

Wyoming Adult Hearing Aid Program 2025 - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is the Wyoming Adult Hearing Aid Program?

The Wyoming Adult Hearing Aid Program is a state-funded initiative created by Wyoming Statute § 35-25-601, et. seq. (Senate File No. SF0057, Enrolled Act No. 42). This act, titled "AN ACT relating to public health and safety; creating a hearing aid program for hearing impaired adults as specified; requiring rulemaking; providing appropriations; and providing for effective dates," aims to provide medically necessary hearing aids to adults with profound hearing impairment who are eligible under the program's specific criteria.

Who is eligible for the Wyoming Adult Hearing Aid Program?

To be eligible, an individual must be:

- A **Wyoming resident**, aged 18 years or older. This includes **legal residents of the state, whether a U.S. citizen or a non-citizen visa holder who is legally authorized to reside in Wyoming.**
- Diagnosed by a physician or audiologist with a profound hearing impairment that requires hearing aids. **The applicant must have a hearing loss of 35dB or greater in one ear, or 30dB or greater in both ears to qualify for this Program.**
- Have a monthly modified adjusted gross family income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level (see table below).
- **Generally, you are NOT eligible to receive hearing aids through private insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, or other available third-party payers (such as the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation).**
 - o **Important Clarification regarding Private Insurance:** If your private insurance covers a **partial amount** of a hearing aid, and your **individual cost sharing (deductibles, coinsurance, etc.) for hearing aids exceeds \$500.00**, your insurance may not be considered "full coverage" by the Department. In such cases, your application will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and the Department **may serve as a secondary payer**. You will need to provide full proof of your private insurance coverage, including details on deductibles and coinsurance for hearing aids.

What services does the program cover?

Subject to available state funding, the program covers:

- Up to one (1) hearing aid per ear.
- Hearing aid insurance for loss or damage.
- A hearing aid fitting.
- An initial set of ear molds.

Please note: The Wyoming Adult Hearing Aid Program 2025 does NOT cover the costs of hearing tests or audiology evaluations. You will need to secure a diagnosis and audiometric data independently.

The costs for covered services will not exceed the rates paid for hearing aids under the Wyoming Medical Assistance and Services Act.

What is the maximum reimbursement for hearing aids through this program?

Reimbursement for an individual through this program is limited to \$3,000 for both ears within any five (5) year period.

How often can I receive hearing aids through this program?

Eligible recipients may not receive more than one (1) set of hearing aids under this program in any five (5) year period.

What is the income limit to qualify?

To qualify, your monthly modified adjusted gross family income (MAGI) must be at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. Use the table below to determine the income limit for your household size.

2025 Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) - 200% Level for Contiguous States (Annual and Monthly Income)

Household Size	Annual Income (200% FPG)	Monthly Income (200% FPG)
1	\$31,300	\$2,608

Household Size	Annual Income (200% FPG)	Monthly Income (200% FPG)
2	\$42,300	\$3,525
3	\$53,300	\$4,441
4	\$64,300	\$5,358
5	\$75,300	\$6,275
6	\$86,300	\$7,191
7	\$97,300	\$8,108
8	\$108,300	\$9,025
For each additional person, add	\$11,000	\$917

How to calculate your Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI):

MAGI is generally your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) from your federal tax return (IRS Form 1040, Line 11) with certain deductions added back. For most federal programs, including this one, it usually involves adding back:

- Non-taxable Social Security benefits.
- Tax-exempt interest income.
- Excluded foreign income and housing.
- Deductions for IRA contributions.
- Deductions for student loan interest.
- Other specific deductions may apply.

If you have questions about calculating your MAGI, we recommend consulting a tax professional or utilizing online tax preparation software, which can often calculate it for you. You can also refer to IRS guidelines for specific MAGI definitions related to federal programs.

How do I apply for the Wyoming Adult Hearing Aid Program?

The application period for the Wyoming Adult Hearing Aid Program will begin on August 1, 2025, and will close promptly at 5:00 PM MDT on September 30, 2025.

The official application will be available on the Wyoming Department of Health's Healthcare Financing Division website prior to August 1st.

Where do I send my **COMPLETED** application?

Applications for the Wyoming Adult Hearing Aid Program must be submitted by mail or fax only. Please do not email applications.

Important Note on Completeness: Incomplete applications and requests submitted without all required clinical information will not be accepted. To ensure your application is processed, please double-check that all information is **COMPLETE** and submit all required documents at the time of submission. These typically include:

- The **COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM**.
- **Audiometric data/report** from your Audiologist or Physician, confirming profound hearing impairment.
- **Proof of insurance** if applicable (especially if claiming private insurance offers no or limited coverage as defined above).

If you have any questions regarding the application process or required documents, please call us promptly.

What if I have a recent hearing test report? Can I use that data for my application?

Yes, you may use a recent hearing test (audiometric data/report) for your application. However, your audiologist or physician will still need to complete and sign the specific form provided by the program. The audiometric data/report must be one year old or less from the date of your application submission. No exceptions will be made for older reports.

When will I be notified about the status of my application?

Approval letters, denial letters, and notifications for waitlist recipients will be sent by mail by October 31, 2025. Priority will be given to eligible individuals with the greatest hearing loss.

What happens if I am awarded a hearing aid but do not complete the necessary steps to receive it?

If you are awarded a hearing aid through the program, you will have six (6) months to complete the entire process (e.g., selection, fitting, etc.). If you do not complete the process by March 31, 2026, you will forfeit your place in the program. Your awarded spot will then be offered to another qualified individual on the waitlist.

When did the Wyoming Adult Hearing Aid Program become law?

The Wyoming Adult Hearing Aid Program was created by Senate File No. SF0057 (Enrolled Act No. 42) during the Sixty-Seventh Legislature's 2024 Budget Session. It was enacted into law as Wyoming Statute § 35-25-601 through 35-25-603. Sections relating to rulemaking and effective dates were effective immediately upon becoming law, and the general act became effective July 1, 2024.

Where can I find resources for hearing tests or audiology services not covered by this program?

Since the Adult Hearing Aid Program does not cover the costs of hearing tests, you may need to seek these services separately. We recommend reaching out to Wyoming 211 for potential resources that may assist with hearing screenings and audiology services. They can help connect you to community resources.

Wyoming 211, Inc.:

- **Phone:** 307-433-3077 (Direct line)
- **Website:** www.wyoming211.org
- **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/WY211
- **Address:** 2617 E. Lincolnway, Suite E, Cheyenne, WY 82001

What if I need health insurance coverage or want to explore my options?

Open Enrollment for the Health Insurance Marketplace typically begins on November 1 and ends on January 15 each year. During this period, you can renew, review, or explore

new health coverage options. For free, expert health coverage help, you can contact Enroll Wyoming. Their Navigators can assist you in understanding the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Health Insurance Marketplace, review coverage options, and help you enroll.

Enroll Wyoming:

- **Find Your Navigator:** Visit their website at www.enrollwyo.org to find a local Navigator.
- **Get Coverage:** Explore options on the Health Insurance Marketplace.
- **Contact:** Reach out to Enroll Wyoming for free assistance.

Who can I contact for more information about the Wyoming Adult Hearing Aid Program?

For the most up-to-date information, you can contact the Wyoming Department of Health - Healthcare Financing Division using the contact methods below:

- **Phone:** 307-777-7531
- **Email:** wdh-hearingaid@wyo.gov
- Mailing Address for Applications and Correspondence:

Division of Healthcare Financing

c/o Adult Hearing Aid Program

122 W. 25th Street Herschler Bldg. W4

Cheyenne, WY 82002

- **Fax Number for Applications:** 307-777-6964 (This is a HIPAA-secure fax line.)

Are there any other resources for hearing aid assistance in Wyoming, especially for children?

Yes, there are other programs:

- **Wyoming Children's Hearing Aid Program (WYCHAP):** This fund provides access to hearing aids for children (birth through the end of their high school career) who are uninsured or under-insured. You can find more information and application forms on the **Wyoming Hands & Voices website:** <https://www.wyhandsandvoices.org/wychap-program> or by contacting their Outreach Services for Deaf/Hard of Hearing.
- **Miracle-Ear Foundation's Gift of Sound™ program:** This program provides no-cost hearing aids and support services to families or individuals with significantly

limited incomes who have exhausted all other resources. Eligibility typically involves income at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines and exhausting other options like insurance or state programs. You should contact your local Miracle-Ear store to begin the application process.