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# Alberta Aids to Daily Living

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## P R O G R A M

### Hearing Aids

*The Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) program helps Albertans with a long-term disability, chronic illness or terminal illness maintain their independence in their community through the provision of medical equipment and supplies to meet their basic, medically assessed needs.*

## AADL Hearing Aid Benefits

- ◆ The AADL Hearing Aid program is intended for Albertans with a hearing impairment who are registered with the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan, and meet other specific benefit eligibility requirements.
- ◆ Subject to certain conditions, the program is designed to provide funding towards the purchase, replacement and repair of hearing aids.

### Who can get hearing aid funding?

- ◆ Children and youth under the age of 18, who have a documented hearing loss may be eligible for two hearing aids once every five years.
- ◆ Adults 18 to 24, who have a documented hearing loss and who are pursuing full time post-secondary studies, may be eligible for two hearing aids once every five years.
- ◆ Adults 18 to 64, who have a documented hearing loss, and have a low income may be eligible for funding towards two hearing aids or a personal listening device once every five years.
- ◆ Seniors 65\* and older and their spouses/adult dependents who have a documented hearing loss and have a low income may be eligible for funding towards two hearing aids or a personal listening device once every five years.
- ◆ Seniors 65\* and older and their spouses/adult dependents, who have a documented hearing loss, but have a higher income, may be eligible for funding towards one hearing aid or a personal listening device once every five years.

\* Age must be verified with Alberta Health Care (proof of age documentation)

You may **not** be eligible for AADL benefits if you are eligible to receive comparable benefits through another source, including:

- ◆ Non-Insured Health Benefits for First Nations and Inuit
- ◆ Workers' Compensation Board
- ◆ Veterans Affairs
- ◆ a private insurance plan

## Cost-Share

AADL is a cost-share program. Clients pay 25% of the cost of their benefits, up to a maximum contribution of \$500 per family per benefit year (July 1 to June 30).

Low-income Albertans and those receiving income assistance do not pay the cost-share portion. Clients must fill out a cost-share exemption form available from your specialty vendor or AADL.

### **IMPORTANT:**

If you want an upgraded hearing aid, which costs more than AADL's maximum funded amount, you are responsible for paying that additional cost. This cost is not included in the \$500 cost-share maximum.

Contact AADL Client Services directly if you receive assistance from:

- ◆ Alberta Widows' Pension
- ◆ Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH)
- ◆ Alberta Health Benefits (AHB)
- ◆ Income Supports

***You can appeal your cost-share status if the cost-share will create a financial hardship. Contact AADL for information on the cost-share appeal process.***

## Definitions

- ◆ An **Audiologist** is a person who is a member in good standing of the Alberta College of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists, and who has a minimum of one year clinical experience providing audiology or hearing aid services as a certified audiologist.
- ◆ A **Hearing Aid Practitioner** is a person who is a member in good standing of the College of Hearing Aid Practitioners of Alberta with a designation of Hearing Aid Practitioner and who has a minimum of one year clinical experience providing hearing aid services as a Hearing Aid Practitioner.

## Process to Purchase Hearing Aids

- 1. Assessment** – prior to getting hearing aids, you must undergo a complete hearing assessment. This assessment may be done by an AADL contracted vendor or by a publicly funded Alberta Health Services audiologist. Once a diagnosis is made, and any possibility of medical intervention ruled out, you may proceed to discuss your hearing aid options.

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To find a contracted AADL hearing aid vendor, go to the AADL website at [www.seniors.alberta.ca/aadl/av/manual/PDF/22a\\_hearing\\_aid\\_vendor\\_list.pdf](http://www.seniors.alberta.ca/aadl/av/manual/PDF/22a_hearing_aid_vendor_list.pdf), check your telephone Yellow Pages directly under “Hearing Aids” or contact AADL.

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- 2. Counseling** – the hearing professional will use the information from the assessment to make recommendations regarding your hearing aids.

- 3. Fitting** – when the hearing aids are ready, an appointment will be made to fit the devices. The devices are checked for proper fit and comfort, and the aids are programmed to meet your specific hearing needs.

You will also receive instruction on the proper care, use and maintenance of your hearing aids.. At the fitting, the vendor will ask you to pay your cost-share portion and any upgrade costs.



- 4. Trial period** – you will be given a minimum 28 day trial period with the hearing aids. Should you have any questions or concerns, please discuss them with your vendor.
- 5. Validation Certificate** – after your trial period, you will be asked to sign an AADL Validation Certificate if you are satisfied with your hearing aids. **If you are not satisfied, do not sign the Validation Certificate.** You may continue your trial with further adjustments, or you may return the hearing aids.
- 6. AADL billing by the vendor** – once you have signed the Validation Certificate or returned the hearing aids your vendor will bill AADL directly for the equipment and/or services they have provided. Please ensure that you do not sign the Validation Certificate until you are completely satisfied with your hearing aids.

## Criteria for Hearing Aid Replacement

AADL will replace a hearing aid in one or more of the following circumstances:

- ◆ The person's degree of hearing loss or physical condition has changed so much that the device is ineffective.
- ◆ The person's ability to operate the controls has diminished to the point where it is impossible for them to use the device.
- ◆ After five years of use, the benefit of repair is not cost-effective.

## Hearing Aid Repairs

AADL will provide funding towards the cost of repairs once per year for each device.

All repairs come with a one-year manufacturer's warranty.



## Funding for Earmolds

AADL will provide funding towards the cost of replacement earmolds for those individuals who are fit with behind-the-ear style hearing aids. For replacement quantities and frequencies, please ask your vendor.

**Hearing Aid Eligibility and Funding Worksheet  
(to be filled in by vendor)**

**Eligible Group:**

- Child
- Student
- Adult 18-64 (low income only)
- Low income senior
- Cost-share senior

**Fitting:** Monaural/binaural

**AADL Funding amount:**

Right ear \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Left ear \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Client Cost-share portion:**

Right ear \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Left ear \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Client Upgrade cost:**

Right ear \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Left ear \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you return your hearing aids at the end of the trial period, there will be no charge to cost-share exempt clients. AADL will pay the vendor for services rendered. Cost-share clients will have to pay the cost-share portion of the test and return fees.

**Disclaimer:**

The information in this pamphlet is neither exhaustive nor applicable in all cases, and does not have force of law.

## Vendor Information:

### **AADL is a program of Alberta Seniors**

For more information, contact your local  
Alberta Health Services office OR:

**Alberta Aids to Daily Living Program  
10th Floor, Milner Building  
10040 - 104 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 0Z2**

**Phone:** 780-427-0731;  
to call toll-free, first dial 310-0000

**Fax:** 780-422-0968

[www.seniors.alberta.ca/AADL](http://www.seniors.alberta.ca/AADL)

Deaf/hearing impaired callers within Alberta using a  
TTY can reach the provincial government by dialing  
780-427-9999 in Edmonton or 1-800-232-7215  
throughout Alberta.