

Application for Assistance

(PLEASE READ ENTIRELY BEFORE FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION!!!)

What is the Hearing and Speech Foundation?

The mission of the Hearing and Speech Foundation (HSF) is to empower individuals with communication deficits to live their lives to the fullest. We accomplish our mission through the following programs: hearing aid assistance, research and development in speech perception; and hearing aid recycling. All services from the Foundation are granted on a first-come, first-served basis. In the event that funding is not available at the time your application is processed and you are pre-approved for services, your name will be placed on a waitlist. As soon as funding is available we will contact you via postal mail to notify you of your final approval.

What services are received?

Hearing Aid Assistance:

The Foundation provides hearing aids and hearing services, including audiological exams and earmold impressions. The majority of the aids provided by the Foundation are behind-the-ear hearing aids. The type of hearing aid you are fitted with is determined only by the audiologist. **Hearing Aids we have available may be new, manufacturer refurbished or thoroughly evaluated and tested used aids donated through our recycling program.** Once you approved and fitted the hearing aid(s) are yours and you are free to have follow-ups with any service provider of your choice. All hearing aids received are your property and should be cared for as directed. We ask that in the event you are no longer using the aids that you consider donating them back to the Foundation as they may help someone in the future. **If approved, you are not eligible to re-apply for services for 3 years after your last fitting date.**

Who is eligible and what is the cost?

Eligibility for our programs is determined by household income and extenuating personal and financial circumstances. We use the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Federal Income Guidelines to determine client eligibility and fees for services. We accept clients whose gross annual household income follows the chart on the following page. **Fee payment is required at the time of service, unfortunately, we do not have a payment plan, using a credit card will result in an additional \$10 processing fee.**

What information do I need to apply?

A copy of the following documentation **must** be included with your completed application. Failure to do so will result in a delay in processing your application:

- A completed application for assistance (attached)
- **Verification of residency** You may submit a utility, cable, or phone bill or a copy of your driver's license if the address is correct. (Must be a street address, no post office boxes)
- **Proof of household income** – **Latest IRS 1040 tax return form** and you may be asked to submit a Social Security statement (and/or SSI), an alimony statement, VA benefits statement, retirement pension statement, retirement investment statement, disability income statement, or a check stub from your employer.

2024 U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Federal Income Levels – Dollars Per Year

Household Size	Annual Household Income Tier 1	Annual Household Income Tier 2	Annual Household Income Tier 3
1	\$0 - \$18,825	\$18,826 - \$30,120	\$30,121 - \$45,180
2	\$0 - \$25,550	\$25,551 - \$40,880	\$40,881 - \$61,320
3	\$0 - \$32,275	\$32,276 - \$51,640	\$51,641 - \$77,460
4	\$0 - \$39,000	\$39,001 - \$62,400	\$62,401 - \$93,600
5	\$0 - \$45,275	\$45,276 - \$73,160	\$73,161 - \$109,740
6	\$0 - \$52,450	\$52,451 - \$83,920	\$83,921 - \$125,880
7	\$0 - \$59,175	\$59,176 - \$94,680	\$94,681 - \$142,020
8	\$0 - \$65,900	\$65,901 - \$105,440	\$105,441 - \$158,160
Over 8	Add \$5,380 for each additional person		

Current Sliding Scale Fees for Services

Cost <u>PER</u>	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Hearing Aid*	\$0	\$0	\$0
<u>Services</u>			
1 ST Aid	\$145	\$235	\$350
2 ND Aid*	\$40	\$115	\$150
TOTAL	\$185	\$350	\$500

\$10 fee is added if using a credit card for payment

Instructions for filling out the application:

- Make sure all blanks and blocks are filled in. If a question does not apply to you, then write NA for “not applicable. **Please do not leave anything blank.**
- Make sure **ALL** verification documents are included with your application.
- Make sure you have signed all the signature locations.
- Completed applications are reviewed as received. Services may be delayed if we have to contact you about missing documents or incomplete application.
- Once your application is reviewed, our office will send a letter of your client status with the Foundation. Assistance is first come, first served.

You can submit your completed application by email, mail, fax, or bring it directly to our office. If you have any further questions or need help completing an application, please contact our office, we will be happy to assist you.

John A. Hinkle
Executive Director & Foundation Board Member
1619 E. Broadway Ave Maryville, TN 37804
Phone: (865) 977-0981 / Fax: (865) 977-5444 / Email: jahinkle@handsf.org

*Please fill out **ALL** the following information for services from the Hearing and Speech Foundation.*



Which services are you applying for: Hearing Aid Assistance

Have you applied for Foundation services before? Yes No If yes, when? _____

CLIENT INFORMATION

Applicant's Name: _____ Date of Application: _____

Address: _____ Applicant's Date of Birth: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____ Employer: _____

Cell phone: _____ Email: _____

Person completing application if not applicant: _____

Relationship to applicant: _____ Contact Phone Number: _____

Marital Status: Married Widowed Divorced Single NA – Child

Gender: Male Female Are you a U.S. Veteran? Yes No

Are you currently receiving public assistance? Yes No

If yes, please list services you currently receive (such as TennCare, CoverKids, food stamps, etc): _____

Ethnicity: Caucasian (Non-Hispanic) African American Latino American Native American
 Hispanic American Asian American Other (please specify): _____

How did you find out about the Foundation? _____

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total number of individuals and dependents (including yourself) living in your home/household: _____

Do you have investment or retirement (pension, IRA, etc) accounts? Yes No
(if Yes, you must provide a statement showing value of the account)

Please list name, age & annual income of each on the next page and attach documentation:

1.	_____ , _____			\$ _____
	Name (Applicant)	Age		Annual Income
2.	_____ , _____	_____		\$ _____
	Name	Age	Relationship to applicant	Annual Income
3.	_____ , _____	_____		\$ _____
	Name	Age	Relationship to applicant	Annual Income
4.	_____ , _____	_____		\$ _____
	Name	Age	Relationship to applicant	Annual Income
5.	_____ , _____	_____		\$ _____
	Name	Age	Relationship to applicant	Annual Income
6.	_____ , _____	_____		\$ _____
	Name	Age	Relationship to applicant	Annual Income
7.	_____ , _____	_____		\$ _____
	Name	Age	Relationship to applicant	Annual Income
8.	_____ , _____	_____		\$ _____
	Name	Age	Relationship to applicant	Annual Income

I certify the financial information provided on this application is true to the best of my knowledge AND I HAVE ENCLOSED DOCUMENTATION WITH THIS APPLICATION TO VERIFY MY HOUSEHOLD INCOME.

Applicant Signature

Date

PLEASE BE SURE TO FULLY READ APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS, COMPLETE, REVIEW, SIGN, AND DATE THE FORM



OBSERVATION AGREEMENT AND APPEARANCE RELEASE FORM:

There will be opportunities for the Foundation to observe and video and/or photograph applicant services. Allowing the Foundation to observe these services helps us to monitor programs and supplement reporting activity for funding---pictures always help tell the story. Please indicate whether you would allow the Foundation to observe and/or video/photograph your services.

I will allow the Foundation to observe me while receiving services. Yes No

I will allow the Foundation to video and/or photograph me receiving services for use in media presentations, social media, publications and fundraising. Yes No

HSF may contact me for research purposes, including, but not limited to, participation in studies and ongoing research programs. Yes No

For good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, I hereby grant the Hearing and Speech Foundation the right to release and broadcast my name, face, character, voice and/or likeness without any compensation of any kind. This release applies to, but is not limited to, usage in any print materials, brochures, print ads, commercials, promotional announcements, public service messages, or news programs.

I further consent to the reproduction and/or authorization by the Hearing and Speech Foundation to reproduce and use said videos and photographs and recordings of my voice, for use in all domestic and foreign markets. Further, I understand that others, with or without the consent of the Hearing and Speech Foundation may use and/or reproduce such photographs and recordings.

I hereby release the Hearing and Speech Foundation, and any of its associated or affiliated companies, their directors, officers, agents, employees and customers, and appointed advertising agencies, their directors, officers, agents and employees from all claims of every kind on account of such use.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

If Model is under 18

I, _____, am the parent/legal guardian of the individual named above. I have read this release and approve of its terms.