



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

December 1, 2019

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

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller
H-107, State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
H-101, State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Hearing Aid and Language & Communication Video Loan Bank (MSAR #8672)

Dear Governor Hogan, President Miller, and Speaker Jones:

Section 8-606 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland requires the State Superintendent to submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program (now the Maryland Hearing Aid and Language & Communication Video Loan Bank Program) on or before December 31 of each year. The annual report must include specific information to the program implementation by the Maryland State Department of Education.

The completed report is attached for your review. Should you have questions or need additional information, please contact Tiffany Clark, Director of Government Relations, at tiffany.clark1@maryland.gov or 410-767-0090.

Best Regards,

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



Maryland Hearing Aid and Language & Communication Video Loan Bank

2019 Annual Report

Submitted to:
The Maryland General Assembly
December 1, 2019



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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pursuant to SB 677 (2019), as of October 1, 2019, Maryland's Hearing Aid Loan Bank became known as **The Maryland Hearing Aid and Language & Communication Video Loan Bank (Loan Bank)**. In addition to hearing aids, the Loan Bank now provides videos and links to online learning materials to assist parents of children who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing to learn the language and communication method(s) they choose to use with their child. Additionally, the bill expanded the age of eligibility to Maryland residents up to age 21 (previously age 18) who have not yet graduated from high school and increased the loan period from six months to one year.

As it has since its inception in 2002, the Loan Bank continued to provide hearing aids to Maryland families who are unable to obtain them in a timely fashion in order to ensure that infants, toddlers, children, and youth in the state have the tools they need to access spoken language and communication. This year, 14 hearing aid loans were initiated to 9 children/youth and their families and 11 hearing aids loaned in 2018 continued to be used by 6 children and youth. The Language and Communication Video Loan Bank has recently begun operation; data on utilization will be included in future reports.

This Annual Report for The Maryland Hearing Aid and Language & Communication Video Loan Bank serves to inform the Governor and 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 2019. The current program application, program brochure, and policies and procedures are 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

Overview

Infants and toddlers who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing do not have full access to communication through the auditory channel of hearing, which can lead to delays in acquiring and using language. Even mild hearing loss can significantly affect receptive and expressive language and educational performance. Providing accessible language input is the key to a solid foundation for development.

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. Some children benefit from the use of amplification technology, such as hearing aids and cochlear implants, that provides access to the sounds of spoken language. For these children, the introduction of amplification, along with the use of intervention strategies designed to maximize understanding and use of speech, 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. Many children who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing, whether or not they use amplification, also benefit from access to visual language. This often occurs through the use of American Sign Language (ASL), a visual-spatial language that is the first language of many Deaf people in the United States. Families may also use Cued Speech, a system of hand shapes and placements that combine with the mouth movements of speech to represent the phonemes of spoken language, or other visual communication strategies to support their child's language access. Because early intervention, language access, and family engagement are critical to the life-long success of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing children, the Maryland Hearing Aid and Language & Communication Video Loan Bank (the Loan Bank) serves as an important Statewide resource.

Maryland's Hearing Aid Loan Bank (HALB) was established in 2002 to create a bridge between early identification and early intervention for infants and toddlers with hearing loss and 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 Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) continued to operate the HALB beyond the sunset of the original statute in 2004 and in 2011, Senate Bill 754 formally established the HALB within the MSDE to serve infants and toddlers with hearing loss.

Because children who do not hear well in the school setting are at risk for academic and social difficulties due to missing crucial but subtle information, the legislature passed and Governor Hogan signed a bill in 2016 extending the maximum age of eligibility from 3 to 18 years. This change allowed the program to assist older children who need access to amplification to fully participate in school and other settings. School-age children who benefit 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.

In October 2019, Senate Bill 677 became law, renaming the program The Maryland Hearing Aid and Language & Communication Video Loan Bank (Loan Bank). The mandate of the project was expanded to include the provision of video resources to help families learn the language and communication options (specifically, listening and spoken language, American Sign Language, and Cued Speech) that they may wish to use with their children. Families may request videos from the Loan Bank, which will be sent to them for an initial loan period of one month with the option to renew pending availability. The Loan Bank website also contains links to other resources that families can access directly on the internet at no cost. Other provisions of the legislation extended the age of eligibility to 21 for individuals still enrolled in high school and increased the initial loan and extension periods for hearing aids from six months to one year.

The Loan Bank is operated by the MSDE, Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services (DEI/SES) through the use of Federal Special Education discretionary funding. A School-Age Performance Specialist on the department staff acts as Program Manager to oversee the program and ensure that information about its services is shared with local school systems, local Infants and Toddlers programs, and other community stakeholders. A licensed audiologist (hired as a consultant) manages inventory, fulfills requests for loaned hearing aids, and communicates information about the program with community audiologists and other professionals.

Program Data

The Loan Bank began its 16th year of operation in January 2019. This fifteenth Annual Report for the Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank, now the Maryland Hearing Aid and Language & Communication Video Loan Bank, describes the status of the program between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019. At the time of this report, **9 families requested and received 14 hearing aids in 2019**. In addition, **11 hearing aids loaned to 6 children or youth in 2018** were used during 2019. Most loans in 2019 included two hearing aids, providing amplification for both ears; two children used only one behind the ear aid and two children borrowed a bone conduction hearing aid. Each child was eligible to retain the loaned hearing aids for up to six months and loan extensions may be granted after the initial loan, for three-month intervals. Beginning October 1, 2019, the initial loan and extension periods will be one year.

Demographics of Hearing Aid Loan Bank Participants

Location

The chart below represents the number of initial loan requests to the Loan Bank by county between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019.

COUNTY of RESIDENCE	FAMILIES SERVED	HEARING AIDS LOANED
Anne Arundel	3	5
Howard	1	2
Montgomery	1	2
Prince George’s	2	3
Baltimore	1	1
Somerset	1	1
Total:	9	14

Age

Age of child at time of request	Number of children
Less than 12 months	0
12 – 24 months old	3
24 – 36 months old	0
3 – 5 years old	0
6 – 9 years old	4
10 – 17 years old	2
Total Families Served	9

Loan Lengths

14 hearing aids were loaned to 9 children/families during the current year. The chart below highlights the number of hearing aids loaned each month in 2019 and the length of each loan.

Month Loan Originated	Number of Aids Loaned	Length of Loan (in Months)
January	2	2 aids – 6 months
February	6	5 aids – 6 months 1 aid – 6 months + 3 month extension
March	2	1 aid – 6 months + 3 month extension
April	0	-
May	0	-
June	0	-
July	0	-
August	2	2 aids - 6 months
September	2	2 aids – 6 months

October	-	-
November	-	-
December	-	-
Total	14	

Between the dates of January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019, there were three requests for loan extensions of at least three months from a loan initiated in 2019, and three requests for extensions of a loans initiated in 2018.

Returned Hearing Aids

Four families returned seven hearing aids that were loaned in 2019. Two of the hearing aids loaned in 2018 are still in use. In addition, 5 families returned a total of 9 hearing aids that were loaned in 2018. One older hearing aid that was loaned to a student in 2019 was eventually donated to Baltimore City Public Schools. Four children received permanent personal hearing aids or cochlear implants. Five hearing aids are currently being used.

Hearing Aid Loan Distribution Summary: January 1 – December 31, 2019

Fourteen hearing aids were loaned to nine eligible children. Eleven additional hearing aids that had been loaned in 2018 were used by six children during 2019.

“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 2019 and projected costs for SFY 2020, 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.

Costs	2019 Actual	2020 Projected
*Program Manager	\$8,453	\$8,658
Audiologist Consultant	\$24, 673	\$24, 750
Equipment	\$17,763	\$5,000
Total	\$42, 886	\$38, 408

* Program manager payroll costs provided through the MSDE using federal funds

Other expenses for the operation of the Loan Bank, including postage/shipping of hearing aids and other materials, photocopying of outreach materials for distribution to stakeholders, web site support, and administrative support are provided by the Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services.

Community Partnerships

The Maryland Hearing Aid and Language & Communication Video 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 approximately 80 infants are identified as Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing through the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) newborn hearing screening program administered by the Maryland Department of Health. After confirmation of their hearing status, children are referred to their local Infants and Toddlers Program to receive early intervention services. Through a collaborative partnership, the EHDI program, the Loan Bank, and Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program provide a valuable service to infants and toddlers with hearing loss and their families. The DEI/SES guidance on early intervention services for young children who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing and their families can be found at <http://marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Documents/Special-Ed/TAB/18-02-DeafHardHearing.pdf>. The program manager and audiologist share information about the program with the multiple stakeholder groups throughout the year. The 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 during 2019:

Develop Language & Communication Video Library

Goal:

Create a collection of videos and other resources that may be loaned to families to help them learn about the language and communication options they may wish to use with their children and develop their own knowledge and skills in those languages and/or methods.

Progress Update (January 1 - December 31, 2019):

Following the passage of SB 677, the Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services researched appropriate materials for the Language & Communication Loan Bank. Numerous stakeholders from the Maryland School for the Deaf, the Maryland EHDI Advisory Council, the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing, and local and national organizations were consulted. Based on this input, an inventory of videos to be loaned was acquired, along with a list of links to freely available materials for families to access directly. A loan procedure for the materials was developed. Information about the video loan program was included on the Loan Bank website beginning in October 2019.

Outcome Measure:

Number of materials borrowed, rate of return of materials, and satisfaction ratings and other feedback from users of the Loan Bank.

Update and Maintain Hearing Aid Inventory

Goal:

Continue to increase the number of state-of-the-art digital hearing aids available in the Loan Bank inventory, ensuring the availability of appropriate technology for users across the full age range served by the program and with a variety of hearing levels.

Progress Update (January 1 - December 31, 2019):

Fourteen new hearing aids, including several high-powered aids for use by children with severe-profound hearing loss and two bone-conduction aids for conductive loss, were purchased in the summer of 2019. Extended warranties were purchased, as available.

Older hearing aids, which were no longer requested due to outdated software, were donated to audiology clinics for use by adult patients: 117 hearing aids were donated to the University of Maryland and 92 hearing aids were donated to Towson University. One hearing aid was donated to Baltimore City Schools.

Outcome Measure:

Number of requests filled with preferred type/model of hearing aid.

Increase Public Awareness and Utilization

Goal:

Increase community awareness of the availability and the benefits of utilizing the Loan Bank by Infants and Toddlers programs, school-based programs, medical professionals, and community agencies serving children who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing and their families across the State, particularly in less densely populated areas of Western Maryland and the Eastern Shore. Publicize the availability of Language & Communication Video loan program to families and professionals.

Progress Update (January 1 - December 31, 2019):

Information regarding the Loan Bank continues to be posted on the Maryland State Department of Education website at www.marylandpublicschools.org. Links to the applications for hearing aids and language & communication videos are also available to the public on the website. In addition, information about the Loan Bank and its resources, including applications, is available on the newly redesigned Maryland Learning Links website at <https://marylandlearninglinks.org/the-maryland-hearing-aid-and-language-and-communication-video-loan-bank/>. The Loan Bank 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 facilitate services to families throughout the State.

In order to share information about the renaming and expansion of the program, new Maryland Hearing Aid and Language & Communication Video Loan Bank brochure (Appendix A) was developed and shared with stakeholders around the state, including all local Directors of Special Education, Preschool Special Education Directors, and Local Infants and Toddlers Program Directors. The Loan Bank was featured as part of the DEI/SES Professional Learning Institute in November of 2019 and brochures were distributed.

Outcome Measures:

Increased awareness of the Loan Bank in the public and medical community, to include the expanded age of eligibility and the Language & Communication Video resources.

Summary

The Maryland Hearing Aid and Language & Communication Video Loan Bank provides a vital and successful service to infants, toddlers, and now school-aged children up to age 21 with hearing loss and their families. The Loan Bank has assisted 331 families across the State since May 2003 and has loaned approximately 576 hearing aids to children over the last 15 years. The addition of a language and communication video loan program will further enhance this service by helping families learn the language and communication methods that will support their child's development. 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 Loan Bank, children are supported in developing language skills, which in turn support access and equity in learning, educational progress, and achievement. School-aged children and youth who receive loaned hearing aids have enhanced access to communication, learning, and peer interaction. The Loan Bank meets critical needs for Maryland families.

The MSDE remains committed to the implementation of the Loan Bank 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 continued partnership on behalf of Maryland children who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing 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 and Language & Communication Video Loan Bank

2019 Annual Report

Appendices

Appendix A: Program Brochure

Appendix B: Initial Hearing Aid Loan Application

Appendix C: Hearing Aid Loan Extension Application

Appendix D: Policies and Procedures

Appendix A:
Program Brochure

Language: The key to development

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 or Hard-of-Hearing, ensuring accessible language and communication from the start allows the child to develop his or her skills and relationships.

Based on their child's needs and their family goals, parents may choose to communicate with their Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing child using:

- A visual language such as American Sign Language
- Listening and spoken language strategies to develop the spoken language(s) of the home
- A visual communication method, such as Cued Speech, that provides access to the spoken language(s) of the home
- A combination of these approaches

For many children, amplification (via hearing aids and/or cochlear implants) is an important part of their language access and development.

The Maryland Hearing Aid and Language & Communication Video Loan Bank provides families with resources to support their child's language access and development. Families may borrow videos and other resources that help them learn the language(s) and/or communication methods they choose to use with their children. Loaner hearing aids are available to families who do not have insurance coverage, need a trial period before obtaining amplification technology, or are experiencing other difficulties or delays obtaining hearing aids for their children.

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Division of Early Intervention and Special Education
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Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Early
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Maryland Hearing Aid and Language & Communication Video Loan Bank

Supporting Language Access

**For Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing
Marylanders from Birth through 21**



The Maryland Hearing Aid and Language & Communication Video Loan Bank



Who is eligible?

Maryland residents who:

- Have been confirmed by an audiologist to be Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing
- Are under age 21 and have not yet graduated from high school
- (For loaner hearing aids) Are experiencing barriers or delays to purchasing, obtaining, or replacing aids or need aids on a trial basis.

There are no income qualifications for the program and all resources are provided free of charge to families. Families may access hearing aids, language and communication videos, or both.

<https://www.marylandlearninglinks.org/the-maryland-hearing-aid-and-language-and-communication-video-loan-bank>

How do families access hearing aids and videos from the Loan Bank?

Hearing Aids

The Loan Bank has an inventory of hearing aids appropriate for children with varying levels of hearing loss, including specialized devices for unilateral and conductive loss.

Submit the application found on the Loan Bank website to receive loaner hearing aids. The application includes sections to be completed by the family and by the audiologist.

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

How long can a child keep hearing aids from the Loan Bank? The standard length of time is 12 months with up to a 12-month extension.



Language and Communication Videos

The Loan Bank includes videos and other resources on language development in children who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing. It also contains materials to help families learn the language or communication method(s) they choose to use, including:

- American Sign Language
- Cued Speech
- Listening and spoken language strategies

Visit the Loan Bank website at to complete the request form. The requested items will be sent to you. The Loan Bank website also contains links to materials that you can directly access on the internet at no cost.

How long can a family keep language and communication videos? The standard loan period is one month. Loans may be extended on request, pending requests from other patrons. When you are finished, mail the materials back to the Loan Bank.

What other supports and services are available for children and families?

Early Intervention: Young children (birth to 3) who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing and their families are eligible for early intervention services through the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program (MITP).

- For information about early intervention or to refer a child for services, visit <https://referral.mditp.org>
- For MSDE's guidance on best practices in Early Intervention for children who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing, see <http://marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Documents/Special-Ed/TAB/18-02-DeafHardHearing.pdf>

Special Education: Children age 3 through 21 who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing may be eligible for Special Education. Contact your local school to begin the evaluation process.

Maryland School for the Deaf: Children and families from across the State may receive services, such as home visits, American Sign Language instruction, and educational programming from the Maryland School for the Deaf. Visit msd.edu for more information.



Appendix B:
Initial Hearing Aid Loan Application

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services
HEARING AID and LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATION VIDEO LOAN BANK

HEARING AID LOAN APPLICATION FORM

The purpose of this program is to provide temporary hearing aids for Maryland residents with hearing loss under the age of 21 years old who have not yet graduated from high school while they are waiting to receive their personal amplification devices. The best way to contact the loan bank is through email. Please contact the Hearing Aid and Language & Communication Video Loan Bank at zella.shabasson@maryland.gov or 410-767-0739 if you have any questions.

Videos to help families learn the language and communication methods they choose to use with their child are available for loan. Complete the application form on the Loan Bank website.

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, 9th Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
ATTN: Zella Shabasson
Email: zella.shabasson@maryland.gov
Fax: (410) 333-8165

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: _____

Maryland Hearing Aid and Language & Communication Video Loan Bank
Hearing Aid Application

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ County of Residence _____

Email: _____

PART B - To be completed by the referring audiologist

In order for this request to be processed, a copy of any audiological 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, scan 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?

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 and Language & Communication Video Loan Bank based on the information received.

Audiologist Signature

Date

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

1. Please explain why you are requesting loaned hearing aids at this time?

2. Please briefly describe your efforts to obtain permanent hearing aids via insurance and/or Medical Assistance (if applicable).

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

4. 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 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 THE HEARING AID(S) FOR UP TO 12 MONTHS. IF MY CHILD HAS NOT RECEIVED HIS/HER PERSONAL AMPLIFICATION WITHIN THAT TIME, I MAY EXTEND THE LOAN PERIOD BY 12 MONTHS, BY COMPLETING AN EXTENSION AGREEMENT.

_____ IF MY CHILD WILL CONTINUE TO USE HEARING AIDS, I AGREE TO SEEK PERSONAL AMPLIFICATION FOR HIM/HER.

_____ 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

Appendix C:
Hearing Aid Loan Extension Application

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Division of Early Invention and Special Education Services
HEARING AID and LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATION VIDEO LOAN BANK
HEARING AID LOAN EXTENSION FORM

The purpose of this program is to provide temporary hearing aids for Maryland residents with hearing loss under the age of 21 years old who have not yet graduated from high school while they are waiting to receive their personal amplification devices. The best way to contact the loan bank is through email at zella.shabasson@maryland.gov; call if you have any questions at 410-767-0739.

This application is for the purpose of extending the initial 12-month loan for a period of up to 12 additional 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, 9th Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
ATTN: Zella Shabasson
Email: zella.shabasson@maryland.gov
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: _____

Home #: _____ Cell phone #: _____

Parent's Email: _____

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 twelve months

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

HEARING AID LOAN EXTENSION AGREEMENT

_____ I AGREE THAT MY CHILD WILL HAVE USE OF LOANER HEARING AID(S) FROM THE MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, DIVISION OF EARLY INTERVENTION AND SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES FOR 12 ADDITIONAL MONTHS

_____ 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 IF MY CHILD WILL CONTINUE TO USE HEARING AIDS, I WILL SEEK PERMANENT PERSONAL HEARING AID(S) 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 FOR RETURN TO THE MARYLAND HEARING AID AND LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATION VIDEO LOAN BANK.

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date

Requesting Audiologist Signature

Appendix D:
Maryland Hearing Aid and Language & Communication Video Loan Bank
Policies and Procedures

MARYLAND HEARING AID AND LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATION VIDEO LOAN BANK

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

Policies & Procedures

1) Eligibility criteria for children with hearing loss and their families

- A. Maryland resident
- B. Child through age 21 years who has not yet graduated from high school with documentation of confirmed diagnosis of hearing loss from a referring audiologist.
- C. Family of a child through age 21 years who has not yet graduated from high school presenting a need for a temporary loan of hearing aids, while making arrangements to secure permanent amplification through insurance or other means. (For loaned hearing aids)

2) For Hearing Aids

A. Required documentation for application for hearing aids from the Loan Bank

- 1. Required documentation from referring Audiologist:
 - a) Audiological confirmation of the need for amplification;
 - 1. Otoacoustic Emissions/Auditory Brainstem Response screening results and diagnostic test results **and/or**
 - 2. Audiometric Data utilizing any of the following behavioral assessment techniques, including Behavioral Observation Audiometry, Visual Reinforcement Audiometry, Conditioned Play Audiometry, or Conventional Audiometry.
 - b) Acoustic emittance audiometry, if performed;
 - c) A written recommendation from the referring audiologist for suitable amplification for the child; and
 - d) Medical clearance for hearing aid fitting from the child's physician.
- 2. Required documentation from parent or legal guardian:
 - a) Documentation stating the reason why the parent or legal guardian has no immediate* access to hearing aids;
 - b) Report of the family's insurance/Medicaid coverage or other access to permanent hearing aids; and
 - c) A signed agreement stating the terms and conditions of the loan.

B. Length of loan period and conditions for extended loan periods

1. The length of a standard loan period shall be 12 months from the date of issuance by the Hearing Aid Loan Bank from available supply.
2. The original loan period may be extended for an additional 12-month period if, prior to each extension, the Director determines that:
 - a) The child does not have immediate access to another hearing aid under Medicaid, The Maryland Children's Health Program, medical assistance, or private insurance;
 - b) The child's parent or legal guardian currently does not have the financial means to obtain immediate* access to another hearing aid; and
 - c) The child's parent or legal guardian is making reasonable efforts to obtain access to another hearing aid.

C. 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; and
7. Submit a signed agreement stating the terms and conditions for extension of the loan.

D. 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; and
2. Upon completion of the 12-month loan period the hearing aid(s) will be returned to the child's audiologist for shipment to the loan bank.

E. Recommended Follow-Up

1. A hearing aid evaluation during the course of the loan period describing any functional gain, or real ear testing performed; and
2. Provision of information to the family about Early Intervention and/or Special Education Services, if not already enrolled.

**The term "immediate" is defined as a period not exceeding two weeks. Hearing aids may also be loaned to families pursuing a trial of amplification to determine benefit before acquiring permanent personal hearing aids or cochlear implants.*

3) For Language and Communication Videos

A. Resource Selection

1. The goal of the Loan Bank is to maintain a comprehensive and balanced collections that supports families in their choices for language and communication with their children. Inclusion of items in the Loan Bank does not constitute an endorsement of the items or a recommendation of any language and/or communication method for a child and family.
2. The Loan Bank will also maintain a listing of websites and other on-line resources that families can access free of charge.
3. New materials will be added to both the physical loan bank and the on-line listing periodically based on utilization, user requests, and recommendations from other stakeholders.

B. Resource Distribution

1. A family may request up to three titles at a time via the on-line loan form.
2. Materials will be shipped directly to the family along with a return envelope.

C. Loan Period

1. The initial loan period will be one month.
2. The initial loan may be extended for one month at time, unless the materials have been requested by another user.

