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Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program

2014 Annual Report

Submitted to:
The Maryland General assembly
December 31, 2014



**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 (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 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. The statutory provisions establishing the original program sunset 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 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 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 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, and the number of children who subsequently received permanent hearing aids or a cochlear implant. In addition, this report outlines projected program enhancements for SFY 2016. The current Program applications as well as the Program brochure 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, 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 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.

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, a 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 hiring freeze there was 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 director, who served in this capacity from SFY 2002- SFY 2009.

In March of SFY 2011, the newly hired Lead Specialist for Low Incidence Disabilities and Resources in the Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services (DSE/EIS) assumed the management of the Loan Bank. She is a nationally certified and Maryland licensed speech-language pathologist with a background in speech, language, and hearing. In January 2014 a licensed audiologist was also hired to serve the Program on a part-time basis.

Program Data

The Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank began its eleventh year of operation in January 2014. This tenth Annual Report for the Maryland Hearing Aid Loan Bank describes the status of this program between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014. At the time of this report, four (4) families of infants and toddlers have requested and received seven (7) hearing aids from the Loan Bank since January 1, 2014. 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 number and ages of children who received hearing aids through the Hearing Aid Loan Bank January 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014

The chart below represents the number of requests to the HALB by county between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014. Although all twenty-four jurisdictions were eligible, only audiologists from Baltimore County, Montgomery and Prince George's County submitted requests during this period.

COUNTY	FAMILIES REFERRED
Baltimore County	1
Montgomery	2
Prince Georges	1
Total = (Children served)	4

One child under the age of one, two children who were one year of age and one child who were two years of age received hearing aids from the HALB between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014.

Four (4) children/families have received hearing aids through the HALB since January 2014. Two families requested and received a loan extension. The remaining two children/families are currently using the loaned aids.

A total of twelve hearing aids from six families were returned to the Hearing Aid Loan Bank between January 1, 2014 and December 1, 2014. Of those returns, all six children received permanent hearing aids through private insurance or cochlear implants

The length of each original loan

Seven (7) hearing aids were loaned to four (4) children/families during the current year's cycle. The chart below highlights the number of hearing aids loaned each month January 1 – December 31, 2014, and the length of each loan to a child/family as of December 2014.

Month Loan Originated	Number of Aids Loaned	Length of Loan (in Months)
January	0	NA
February	0	NA
March	2	8*
April	0	NA
May	2	6*
June	0	NA
July	0	NA
August	0	NA
September	0	0
October	0	0
November	3	-
December	0	-
Total	7	

*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, 2014 and December 31, 2014 there were eight (8) requests for loan extensions of at least three months, with several families requesting an additional three month extension.

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

Twelve (12) hearing aids were properly returned to the Hearing Aid Loan Bank between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014.

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

Hearing Aid Loan Distribution Summary for the period

January 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014

- Seven hearing aids were loaned to four eligible infants and toddlers.
- The age of hearing aid recipients ranged from four months to two and a half years old.
- One infant under the age of one, two children one year of age to two years of age received hearing aids and one child who was two years of age received hearing aids.
- Six families who received loaned aids prior to December 2014 returned twelve hearing aids to the Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program.
- A total of thirteen families are using twenty-five loaned hearing aids at the time of this report.

"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 2015 and projected costs for SFY 2016, including staff salaries for one full-time program manager and one part-time audiologist, equipment and supplies (such as digital hearing aids), program outreach, program enhancement, and administrative support costs.

Costs	SFY 2015 <i>Actual</i>	SFY 2016 <i>Projected</i>
*Project Manager	\$29,930	\$30,000
Part-Time Audiologist	\$25,000	\$50,000
Outreach	\$0	\$200
Equipment	\$9603	\$5,050
Total	\$63,533	\$55,180

This report reflects actual expenditures from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014

* Program manager payroll costs provided through MSDE using federal funds for the period covering January 1, 2014- December 31, 2014. In addition, outreach expenses were kept to a minimum as a result of information being shared through an electronic and face-to-face format, thus reducing costs for postage. A total of twenty (20) new digital hearing aids were purchased for the Program in January 2014. In addition, a part-time audiologist was hired, and began working with the program in January 2014.

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 fifty to eighty (50-80) infants with permanent hearing loss. These children are diagnosed through a series of hearing screenings administered through the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program. Through a collaborative partnership the HALB, IHP, and EHDI programs all provide a valuable service to infants and toddlers with hearing loss.

Program Enhancements:

The following pages outline the proposed program enhancements for January 1- December 31, 2015:

Update 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 target population. A portion of the HALB's inventory of hearing aids will be replaced with digital hearing aids with current technology.

Progress Update (January 1, 2014- December 31, 2014):

In January 2014 twenty (20) new digital BTE hearing aids were purchased and added to the existing HALB inventory.

Proposed Strategy:

Continue to purchase new hearing aids and replace older aids at the rate of at least six digital hearing aids per year.

Outcome Measure:

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

Public Awareness and Outreach Campaign

Goal:

Increase community and infant and toddlers programs awareness of the availability and the benefits of utilizing the HALB.

Progress Update (January 1, 2014- December 31, 2014):

Information regarding the HALB continues to be posted on the Maryland State Department of Education website at 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. The Loan Bank continues to be linked to the Maryland State Infant Hearing Advisory Council and the Maryland Advisory Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing 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 through:

- 1) The Program audiologist's scheduled meetings with ITP directors;
- 2) Posting of HALB information on the Maryland Association of Audiologists website
- 3) Several conferences over the year, including the Annual Maryland State Stakeholders Meeting of the Infant Hearing Program in May, 2014, for which the Program Manager did a formal presentation regarding the HALB.

Proposed Strategies:

1. Have the program brochure and applications translated into Spanish and made available on the Maryland State Department of Education and Maryland Learning Links websites.
2. 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).
3. Continue to disseminate program information to infant and toddler service providers as well as the community. In addition, pediatricians and otolaryngologists will receive information as well.

Outcome Measures:

Increased awareness of the HALB in the public and medical community.

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

Enhanced 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 infants and toddlers through the HALB.

Progress Update (January 1, 2014- December 31, 2014):

Since October 2013 a database for hearing aids in the inventory has been utilized to track hearing aid loans. In addition, a hardcopy HALB Referrals Form continues to be utilized in order to collect and track specific information pertaining to hearing aid loan requests that are processed, and returned aids.

Proposed Strategy:

Develop and disseminate surveys to be sent to families and audiologists who use the HALB. Through the use of these tools, 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 and toddlers with hearing loss and their families. The HALB has assisted over two hundred and seventy three (273) families across the state since May 2003, and has loaned over four hundred and ninety three (493) hearing aids to infants and toddlers over the last ten 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, and educational progress and achievement. There continues to be a need for the services of the HALB, which is available to all eligible Maryland residents. The program provides hearing aids to families who have a hearing impaired child from birth to three years old and reside in the state of Maryland.

The MSDE remains committed to the implementation of the HALB 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.

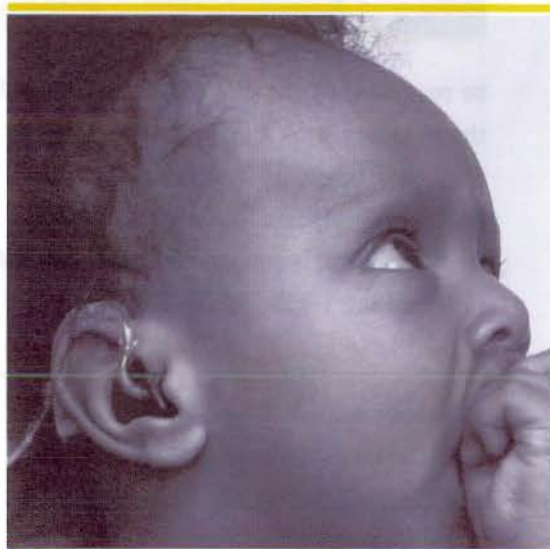
"We want to thank the Loan Bank for letting us borrow hearing aids. The service meant so much to us! Our son was able to have access to this important technology at an early age, which allowed him to reap early benefits from speech development. Thank you so much!" Parent Testimonial

APPENDICES

- I. Program Brochure
- II. Program Fact Sheet
- III. Program Application
- IV. Program Loan Extension Application
- V. HALB Processed Loans Form
- VI. Policies and Procedures

Why hearing aids?

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



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

More Resources for Families

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

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

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

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

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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 establishing a permanent Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program in the State Department of Education.

Summary

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

Contact Information

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September 2011

APPENDICES III

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 under the age of 3 while they are waiting to receive their personal amplification devices. Please contact the Hearing Aid Loan Bank at 410-767-0739, if you have any questions.

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

**Maryland State Department of Education
Division of Special Education/Early Intervention
200 West Baltimore Street, 9th Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
ATTN: Paul K. Farrell
Phone: (410) 767-0261 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: _____

Child's Information

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian's Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

1

**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 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

2

**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?

5. 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

3

**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 STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION/EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES.

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

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

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

I AGREE TO SEEK PERMANENT HEARING AID(S) 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

APPENDICES IV

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

MARYLAND HEARING AID LOAN BANK HEARING AID LOAN EXTENSION FORM

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

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

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

**Maryland State Department of Education
Infants and Toddlers Program, 9th Floor
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
ATTN: Paul K. Farrell
Phone: (410) 767-0261 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: _____

Date Submitted: _____

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

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 infant or toddler and 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 RECEIVE (A) LOANER HEARING AID(S) FROM THE MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION/EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES, MARYLAND INFANTS & TODDLERS PROGRAM/PRESCHOOL SERVICES BRANCH.

_____ 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 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

Hearing Aid Loan Bank, Loans Processed 2014

manufacturer/ model	Audiologist	County	MSDE #	Degree of HL	D.O.B.	Date Loaned	Date Returned	Child name
Oticon Safari 300 SP	Jennifer Lightfoot	Mont.	228282	severe- profound AU	6/27/2012	11/6/2014	N/A	A.U.
Oticon Safari 300 SP	Jennifer Lightfoot	Mont.	228283	severe- profound AU	6/27/2012	11/6/2014	N/A	A.U.
Oticon Safari 300 SP	Jennifer Lightfoot	Prince George	228281	severe- profound AU	1/4/2013	5/14/2014	N/A	A.C.
Oticon Safari 300 SP	Jennifer Lightfoot	Prince George	228280	severe- profound AU	1/4/2013	5/14/2014	N/A	A.C.
Oticon Safari 600 SP	Jennifer Lightfoot	Mont.	228289	severe- profound AU	2/1/2013	3/14/2014	N/A	K.B
Oticon Safari 600 SP	Jennifer Lightfoot	Mont.	228288	severe- profound AU	2/1/2013	3/14/2014	N/A	K.B.
Phonak Naida Q30 SP	Sun Young Lee	Baltimore County	228279	severe- profound AD	7/29/2014	11/20/2014	N/A	A.B

MARYLAND HEARING AID LOAN BANK PROGRAM
DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION/EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES
INFANTS AND TODDLERS PROGRAM

Policies & Procedures

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

1. A child under the age of 3 years with documentation of confirmed diagnosis of hearing loss from a referring audiologist.
2. A family of a child under the age of 3 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. Otoacoustic Emissions/Auditory Brainstem Response screening results and diagnostic test results.
2. Audiometric Data utilizing any of the following behavioral assessment techniques, including Behavioral Observation Audiometry, Visual Reinforcement Audiometry, or Conditioned Play Audiometry performed.
3. Acoustic immittance audiometry, if performed.
4. A written recommendation from the referring audiologist for suitable amplification for the infant or toddler tested.
5. Medical clearance for hearing aid fitting from the child's physician.

Required documentation from parent 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 Director of the Hearing Aid Loan Bank from available supply.

**MARYLAND HEARING AID LOAN BANK PROGRAM
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

The Director may extend the original loan period 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. Be responsible for any damage to or loss of the hearing aid not covered by the hearing aid warranty up to \$100.00. This excludes normal wear and tear; and
5. A signed agreement stating the terms and conditions of the loan.
6. 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.
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.

F. 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" will be defined as a period not exceeding two weeks.