Kansas Infant/Toddler Hearing Aid Loaner Bank Guidelines

KDHE SoundBeginnings / Kansas State School for the Deaf

Purpose
The Kansas Infant Hearing Aid Loaner Bank is established for the purpose of lending hearing aids for an eligible child to ensure that Kansas children **under the age of thirty-six months** *will have maximum access to auditory input during the* **critical period** of **oral language** development.

By removing financial barriers to obtaining appropriate amplification for infants, the Loaner Bank provides a pathway to meet the Health and Human Services' Healthy People 2010 goal for infants: **to confirm hearing loss by three months of age with appropriate intervention no later than six months of age**.

Definitions
The following words shall have the meanings indicated:

"Loaner Bank Administrator" means the Administrator or designee of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

"Eligible Child" means an infant who is a resident of Kansas, identified by a licensed audiologist as having a hearing impairment, has no immediate access to a hearing aid, and is under the age of thirty-six months.

"Licensed Audiologist" Kansas audiologists participating in the Kansas Hearing Aid Loaner Bank acknowledges that they have a valid license issued by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and Kansas Hearing Aid Licensure Board. Out-of-state audiologists must have a valid license to practice audiology and/or dispense hearing aids issued from the state in which they practice, if licensure is required in that state. In addition, by requesting a hearing aid through the Loaner Bank, the licensed audiologist confirms the diagnosis of the infants' hearing loss, that they have obtained medical clearance and meets or exceeds all standards for dispensing and verifying amplification on infants.

"Loaner Bank" means Kansas Infant Hearing aid loaner bank.

"Loaner Hearing Aids" means hearing aids previously purchased through the Loaner Bank and are immediately available for loan. (Hearing aids in the Loaner Bank will vary depending on degree of hearing loss, their fitting range capability, and current availability. Hearing aids purchased through the Loaner Bank are awarded through state contracts with bid specifications requiring features as outlined in the *Sound Beginnings: Kansas Amplification Guidelines For Infants.*

"Loan Period" means time periods to include initial (up to six months) and extension periods as requested as long as hearing aids are available through the loaner program.

Eligibility

A child *under 36 months* of age is eligible if confirmed through:

Referral from a licensed audiologist by completing Loaner Bank application;

Address of residence to document Kansas residency;

Referring Audiologist confirms the child has no immediate access to appropriate amplification;

The goal of the family supports the child maximizing auditory development and the development of oral communication;

Child has not previously received hearing aids through the Loaner Bank and failed to return them. Any hearing aids loss or damaged through negligence will be reason to deem a child ineligible for additional hearing aids through the Loaner Program.

A parent or legal guardian for an eligible child shall be the custodian of the hearing aid(s) and agrees:

To be responsible for the proper care and use of the hearing aid;

To <u>keep appointments</u> with child's dispensing audiologist;

And understands that hearing aid(s) provided remain the property of the Kansas Hearing Aid Loan Bank. The hearing aid(s) should be immediately returned to the loan bank upon the expiration of the loaner period or receipt of a suitable permanent hearing aid (cochlear implantation), whichever occurs first;

that Sound Beginnings will collect data from the Loaner Bank application to track information about the Loaner Bank and the Newborn Hearing Screening Program and specific information about child and his/her hearing loss may be shared with early intervention professionals or agencies;

by signing the Hearing Aid Loaner Bank application to be in agreement with all the terms and conditions of the loan.