

Sources of Funding for Adults with Hearing Loss

Hear Now

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HEAR NOW

6700 Washington Ave. S.

Eden Prairie, MN 55344

- Assists individuals who are residents of the U.S. and qualify under the National Poverty Guidelines for assistance

2003 HHS Poverty Guidelines: (48 contiguous states and D.C.)

| Size of family unit | Income |
|---------------------|--------|
| 1 | 11,225 |
| 2 | 15,150 |
| 3 | 19,075 |
| 4 | 23,000 |
| 5 | 26,925 |
| 6 | 30,850 |
| 7 | 34,775 |
| 8 | 38,700 |

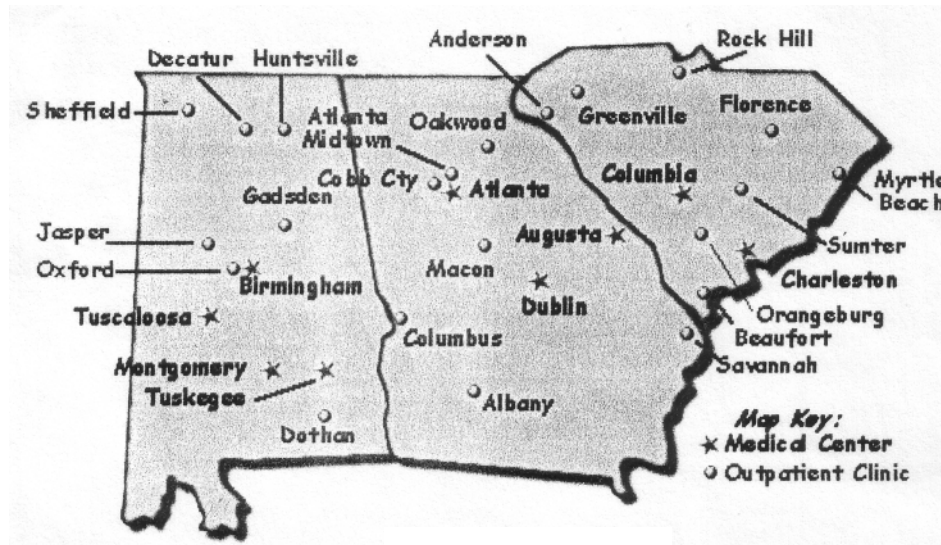
For each additional person, add \$3,140

- Only provides analog aids
- Receives no government funding (All donations – money, time, and hearing aids) allow the HEAR NOW program to survive and provide the gift of hearing.
- Current fee (2003) is \$50 per hearing aid (non-refundable).
- It is up to the vendor to charge for the evaluation.
- 3-year waiting period between times of service.

VA Medical Center, Tuscaloosa, AL

- One of 8 facilities in VISN 7
- Provides primary care, long-term health care, and mental health care to eligible veterans in VISN 7
- Primary factor in “veteran status”, established by active duty service in the military, naval, or air service and a discharge or release from active military service under other-than-dishonorable conditions
- Most non-service-connected veterans and non-compensable 0% service-connected veterans are required to complete an annual means test or to agree to pay VA the applicable co-payment. The means test is based on their family’s income and net worth. Some veterans are required to make co-payments for their care and medications.
- A veteran who applies for enrollment on or after January 17, 2003 and is assigned to Priority Group 8 will not be accepted for enrollment.

- Digital, digitally programmable, and conventional circuitry, in a variety of hearing aid styles are available on the current government contract.
- The style and circuitry of the hearing aid ordered will depend largely on the severity of the hearing loss, communication needs, and lifestyle of the patient, if they receive increased pension based on the need for regular aid and attendance or being permanently housebound, receive compensation for a service-connected disability, require these items for treatment of a service-connected condition, or are a former prisoner of war. Otherwise, hearing aids and eyeglasses will only be provided in special circumstances, and not for generally occurring hearing or vision loss.



Vocational Rehab Services

- Offices in Andalusia, Anniston, Bessemer, B'ham, Homewood, Columbiana, Decatur, Dothan, Gadsden, Hustsville, Hackson, Jasper, Modile, Montgomery, Muscle Shoals, Opelika, Scottsboro, Selma, Talladega, Thomasville, Troy and Tuscaloosa.
- Services are based on a very high sliding scale. For some things – not surgery – the client may have to pay a percentage, though this is rare. Most clients pay nothing and can get anything from surgery to work clothes. Sliding scale began October 2002. Clients who receive SSI or SSDI are automatically financially eligible. What is paid to the vendors is much less than the client would pay on their own.
- A person is eligible for services if they have a permanent physical or mental disability that keeps them from getting or keeping a job, need our assistance to get or keep the job, or are presumed eligible because they receive SSI or SSDI.
- To qualify, medical or psychological documentation of the disabling condition must be turned in. Just because a person has a diagnosis does not mean that they are a client. The disability must be chronic/permanent, meaning that if surgery will remove the disabling condition, it is not a disability. Unfortunately, things such as hernias or hysterectomies are not considered, nor are dental problems (which can be severe in some cases).