



PARENT & INFANT FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM—2023

Overview

The Parent & Infant Financial Aid Program gives financial aid to families of infants and toddlers ages birth through 3 who have been diagnosed with a moderately-severe to profound hearing loss. Families must be working toward a spoken language outcome for their child. Awards are given to assist with expenses such as auditory support services, speech-language therapy, technology, pre-school fees/tuition, etc. Families should be committed to a listening and spoken language approach for their child's listening, speech, oral communication and cognitive skills.

These awards are made one time for the year, generally in the month of December. Award recipients may apply for this program again in future years. Award amounts vary; over the past three years, awards have ranged from \$300 to \$2,000.

Eligibility Criteria

In order to be eligible for this program, applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- The child's fourth birthday must be **after** December 31, 2023.
- The child must have a documented bilateral hearing loss or auditory neuropathy.
Note: Children with unilateral (one-sided) hearing loss or unilateral auditory neuropathy do not qualify.
- The child's hearing loss must be within the moderately-severe to profound range. *Children with cochlear implants meet this eligibility requirement.* The child must have an unaided Pure-Tone Average (PTA) of 55dB or greater in the better hearing ear in the speech frequencies of 500, 1000, 2000 and 4000 Hz.*
**This may not apply for children who have been diagnosed with Auditory Neuropathy. For information on required documentation for AN, please see the "documentation" section on the next page.*

Formula for calculating the PTA:

On the unaided audiogram, look at the results for the better hearing ear at 500, 1000, 2000 and 4000 Hz and add those four numbers together, then divide that total by four. The result is the Pure Tone Average. To be eligible for this award, the child's PTA must be 55dB or greater.

- Parents must be committed to and working toward a listening and spoken language outcome for the child.
- The child and family must reside in the United States (including territories) or in Canada; if in the United States, parents must provide a Social Security or Tax ID number.
- Parents/guardians should be able to clearly outline their need for financial assistance and plans for using award funds.

NOTE: All applicants will be given a free nonprofessional membership to AG Bell.



Application Submission Instructions

Please use the following checklist to help ensure that your application is complete:

- **We encourage you to Submit Electronically:** The application can be completed as a writable pdf. Please download the application and save it; enter the information into the application; and save it again. Once you have completed the application, print and scan it with all the required attachments. Submit all pages **together in one document** via email to: financialaid@agbell.org.
- **To Submit by Mail:** If you choose to submit your application in paper form, all pages of the application and supporting materials should be submitted on 8½" x 11" paper (*or Canadian equivalent*).
- The application should be submitted flat (NOT folded) in a 9"x12" envelope, held together with one paper clip.

Whether you submit your application by e-mail or on paper, the application and attachments must be in the following order:

- Complete single-sided application, with pages in order. *Every page of the application must be completed and the application must be signed.*
- Documentation of hearing loss.
 - **For infants and toddlers who use hearing aids** – you must include an unaided audiogram performed within the last 12 months. If your child is younger than 1 year of age and has not yet had an unaided audiogram performed, you must include a copy of the ABR (and the OAE, if performed) along with the report from the audiologist diagnosing the hearing loss in the moderate to profound range. Please Note: we cannot accept your application without this information. No exceptions will be made.
 - **For infants and toddlers with a cochlear implant** – You must include the most recent programming or audiological report. If your child uses a cochlear implant and a hearing aid, only a CI report is required. If you don't have a programming report, an appropriately marked audiogram will be accepted. Please Note: we cannot accept your application without a programming/audiological report or audiogram. No exceptions will be made.
 - **For infants and toddlers who have been diagnosed with Auditory Neuropathy and who do not have a cochlear implant** – You must include an unaided audiogram performed within the last 12 months and a report from the audiologist diagnosing AN with recommendations. If an audiogram is not available, you must include a copy of the ABR (and the OAE if available) along with the report from the audiologist diagnosing AN with recommendations. Please Note: we cannot accept your application without this information. No exceptions will be made.

You will need three letters of recommendation.

- Letter of recommendation from a hearing health or therapeutic professional (maximum of two pages, single-sided). **PLEASE NOTE: This is separate from the audiogram or CI programming report; an audiological report or evaluation is NOT a letter of recommendation.**

Please return your letter of recommendation to the applicant's family as quickly as possible so that the family is not disqualified due to a late application.

Your recommendation may NOT be mailed or faxed separately to AG Bell.

- Letter of recommendation from a current AG Bell member or a member of your child's educational/therapeutic team. (maximum of two pages, single-sided).
- Letter of recommendation from a non-relative who is familiar with the family, your commitment to a listening and spoken language outcome and, in general terms, the family's financial need (maximum of two pages, single-sided).

Three separate letters of recommendation from different people are required for an application to be considered for an award. Please remove letters of recommendation from the envelopes in which you receive them and attach them flat to your application or scan them with your application.

Application Deadline

The deadline for applications is August 28, 2023. **All materials MUST ARRIVE together in one package at financialaid@agbell.org or the address below before 5 p.m. EST on September 12, 2023.** *No supporting materials will be accepted separately from the application.*

Send application package to:	AG Bell – Parent & Infant Financial Aid Program 3417 Volta Place NW Washington, DC 20007
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- We are not able to confirm receipt of applications upon delivery. If you would like to know whether or not your application was received, you may choose to request a Delivery Receipt when sending e-mail or send your application using a service that can confirm delivery. Please do not request a delivery signature as this may delay delivery of your application. AG Bell does not accept responsibility nor make exceptions for any delays or delivery errors on the part of delivery services including delays due to the requirement of a signature. To ensure timely delivery, applicants are encouraged to **submit applications well before the deadline.**
- Faxed applications are not accepted under any circumstances.
- Late and incomplete applications are not considered under any circumstances.
- Applications are not returned for any reason.

Please do not contact AG Bell seeking an exception to these policies.

Administrative Processes

Once the application has been reviewed for eligibility and completeness, we will forward all eligible applications to the selection committee. The committee will review the applications and determine awards. We will then send you an award notice by email. Awards will be issued within six to eight weeks after that notice has been sent. Please note that all communications are via e-mail; if you do not provide an e-mail address, you will not receive notifications from AG Bell.

All decisions of the selection committee are final.

Do you have questions or need clarification?

Please send an email with your questions to: financialaid@agbell.org
It may take a few days to respond, so please ask any questions as early as you can.