, for a period of up to six months. The Hearing Aid Loan Bank ensures that children up to the age of 18 have access to maximum auditory input to build their language skills during the most critical period of development to fully participate in school and other learning opportunities.

This Annual Report for the Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank serves to inform the Maryland General Assembly of the status of the program. The report includes details regarding the numbers and ages of children served this year, the counties from which referrals were generated, the length of each original loan and/or loan extension, the number of children who subsequently received permanent hearing aids or a cochlear implant, and projected program enhancements for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2019. The current program application, as well as the program brochure, fact sheet, and policies and procedures are also included in the Appendices of this report.

*"I thank you truly for all your help and support. My health insurance is expensive and doesn't cover the entire cost of the hearing aids. Thank you for being part of my son's healthy development and future opportunities!"*

*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 and intervention is initiated, 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 supports emerging language skills, cognitive skills, and healthy social/emotional development, all of which are essential in forming a solid foundation for school readiness, learning, and success.

The Hearing Aid Loan Bank was formed to provide essential services to meet the needs of young Deaf and hard-of-hearing children in the State of Maryland before they enter the formal educational environment. The HALB was initially established in SFY 2002 to create a bridge between early identification and early intervention for infants and toddlers with hearing loss. The statutory provisions establishing the original program sunset on June 30, 2004; however, the MSDE continued to operate the HALB beyond the date of the original statute due to the need for this critical resource. In 2011, Senate Bill 754 was passed and signed, formally establishing the HALB within the MSDE to serve infants and toddlers with hearing loss.

On April 12, 2016, Governor Larry Hogan signed House Bill 596, which raised the upper age limit for access to the program from three to eighteen years old effective July 1, 2016. This change allows the HALB to assist older children who need access to amplification in order to fully participate in school and other settings. Children who do not hear well in the school setting are at risk for academic and social difficulties as they may miss crucial but subtle information. Children who benefit from the HALB include those with late-onset or late-diagnosed hearing loss, children whose families are uninsured/underinsured, and those who need new hearing aids before they are eligible for replacement under insurance coverage.

The HALB is operated within the Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services. An Education Specialist functions as Program Manager. This position oversees the program and ensures that information about its services are shared with local school systems, local infant and toddler programs, and other community stakeholders. A licensed audiologist (hired as a consultant) manages inventory, fulfills requests for loaned hearing aids, and shares information about the program within the professional community of audiologists.

## **Program Data**

The Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank began its 15<sup>th</sup> year of operation in January 2018. This fourteenth Annual Report for the Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank describes the status of the program between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018. At the time of this report, **8 families have requested and received 15 hearing aids in 2018**. In addition, **13 hearing aids loaned to 7 children in 2017** were used during 2018. Most loans include two hearing aids, providing amplification for both ears; one child required only one hearing aid. Each child is eligible to retain the loaned hearing aids for up to six months. Loan extensions may be granted after the initial loan, in three month intervals.

## Demographics of Hearing Aid Loan Bank Participants

### Location

The chart below represents the number of initial loan requests to the HALB by county between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018.

COUNTY of RESIDENCE	FAMILIES SERVED	HEARING AIDS LOANED
Baltimore City	2	3
Howard County	2	2
Montgomery County	4	8
Prince George's County	1	2
<b>Total Families Served</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>

### Age

Age of child at time of request	Number of children
Less than 12 months	5
12 – 24 months old	1
24 – 36 months old	1
3 – 5 years old	1
6 – 9 years old	0
10 – 17 years old	0
<b>Total Families Served</b>	<b>8</b>

### Loan Lengths

Twelve hearing aids were loaned to six children/families during the current year. The chart below highlights the number of hearing aids loaned each month in 2018 and the length of each loan.

<b>Month Loan Originated</b>	<b>Number of Aids Loaned</b>	<b>Length of Loan (in Months)</b>
January	0	No loans initiated
February	2	2 aids – 6 months + 3 month extension
March	2	2 aids – 6 months
April	2	2 aids – 6 months
May	0	N/A
June	1	1 aid - 6 months
July	0	N/A
August	2	2 aids - 6 months
September	0	N/A
October	6	6 aids – 6 months
November	0	N/A
December	0	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	

Between the dates of January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018, there was one request for a loan extension of at least three months from a loan initiated in 2018, and one request for an extension of a loan initiated in 2017.

### Returned Hearing Aids

Two families returned the four hearing aids that were loaned in 2018. Eleven of the hearing aids loaned in 2018 remain in use. In addition, seven families returned a total of eleven hearing aids that were loaned in 2017. Six children received permanent personal hearing aids or cochlear implants; one child experienced improved hearing sensitivity after undergoing surgery. Two hearing aids borrowed by one family during 2017 were reported lost during return shipment to the HALB in 2018.

**Hearing Aid Loan Distribution Summary: January 1 – December 21, 2018**

- Fifteen hearing aids were loaned to eight eligible children. Thirteen additional hearing aids, loaned in 2017, were used by eight children during 2018.
- The age of hearing aid recipients ranged from two months to sixteen years.

*“Mom has insurance but it doesn’t cover the total cost of hearing aids, and she needs time to get additional funds. We are so grateful for this service! Thank you for all of your help!”*

*Audiologist Testimonial*

**Cost Impact**

The chart below lists the actual costs by line item for SFY 2018 and projected costs for SFY 2019, including staff salaries for one program manager and one part-time audiologist, equipment and supplies (such as digital hearing aids), program outreach, program enhancement, and administrative support costs.

<b>Costs</b>	<b>SFY 2018 Actual</b>	<b>SFY 2019 Projected</b>
*Program Manager	\$12,400	\$12,400
Audiologist Consultant	\$12,480**	\$25,000
Outreach	\$0	\$0
Equipment	\$556	\$10,000***
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,356</b>	<b>\$47,400</b>

Outreach in SFY 2018 and SFY 2019 was/will be conducted via electronic and in-person information sharing, so no additional costs were incurred.

\* Program manager payroll costs provided through the MSDE using federal funds for SFY 2018

\*\* Costs for the audiologist consultant for SFY 18 are lower than the usual projection of \$25,000/year due to a vacancy in the position for a portion of this time period.

\*\*\* Projected costs are to cover the purchase of six new hearing aids from Phonak, in the amount of \$5,744 (estimated) and six hearing aids from Oticon, in the amount of \$4,256 (estimated).

## **Community Based Partnerships**

The Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank is a key part of the network of programs and agencies that address the needs of children who are Deaf or hard-of-hearing and their families. Each year the Maryland Infant Hearing Program (IHP) serves as a critical community-based partner in identifying approximately fifty to eighty (50-80) infants with a permanent hearing status that is likely to impact their speech and language development. These children are diagnosed through a series of hearing screenings administered through the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program. After diagnosis, children are referred to their local Infants and Toddlers Program to receive early intervention services. Through a collaborative partnership, the HALB, IHP, EHDI, and Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program provide a valuable service to infants and toddlers with hearing loss. Program staff has also worked with other agencies and stakeholders to raise awareness of the program, including the expansion to serve older children. The Hearing Aid Loan Bank is regularly discussed at the EHDI Advisory Council, the annual statewide EHDI conference, the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Advisory Council, and the Maryland State Steering Committee for Programs for Students who are Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing.

### **Program Enhancements:**

The following pages outline the program enhancements for January 1- December 31, 2018:

#### **Update and Maintain Hearing Aid Inventory**

***Goal:***

Continue to increase the number of state-of-the-art digital hearing aids available in the HALB inventory, in order to serve the expanded age range. A portion of the HALB's inventory of hearing aids will be replaced with the new devices with the most up-to-date technology. In addition, extended warranties may be purchased on hearing aids purchased in 2014, as the original three-year loss and damage policies have expired.

***Progress Update (January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018):***

In February of 2018, outdated and discontinued hearing aids were donated to the Baltimore County Health Department in order to make room in the inventory for more current and requested hearing aids from referring audiologists and other stakeholders. In addition, the warranties were extended on two hearing aids purchased in 2014.

***Proposed Strategy:***

Continue to monitor inventory levels and patterns of requests in order to purchase additional digital hearing aids, as needed.

***Outcome Measure:***

Increased number of state-of-the-art hearing aids available in the HALB inventory to serve the target population.

## **Increase Public Awareness and Utilization**

### **Goal:**

Increase community awareness of the availability and the benefits of utilizing the HALB to both infants and toddlers programs and programs serving school-aged children in the state of Maryland, particularly in less densely-populated areas of Western Maryland and the Eastern Shore.

### **Progress Update (January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018):**

Information regarding the HALB continues to be posted on the Maryland State Department of Education website at [www.marylandpublicschools.org](http://www.marylandpublicschools.org). Links to the HALB fact sheet and applications are also available to the public on the website. In addition, a link for the HALB was posted to the Maryland Learning Links website at [www.marylandlearninglinks.org](http://www.marylandlearninglinks.org). The HALB continues to be linked from the Maryland State Infant Hearing Advisory Council and the Maryland Advisory Council for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing websites as well. This interagency collaboration and support continues to be provided to facilitate services to families throughout the State.

The HALB was promoted through dissemination of program information to parents and professionals by:

- 1) Posting of HALB information on the Maryland Academy of Audiologists website;
- 2) Posting of HALB information on the Maryland Speech Language Hearing (MSHA) website and Facebook page;
- 3) Participation in conferences during the year, including the Annual Maryland State Stakeholders Meeting of the Infant Hearing Program in May 2018 and the State Steering Committee for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students in March 2018;
- 4) Enhancing information about the Hearing Aid Loan Bank available electronically on the Infant Hearing Program website (Maryland Department of Health);
- 5) Outreach to each individual pediatric audiologist at Children's National Hospital Outpatient Centers and Kaiser Permanente Medical Centers.
- 6) Copies of the HALB brochure have been placed in all packets distributed to newly diagnosed children through the Maryland Department of Health.

### **Proposed Strategies:**

1. Translate the program brochure and applications into Spanish and make available on the Maryland State Department of Education and Maryland Learning Links websites.
2. Continue to disseminate program information to all school-aged service providers as well as the community. In addition, pediatricians and otolaryngologists will receive this information.
3. Outreach to pediatric audiology providers serving the populations in Western Maryland and the Eastern Shore.

### **Outcome Measures:**

Increased awareness of the HALB in the public and medical community, to include the expanded age of eligibility. Increased access to program information for Maryland's Spanish-speaking population.

## Enhance Data Tracking System

### **Goal:**

Utilize tools and procedures in order to facilitate collection and tracking of pertinent information resulting from the provision of amplification to children across the state through the HALB.

### **Progress Update (January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018):**

Since October 2013, a database for hearing aid inventory has been utilized to track hearing aid loans. In addition, a hardcopy HALB Referral Form continues to be utilized to collect and track specific information pertaining requests received, loans processed, and aids returned.

### **Proposed Strategy:**

Develop and disseminate surveys to be sent to families and audiologists who use the HALB. Based on these results, additional data may be gathered and reviewed for the purpose of monitoring program outcomes.

### **Outcome Measure:**

Effective data tracking and monitoring of outcomes and services provided.

## Summary

The Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program has proven to be a vital and successful service to infants, toddlers, and now school-aged children up to age 18 with hearing loss and their families. The HALB has assisted 316 families across the State since May 2003 and has loaned approximately 562 hearing aids to children over the last 14 years. The MSDE recognizes the importance of laying an adequate foundation for school readiness, educational development, learning, and success. Through early intervention services provided by the HALB, children are supported in developing speech and language skills, which in turn support access and equity in learning, educational progress, and achievement. School-aged children who receive loaned hearing aids have enhanced access to communication, learning, and peer interaction. There continues to be a need for the services of the HALB, which is available to all eligible Maryland residents.

The MSDE remains committed to the implementation of the HALB through enhanced program support and funding. We are grateful to the Maryland State Legislature for the continued support of the program, and we look forward to continuing the partnership on behalf of Maryland children 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. Thank you so much!"*

*Parent Testimonial*

Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank Annual Report, 2018  
Attachment II

**Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank (HALB) Fact Sheet**

The Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank (HALB) was formed in the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services to provide loaner hearing aids to meet the needs of deaf and hard of hearing infants and toddlers in Maryland. Hearing aids are loaned free of charge to families.

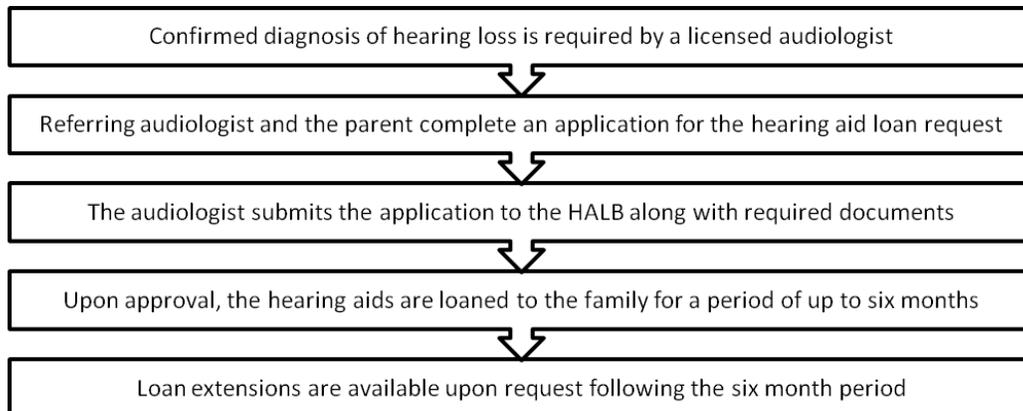
In 2000, the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing found that early amplification of hearing through the use of hearing aids or cochlear implants is essential to support emerging language skills, cognitive skills, and healthy social/emotional development, all of which are essential in forming a solid foundation for school readiness, learning and success. Infants who are identified with hearing loss early in life can be fitted with hearing aids as young as four weeks of age. The HALB provides access to hearing aids, as soon as possible, following the confirmation of hearing loss. The program ensures young children have access to maximum auditory stimuli during the most critical period of language development.

In 2016, recognizing the critical role that amplification plays in access to educational, social, and community environments for children with hearing loss, the Maryland General Assembly adopted legislation to expand eligibility for the HALB to children up to age 18. As of July 1, 2016, preschoolers and school-age children who are experiencing delays or difficulties obtaining permanent, personal amplification are eligible to receive loaned hearing aids from the HALB.

**Who qualifies for the program?**

- Legal residents of Maryland
- Families whose insurance does not cover the cost of hearing aids
- Families who are experiencing delays in acquiring or replacing hearing aids
- Families who need amplification for their child during cochlear implant candidacy evaluation
- **There is no income qualification**

**Application Process**



*Provision of hearing aids is always dependent on availability.*

*Priority will be given to the youngest children and to new requests over extensions.*

**Contact:**

**Zella Shabasson, Au.D., CCC-A., Audiology Consultant**

**410-767-8698**

[zella.shabasson@maryland.gov](mailto:zella.shabasson@maryland.gov)

**Download the application or extension request form from Maryland Learning Links --**

<https://marylandlearninglinks.org/maryland-hearing-aid-loan-bank>

**MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
**Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services**  
**MARYLAND HEARING AID LOAN BANK**  
**HEARING AID LOAN APPLICATION FORM**

The purpose of this program is to provide temporary hearing aids for children under the age of 18 with hearing loss while they are waiting to receive their personal amplification devices. The best way to contact the HALB is through email. Please contact the Hearing Aid Loan Bank at [zella.shabasson@maryland.gov](mailto:zella.shabasson@maryland.gov) if you have any questions.

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

Maryland State Department of Education  
Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services  
200 West Baltimore Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201  
ATTN: Zella Shabasson  
Email: [zella.shabasson@maryland.gov](mailto:zella.shabasson@maryland.gov)  
Fax: (410) 333-0298

**The information contained on this form will be kept confidential.**

**PART A**

**Referring Audiologist Information**

Audiologist Name: \_\_\_\_\_

MD Audiology License # \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Child's Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Legal Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home #: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**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 results from the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening protocol? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_ If yes, from which hospital \_\_\_\_\_

Was this child referred to you based upon results of a routine school screening program? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_ If yes, from which school system \_\_\_\_\_

What is the configuration and degree of hearing loss?

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

The hearing aid(s) will be sent to the requesting audiologist following receipt of the application and required documentation, and based upon hearing aid availability. The hearing aid will be selected and sent by the Hearing Aid Loan Bank Director based on the information received.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Audiologist Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**PART C - To be completed by the parent or legal guardian**

1. Please describe why you cannot obtain permanent hearing aids for your child at this time.

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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.

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

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

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5. For children under age 3, is your child currently enrolled in the Infants and Toddlers Program in your local county?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, please indicate the county program \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**PART D - To be completed by the parent or legal guardian**

**HEARING AID LOAN AGREEMENT**

\_\_\_\_\_ I AGREE THAT MY CHILD WILL RECEIVE (A) LOANED HEARING AID(S) FROM THE MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, DIVISION OF EARLY INTERVENTION AND SPECIAL EDUCATION 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 \$150.00. 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) OR COCHLEAR IMPLANT 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 Early Intervention and Special Education 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 18 while they are waiting to receive their personal amplification devices. Please contact the Hearing Aid Loan Bank via e-mail at [zella.shabasson@maryland.gov](mailto:zella.shabasson@maryland.gov).

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  
Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services  
200 West Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201  
ATTN: Zella Shabasson  
Email: [zella.shabasson@maryland.gov](mailto:zella.shabasson@maryland.gov)  
Fax: (410) 410-767-8698**

**The information contained on this form will be kept confidential.**

**PART A**

**Child's Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Legal Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home #: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

**PART B - To be completed by the parent or legal guardian**

1. Please describe why you need to extend the hearing aid loan for your child and have been unable to access personal hearing aids for your child in the past six months

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

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**HEARING AID LOAN EXTENSION AGREEMENT**

\_\_\_\_\_ I AGREE THAT MY CHILD WILL RECEIVE (A) LOANER HEARING AID(S) FROM THE MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

\_\_\_\_\_ 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 \$150.00. THIS EXCLUDES NORMAL WEAR AND TEAR.

\_\_\_\_\_ I AGREE THAT MY CHILD WILL HAVE USE OF THIS/THESE HEARING AID(S) FOR 3 ADDITIONAL 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) OR COCHLEAR IMPLANT FOR MY CHILD.

\_\_\_\_\_ I AGREE THAT WHEN MY CHILD RECEIVES HIS/HER PERSONAL AMPLIFICATION, I WILL RETURN THE LOANER HEARING AID(S) TO MY AUDIOLOGIST, OR PERSONALLY RETURN IT TO THE LOANER BANK.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Requesting Audiologist Signature

## Attachment V

## Hearing Aid Loans Initiated 2018

MANUFACTURER	DATE ORIGINALLY LOANED	DATE RETURNED	Hearing Status	DOB	COUNTY OF AUD	AUDIOLOGIST	Child
Oticon Sensei #43590358	2/3/2018	still in use	mild to moderate bilateral	11/4/2017	Baltimore City	Amy Gaskin	A.D.
Oticon Sensei #43590489	2/3/2018	still in use	mild to moderate bilateral	11/4/2017	Baltimore City	Amy Gaskin	A.D.
Phonak Naida Q30 SP #1328X 1NTA	3/8/2018	10/4/2018	moderate to severe RE	11/17/2017	Howard County	Allison McGrath	H.R.
Phonak Naida Q30 SP #1352X 07EJ	3/8/2018	10/4/2018	profound LE	11/17/2017	Howard County	Allison McGrath	H.R.
Phonak Naida Q 50 UP #1352X 1R98	4/12/2018	10/11/18	at least moderate	6/7/2017	Montgomery County	Alicia White & Dawn Marsiglia	M.O.P.
Phonak Naida Q50 UP #1352X 1R96	4/12/2018	10/11/2018	at least moderate	6/7/2017	Montgomery County	Alcia White & Dawn Marsiglia	M. O. P.
Phonak Naida V-50 UP	6/14/2018	still in use	Severe	12/12/2017	Baltimore City	Allison McGrath	K.F.
Oticon Safari 600 SP #41393744	8/16/2018	still in use	moderate to profound RE	9/25/2015	Prince George's County	Michele Bassett & Lauren Wawroski	D.E.F.
Oticon Safari 600 SP #44791255	8/16/2018	still in use	moderate rising to mild/normal LE	9/25/2015	Prince George's County	Michele Bassett & Lauren Wawroski	D.E.F.
Phonak Naida V 30 UP #1713X 2W50	10/24/2018	still in use	moderate to severe	2/8/2018	Montgomery County	Jeniifer Lightfoot	C.B.
Phonak Naida V 30 UP #1713X 2W52	10/24/2018	still in use	moderate to severe	2/8/2018	Montgomery County	Jeniifer Lightfoot	C.B.
Oticon Safari 300 SP #90019093	10/24/2018	still in use	mild to moderate	6/9/2017	Montgomery County	Joan Lacoss	N.N.
Oticon Safari 300 SP #90013540	10/24/2018	still in use	mild to moderate	6/9/2017	Montgomery County	Joan Lacoss	N.N.
Oticon Sensei 13	10/30/2018	still in use	moderate to severe	7/30/2013	Montgomery County	Brett Robosti	A.D.
Oticon Sensei 13	10/30/2018	still in use	moderate to severe	7/30/2013	Montgomery County	Brett Robosti	A.D.

## **MARYLAND HEARING AID LOAN BANK PROGRAM**

Maryland State Department of Education  
Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services

### **Policies & Procedures**

#### **A. Eligibility criteria for children with hearing loss and their families**

1. A child under the age of 18 years with documentation of confirmed diagnosis of hearing loss from a referring audiologist.
2. A family of a child under the age of 18 years 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 referring Audiologist:**

1. Audiological confirmation of the need for amplification:  
  
Otoacoustic Emissions/Auditory Brainstem Response screening results and diagnostic test results.  
  
*and/or*  
  
Audiometric Data utilizing any of the following behavioral assessment techniques, including Behavioral Observation Audiometry, Visual Reinforcement Audiometry, Conditioned Play Audiometry, or Conventional Audiometry.
2. Acoustic emittance audiometry, if performed.
3. A written recommendation from the referring audiologist for suitable amplification for the infant or toddler tested.
4. Medical clearance for hearing aid fitting from the child's physician.

##### **Required documentation from parent or legal guardian:**

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 loan.

**C. Length of loan period and conditions for extended loan periods.**

The length of a standard loan period shall be 6-months from the date of issuance by the Hearing Aid Loan Bank from available supply.

The original loan period may be extended for additional 3 month periods if, prior to each extension, the Director 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 another hearing aid; and
3. The child's parent or legal guardian is making reasonable efforts to obtain access to another hearing aid.

**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;
2. Return the hearing aid immediately to the child's audiologist upon the expiration of the loan period or receipt of a suitable permanent hearing aid, whichever occurs first;
3. Be responsible for the proper care and use of the hearing aid;
4. Obtain, in conjunction with the audiologist, appropriate ear molds or other items needed for the use of the hearing aid(s) (e.g., soft band); the HALB provides the hearing instruments only.
5. **Be responsible for any damage to or loss of the hearing aid not covered by the hearing aid warranty up to \$150.00.** This excludes normal wear and tear.
6. Submit a signed agreement stating the terms and conditions of the loan.
7. Submit a signed agreement stating the terms and conditions for extension of the loan.

**E. Shipment and Return of hearing aids to the loan bank.**

1. After receiving all required documentation from the dispensing audiologist, suitable hearing aid(s) will be shipped to the audiologist for programming, fitting, and provision to the family.
2. Upon completion of the 6-month loan period the hearing aid(s) will be returned to the child's audiologist for shipment to the loan bank.

**Recommended Follow-Up:**

1. A hearing aid evaluation during the course of the loan period describing any functional gain, or real ear testing performed.
2. A progress report from the service coordinator from the Local Infants and Toddlers Program indicating the status of the parent or legal guardian's access to permanent hearing aids.

*\*The term "immediate" is defined as a period not exceeding two weeks.*

## Why hearing aids?

Communication access lays the foundation for development in all areas (cognitive, linguistic, social, and academic) for young children and enables older children to grow and thrive in school and other settings. For children who are deaf/hard-of-hearing, increased access to sound through amplification can be a key component of healthy development.



The Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank provides prompt access to hearing aids for children (birth to 18) who :

- Have a confirmed hearing loss
- Are legal residents of Maryland
- Don't have immediate access to hearing aids through insurance or other sources.

**There are no income restrictions for this program.**

## More Resources for Families

Young children (birth to 3) with hearing loss and their families are eligible for early intervention services through the **Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program**. To connect with services, call the number below for your county.

Allegany	301-759-2415
Anne Arundel	410-222-6911
Baltimore City	410-396-1666
Baltimore County	443-809-2169
Calvert	443-550-8405
Caroline	410-479-3246
Carroll	410-876-4437
Cecil	410-996-5444
Charles	301-609-6808
Dorchester	410-221-1111, x1023
Frederick	301-600-1611
Garrett	301-334-7658
Harford	410-638-3823
Howard	410-313-7017
Kent	410-778-7164
Montgomery	240-777-3997
Prince George's	301-925-6627
Queen Anne's	410-556-6103, x 11
Somerset	410-623-2037
St. Mary's	301-475-5511
Talbot	410-822-0330
Washington	301-766-8217
Wicomico	410-677-5250
Worcester	410-632-5033

**For information about special education services for children 3 and older, contact your local school.**

Maryland State Department of Education  
Division of Early Intervention and Special Education 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](http://www.MarylandPublicSchools.org)

**Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.**  
*State Superintendent of Schools*  
**Marcella E. Franczkowski, M.S.**  
*Assistant State Superintendent*

*Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services*  
**Larry Hogan, Governor**

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# The Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank

*Bridging the Gap to  
Communication*

**For Deaf and Hard-of -  
Hearing Children from  
Birth to 18.**



**F**or children who are Deaf or hard-of-hearing, the Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank provides an important bridge to full access to early intervention and education.

## Questions and Answers About the Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank

***How do we know if a child needs hearing aids?*** Diagnostic testing by an audiologist is needed to determine the degree of hearing loss and options for amplification with hearing aids. Babies whose newborn and one-month screenings indicate a possible hearing loss should be tested. Concerns about an older child's hearing may be raised by parents, medical professionals, educators, or a school screening program.

***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 children from birth to age 18. 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, purchasing, or replacing aids *or* needs aids on a trial basis.

***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.

***How do the hearing aids get to the family?*** Since hearing aids are highly technical, prescribed electronic devices, they are sent directly to the audiologist for fine tuning and fitting, as needed. The family will need to obtain ear molds through their audiologist.

***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 need to be replaced periodically as the child grows.

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



intervals, may be requested by the family.

***Are hearing aids the only help a child may require?*** In addition to hearing aids, a child may require language intervention, specially designed instruction, and various supports in school and community settings. Deaf and hard-of-hearing children may be eligible for Early Intervention and/or Special Education services. (*See back panel for details.*)

**For more information about the Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank or to obtain an application or extension request:**

**Call toll free: 1-800-535-0182**

*or*

**visit:**

<https://marylandlearninglinks.org/maryland-hearing-aid-loan-bank/>