



### Project Summary

The Hearing Aid Project (the project) is an effort to provide low income individuals access to needed hearing assistive devices and related services that otherwise are not available due to cost. The goal is to serve pediatric through geriatric needs in the State of New Jersey, though at start up the focus will be geriatric. As resources are available, the Project will provide devices at little or no cost along with the clinical services required to properly dispense and use the technology.

Similar efforts in other areas have proven this to be beyond the effective ability of any single agency. The Project exists as a coordinated effort of three independent public organizations that creates a framework that will provide the infrastructure, generate resources, and manage outcomes. The goal is to develop a broad network of organizations and individual efforts the viability and outcomes of the Project long-term.

#### Description

The Project involves coordination of three key services to achieve the desired outcome, each provide or coordinated by one of the three founding partners.

- Screening service, to determine financial need of applicants
  - New Jersey Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Clinical service to evaluate hearing loss and the hearing aid and services required
  - Montclair State University and network of qualified providers
- Community development services Generation of resources to provide appropriate device and fund cost of clinic services is provided based on treatment plan
  - Hearing Charities of America/Sertoma and network of individuals and organizations

Based on experience with similar programs, we know that success of the Project depends on the community development efforts. To access the hearing assistive devices needed, the project will rely primarily on devices that have been reconditioned or remanufactured. When a reconditioned hearing aid is not available, the Project can purchase new instruments, as resources are available. The cost of collecting, remanufacturing, and purchasing hearing aids as well of funding to pay for clinical services (not provided by Montclair State) will come from funds generated by fundraising efforts, as at this time we do not ask for any financial participation from those we help.

The Project is fortunate to have startup funding from The Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Hearing Charities/Sertoma. This will assure the first two years of the Project, and allow time to generate positive outcomes, and build support from the community.

#### Contact Information:

Hearing Charities/Sertoma  
Steven Murphy, Executive Director  
816-333-8300  
smurphy@sertomahq.org  
<http://www.hearingaid donations.org/programs/the-new-jersey-project/>