

Deafness is 4 times as common as blindness.

A hearing impairment is among the least understood of disabilities, as hearing loss is not visible.

- In Illinois, nearly 500 children are identified with a hearing loss each year.

(Governor Quinn's 2013 Early Hearing and Intervention Day Proclamation)

- Hearing loss can happen any time during life, from before birth to adulthood.

(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

- Hearing loss is the 3rd most common physical health condition after arthritis and heart disease.

(Hearing Loss Association of America)

- Overall, 16% of adults aged 18 years and over experienced some hearing difficulty without a hearing aid.

(defined as "a little trouble hearing," "moderate trouble," "a lot of trouble," or deaf). (U.S. Census Health Statistical Data; U.S. Census—2010)



Why the Lions Help

The Lions of Illinois Foundation is a nonprofit organization with members throughout the state of Illinois.

Since 1925, the Lions have taken the challenge given to them by Helen Keller. Addressing the Lions at their convention she urged them to become:

"Knights of the Blind in the Crusade Against Blindness."



Scan here to learn more about LIF.

Lions of Illinois Foundation

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#HAB-01



Lions of Illinois Foundation

Serving People with Vision and Hearing Needs Since 1974.

Hearing Aid Bank



Find out how the Lions of Illinois Foundation works with your local Lions Clubs to provide you with the services you need.

How Does the Hearing Aid Bank Work?

One of the many programs administered by the Lions is the hearing screenings and the fitting of used hearing aids to individuals who would otherwise not be able to attain one due to limited finances. In cooperation with the **University of Illinois Chicago Audiology Department**, LIF has established the **Used Hearing Aid Bank (HAB)**.

The HAB is kept supplied through the donations of hearing aids. The aids are reconditioned and cataloged for the bank or are sold for salvage to offset the costs.

The **LIF Used Hearing Bank (HAB)** provides assistance to individuals who cannot afford to purchase a hearing aid, or do not qualify to receive an aid from a state or federal agency. (HAB does not duplicate services already available.)

Anyone can refer a patient to the Foundation in order to determine their eligibility for receiving hearing aid services.

If the person already has had a hearing test

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and/or otologic evaluation, copies should be sent along with the request for assistance. If the person is eligible, their application is forwarded to a local Lions Club who then determines if they are able to provide funding for the request.

After the local Club approves the request and sends the forms to LIF, the paperwork is sent to a participating clinic, and the patient is contacted with the clinic information. The patient then makes an appointment at their convenience. Currently, the LIF works with multiple clinics throughout the state.

After Approval

A typical process for obtaining a hearing aid might include these steps:

- The patient undergoes an evaluation to receive a medical clearance for hearing aid use. If one has already been obtained, the results cannot be more than six months old.
- A complete audiogram (air and bone conduction, speech reception threshold and discrimination ability) is given if one has not been administered within the last six months.
- The patient is counseled about the hearing test results.
- An ear impression is taken for a custom fit.
- Patient returns for hearing aid fitting within two to four weeks.

Donation Form

Please detach and return with your donation so that the Foundation may recognize your generosity.

Approximate number of hearing aids, pairs, or boxes:

of hearing aids _____

Name _____

Club and District _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

**The Foundation and those we serve
Thank You!**