

Lions Affordable Hearing Aid Project (Lions AHAP) Fact Sheet

The Problem of Hearing Impairment

In the U.S. hearing aids are not affordable for seven million of the 30 million Americans with hearing loss. In 2005, the average price for a hearing aid in the U.S. was \$1,900 and most individuals needed two aids. The majority of the insurance companies do not cover hearing aids so the expenses have to be covered by the individuals or their families. For 2005 hearing aid sales in the U.S. are estimated at 2.37 million units for 24 million hearing impaired citizens (not wearing aids). Fourteen percent of those units were purchased by the Veteran's Administration. Additionally, the "low-priced" hearing aids advertised often are poor in quality and provide low user satisfaction.

The Lions AHAP Solution

Through the Lions Affordable Hearing Aid project, LCIF is distributing two models of Rexton, Inc. hearing aids to Lions hearing programs and Lions clubs. Clubs in areas without Lions hearing programs partner with hearing care professionals to test and fit low-income people. The Rexton hearing aid price does not include shipping costs, the provision of hearing tests and hearing aid fittings, which clubs and Lions hearing programs need to arrange with the recruited hearing care professional. LCIF hopes hearing care professionals are able to provide discounted services for these low-income people, with Lions clubs helping the individuals cover the costs.

What Can Lions Do?

Lions clubs can become involved by recruiting hearing care professionals (audiologists and hearing aid dispensers) and covering whatever costs the individual cannot afford. LCIF makes the aids available to all Lions hearing programs and to clubs not covered by such programs. To qualify for participation, Lions programs and clubs are asked to income-qualify individuals to ensure that low-income people benefit.

For more information, contact: Lions AHAP

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