

Maryland State Department of Education
Division of Rehabilitation Services
Hearing Aids Fact Sheet

DORS will consider buying hearing aids after:

- A person who is eligible for DORS services has hearing aids as part of their Individual Plan for Employment (IPE), and
- The person has had an audiological evaluation that shows that they need a hearing aid and, in cases of ear pathology, an otologic evaluation.

DORS Responsibilities

- DORS Counselors are responsible for applying your benefits to the cost of audiological services, such as benefits from your health insurance plan (e.g., fully insured health plans, HMOs, non-profit health service plans, Medicaid, Medicare, Veterans) and any help from an outside non-profit organization. Providers who accept Medicaid can be found at: [Provider Lookup](#) or health.maryland.gov/mmcp/Pages/provider-finder.
- You may have to help with the cost of buying hearing aid devices, based on DORS financial participation policy and sliding scale.
- Your DORS counselors will follow up with you after you have had audiological services to make sure you are satisfied and to see if you need more help.
- DORS counselors may purchase batteries for you, if you cannot afford batteries and you can prove that you cannot buy batteries on your own. DORS can only do this type of purchase if you are following through on the services on your IPE.

Your Responsibilities

In addition to your general rights and responsibilities, as a DORS consumer, you are responsible for:

- Following through with all your appointments with the audiologist or hearing aid fitter.
- Contacting the audiologist or hearing aid fitter ahead of time if you need to cancel or reschedule appointments.
- Keeping DORS staff informed of any changes with your hearing.
- Planning with the audiologist or hearing aid fitter for payment of your required financial contribution.
- Taking good care of your hearing instruments so that these stay in good working order, which include keeping records of regular maintenance.
- Paying for replacement batteries and/or the charging station after DORS buys the first hearing aid batteries.

Frequency of Hearing Aid Purchases

With proper care and maintenance, hearing aids will last five to seven years. DORS may consider additional purchases of hearing aids before six years on an exceptional basis only.