

Name: Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank (HALB)

Who can access the loaner bank?

The Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank (HALB) was formed in the Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services in the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to provide loaner amplification devices to meet the needs of deaf and hard of hearing infants and toddlers in the State of Maryland.

The MD HALB loans hearing aids free of charge to families who need amplification for their infant or toddler, ages Birth – age 3. Those who meet the following criteria are eligible for a loan:

- Legal residents of Maryland
- Families whose insurance does not cover the cost of the hearing aid(s)
- Families who are experiencing delays in acquiring hearing aids
- Families who need amplification for their child during cochlear implant candidacy evaluation

There is no income qualification to access the Hearing Aid Loan Bank

How is the Loan Bank accessed?

Families must go through an application process to obtain hearing aids from the Loan Bank. Once a diagnosis of hearing loss is confirmed by a licensed audiologist, the referring audiologist and the parent complete an application for the hearing aid loan request. The audiologist then submits the application to the HALB, where it is processed. Upon approval, the hearing aids are loaned to the family for a period of up to six months. Loan extensions may be granted upon request.

Contact information:

We currently do not have our own website, however information regarding the HALB can be accessed through the MSDE website, as well as through Maryland's special education supersite, Maryland Learning Links at www.marylandlearninglinks.org. Personnel may be reached at the following email addresses and phone numbers:

Dr. Kathleen Heck, Program Manager- kheck@msde.state.md.us

Phone# 410-767-0739 or 410-767-0244

Ms. Stacy Fitzgerald, Audiologist- sfitzgerald@msde.state.md.us

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