

Resources for Rhode Islanders with Hearing Loss

The **Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (RICDHH)** is an advocating, coordinating, and service providing entity committed to promoting an environment in which deaf and hard of hearing individuals in Rhode Island are afforded equal opportunity in all aspects of their lives.

- To be put on their email distribution list, please sign up and subscribe to RICDHH News and Events calendar: <https://cdhh.ri.gov/ezine>

The **RI Hearing Loss Association of America (RIHLAA)** is building a hearing health movement empowering millions with, and at risk of, hearing loss to thrive through education, advocacy and a nationwide network of support.

- If you want to be placed on the email distribution list for notices and other important announcements for RIHLAA, please send an email to hearinglossri@gmail.com

The **Ocean State Center for Independent Living (OSCIL)** works in collaboration with the Gift of Hearing Program at the **University of Rhode Island (URI) Speech & Hearing Center** to provide low-cost hearing aids to those in need.

- To see if you qualify for the Gift of Hearing, please visit: <https://www.oscil.org/assistive-technology/gift-of-hearing>

The **URI Hearing Loss Education and Aural Rehab (HEAR) Group** is run by Rachel Smith, Clinical Associate Professor and URI Audiology Clinic Director, meets a total of six times throughout the spring and fall and offers hearing loss education as well as teaches communication strategies. This group is open to anyone in the community with hearing loss, and you do not need to be a patient of their clinic to attend. You are invited to bring family and friends to any session.

- Sessions will be held on Wednesdays from 1:00 PM to 2:00PM at the URI Speech and Hearing Center large conference room; 25 West Independence Way, Kingston RI
- If you are interested in the group or have questions, call the clinic at 401-874-5969 or email shc-group@uri.edu (please see flyer).

The **Adaptive Telephone Equipment Loan (ATEL) Program** provides landline telephones (amplified and captioning) and wireless devices (smartphones and tablets) to qualified individuals who have either a hearing loss, a speech disability, or have neuromuscular damage or disease that hinders them from using a standard telephone.

- To qualify, you must be a RI Resident, have one of the above-mentioned disabilities, and meet one of the income qualifier criteria described on the application: <https://ors.ri.gov/assistive-technology/adaptive-telephone-equipment-loan-program-atel> (please see brochure).

The **NEW Hard of Hearing (HOH) Peer Support Group**, hosted by the ATEL Program, is a speech-based group with captions, for oral English users. Join others in a supportive space to share experiences, learn new communication strategies, and connect with peers who understand the challenges of hearing loss. This is an in-person group that offers the chance to talk openly and learn from one another in a welcoming environment.

- Sessions will be held the second Monday of the month from 2:00 PM to 3:00PM at OSCIL conference room; 1944 Warwick Ave, Warwick, RI
- If you are interested in attending, please call 401-738-1013 x 29 or email Heather.Schey@oscil.org RSVP REQUIRED SPACE IS LIMITED (please see flyer).