

Eligibility of the Beneficiaries

General Criteria

1. Citizen of India
2. Holding 40% Disability Certificate or Hearing Disability as defined in the RPWD Act 2016
3. Monthly income of parents/guardians/family from all sources not exceeding Rs. 30,000/-.
The amount of assistance will be as follows:-

Total Income	Amount of Assistance
i. Upto Rs. 22,500/- per month	i. Full cost of aid/appliance
ii. Rs.22,501/- to Rs. 30,000/- per month	ii. 50% of the cost of aid/appliance
4. Only unilateral cochlear implantation will be covered under this scheme.
5. Reservation for SC/ST/OBC beneficiaries will be implemented under the scheme as per the Government norms and at least 25% of the overall beneficiaries need to be girl child.

Specific criteria for children with pre-lingual hearing loss (1 to 5 years of age)

1	Age of the beneficiary should be below 5 years on the date of receipt of application
2	Bilateral severe-to-profound sensori-neural hearing loss
3	Use of appropriately fitted behind-the-ear hearing aids for minimum 3 months to assess benefit from hearing aids
4	Little or no benefit from hearing aids either in terms of better hearing or use of speech and language skills and comprehension of spoken language
5	No medical contradictions to surgery and/or implantation
6	No associated impairments such as Developmental Delay, Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Orofacial anomalies, sensory impairments, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Intellectual Deficits, Cerebral Palsy, neurodegenerative diseases, progressive medical conditions, short life expectancy
7	No presence of cochlear malformations/anomalies
8	No absence or anomaly of cochlear nerve/ retro-cochlear pathology/central deafness
9	Children with active middle ear infection may be considered for cochlear implantation only after middle ear pathology is resolved
10	Parents/caregivers of the prospective beneficiary should be motivated to undergo pre- and post-surgery habilitation

Specific criteria for children with acquired hearing loss (>5 to 18 years of age)

1	Age of the beneficiary should be between >5 and 18 years on the date of receipt of application.
2	Bilateral severe-to-profound sensorineural hearing loss.
3	All the children must be habituated to using behind the ear hearing aids for about 3 to assess benefit from hearing aids
4	Little or no benefit from conventional hearing aids for better hearing or use of speech and language skills and comprehension of spoken language
5	Other conditions from 5 to 9 above as applicable for pre-lingual hearing loss (1-5 years) are also applicable here.
6	The child and family members should have realistic expectations from cochlear implantation