

# SCHOOL-AGE FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM—2025

## About the Program

The School-Age Financial Aid program is for students with a pre-lingual bilateral hearing loss in the moderately-severe to profound range who use listening and spoken language. Students must be entering grades one through twelve for the 2025-2026 school year at a parochial, independent or private mainstream school. Awards are intended to assist with educational costs such as tuition, books, equipment, room and board, auditory and speech language support services, academic tutoring, transportation, and other school-related expenses. This program is not applicable for students who are being homeschooled, attend public school or are in college.

These are one-time awards made generally in the spring or for the upcoming school year. Award amounts vary; in 2024, awards ranged from \$400 to \$4,000

## Eligibility Criteria

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

- The child's bilateral hearing loss or Auditory Neuropathy must have been diagnosed before the child's fourth birthday. *Children with unilateral (one-sided) hearing loss or unilateral Auditory Neuropathy do not qualify.*
- The child's hearing loss must be in the moderately-severe to profound range. This means that applicants must have an unaided Pure-Tone Average (PTA) of 55 dB or greater in the better hearing ear, in the speech frequencies of 500, 1000, 2000 and 4000 Hz.\* Children with cochlear implants meet this eligibility requirement.

*\*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 55 dB or greater.

- Listening and Spoken Language must be the child's primary mode of communication.
- The child must be enrolled or registered as a full-time student for the school year beginning in the fall of 2025 in grades one through twelve in a mainstream parochial, independent or private elementary or secondary school. *Please Note: Public school, home school & post-secondary students do not meet this criterion.*
- The parent(s)/guardian(s) and child must reside in the United States (including territories) or in Canada.
- Parents/guardians should be able to clearly outline their need for financial assistance and plans for use of any awarded funds.

## Application Submission Instructions

- ☐ Documentation of hearing loss.
  - **For children who use hearing aids**, an unaided audiogram performed within the last 12 months.

- **For children with a cochlear implant**, please include the most recent programming report. If your child uses a cochlear implant and a hearing aid, only a CI programming report is required. In the absence of programming report, an audiogram will suffice.
- **For children who have been diagnosed with Auditory Neuropathy and who do not have a cochlear implant**, please include the last two unaided audiograms (one must have been performed within the last 12 months) along with the report from the audiologist with the original AN diagnosis. If two audiograms are not available, please include a recent report from the audiologist with the current status of the AN along with recommendations.

***Please Note:*** Applications that do not provide an audiogram or CI programming report will not be considered for an award; a narrative audiological report in lieu of one of these reports is not acceptable. If you have a question about what an audiogram or programming report is, please talk with your audiologist.

- ☐ A letter of acceptance/enrollment from the child's school along with documentation of tuition fees.

***Two separate letters of recommendation from two different individuals as follows:***

- ☐ Recommendation from a professional (maximum of two single-side pages). PLEASE NOTE: This is separate from the audiogram or programming report. An audiological report or evaluation is not considered a letter of recommendation.
- ☐ Recommendation from a non-relative who is familiar with the family's financial need (maximum of two single-sided pages).



### **Application Deadline**

The deadline for applications is April 5th, 2025.

### **Administrative Process**

Once an application is received, it is screened for eligibility and completeness. Following the application deadline, eligible applications are forwarded to the award selection committee for review; ineligible applications are discarded.

The selection process will take approximately 8 to 10 weeks. Once the selection of awards is made by the committee, notification will be emailed to all applicants – those who were selected as well as those who were not selected to receive an award.

Awards will likely be issued during the month of July.

### **Do You Have Questions or Need Clarification?**

Send an email with your question(s) to: [financialaid@agbell.org](mailto:financialaid@agbell.org) *Response time may be up to three business days, so please plan accordingly when submitting your questions.*

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**Please return your letter of recommendation to the applicant as quickly as possible so that the applicant is not disqualified due to a late application. The recommendation may NOT be mailed or faxed separately to AG Bell.**