

The Hong Kong Society for the Deaf

Cochlear Implant Charitable Foundation

Application Guidelines

1. **Background**

As early as 1989, the Hong Kong Society for the Deaf (“the Society”), under the leadership of then-Chairman Dr. Buddy Y. K. Wong, collaborated with the Division of Otorhinolaryngology, Department of Surgery, the University of Hong Kong to establish the first “Cochlear Implantation Centre” in Hong Kong. That same year, it pioneered Hong Kong’s first multi-channel cochlear implant surgery for an adult with profound hearing loss. In 1994, the first multi-channel cochlear implant surgery for a child in Hong Kong was completed.

Over the past 30 years, cochlear implant surgery has become increasingly mature and is proven to improve hearing in hearing-impaired adults and children. As the funding from the Hong Kong Government only subsidizes the initial implantation surgery and the required equipment, the subsequent high expenses for maintenance, repair, replacement of speech processors and accessories etc., must be borne by the cochlear implant users themselves. Therefore, the Society has decided to establish the Cochlear Implant Charitable Foundation to provide further support for those in need.

2. **Funded Items**

	Category	Subsidy	Conditions of subsidy
2.1 Replacement of Speech Processors	Category A Applicants	50% subsidy	• Subject to financial assessment • No subsidy cap (based solely on percentage) • Limited to one processor per ear within three years, models recommended by the Society’s Audiologists or Doctors
	Category B Applicants	75% subsidy	
2.2 Repair of Speech Processors 2.3 Replacement or repair of external accessories	All Applicants	60% subsidy	• No financial assessment required • Limited to one instance per ear per fiscal year, repair and replacement counted together • Capped at HK\$6,000 per application

3. Eligibility Criteria

- 3.1 Applicants must be a Hong Kong resident; and
- 3.2 For speech processor replacement, undergo financial assessment based on the Hospital Authority's medical fee waiver mechanism, referencing median monthly household income and asset limits.
 - (i) Category A : Monthly household income does not exceed the median monthly domestic household income.
 - (ii) Category B : Monthly household income does not exceed 75% of the median monthly domestic household income.
 - (iii) Applicants exceeding income or asset limits may be considered on a case-by-case basis for non-financial factors with sufficient justification.
- 3.3 Recipients of CSSA (Comprehensive Social Security Assistance) must apply for government funding first, those approved cannot reapply to this fund.

4. Notes for the Applicant

- 4.1 All applications must be assessed and referred by the Society's social workers. The following documents must be submitted with the application form. Applications with insufficient documents will not be considered :
 - Copy of Applicant's HKID Card
 - Copy of Parent/Guardian's HKID Card (if applicable)
 - Proof of Address (last 3 months)
 - Proof of Income (last 6 months)
 - Proof of net household assets (bank passbooks or statements for the last 3 months)
 - Letter from the supplier confirming the need for replacement or repair
 - Original quotation from the supplier
 - Other supporting documents as relevant
- 4.2 All submitted documents will be retained by the Society and will not be returned.
- 4.3 Applicants must notify the Society if other funding is granted simultaneously for the same item.
- 4.4 The Society is not responsible if approval of the fund affects eligibility for other funds.
- 4.5 Approved applicants must submit a brief report and photos within three months for record-keeping, which may be used for the Fund's publicity, promotions, publications or fundraising.
- 4.6 The applicant's personal information is collected for application processing. The Society may collect the applicant's data from other relevant organizations, associations, or individuals if necessary. According to the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, the Society will hold, use, and transfer the applicant's personal data under strict

confidentiality to: 1) organizations related to the Fund's operation; 2) other charitable funds and their fund management committees. Applicants have the right to access or amend their personal data. For inquiries, please contact the social worker handling your application.

- 4.7 The Society reserves the right to refuse applications without explanation.
- 4.8 The Society reserves the right to recover disbursed funds from applicants providing false or incomplete information.
- 4.9 The Society reserves the final decision on any disputes.

5. Application Process

- 5.1 Application forms can be obtained from the Society's social workers at the Tseung Kwan O Multi-Service Centre, 6/F, Sheung Mei House, Sheung Tak Estate, Tseung Kwan O, N.T.
- 5.2 All applications must be assessed and referred by the Society's social workers and recommended by the Society's Audiologist or Doctors.
- 5.3 Completed application forms with supporting documents must be submitted to the Tseung Kwan O Multi-Service Centre. Applications with incomplete documents will not be accepted.

6. Inquiries

For inquiries, please contact our Counselling Centre at 2711 1974, fax 2760 9442 or email: cc@deaf.org.hk.