



# City of Edmonds Disability Board

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## POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Effective: Approved by the Board at the May 3, 2006 meeting  
Revised: Approved by the Board at the January 24, 2007, January 21, 2010, July 2015, March 3, 2015 and April 20, 2018 and July 19, 2018 meeting(s)

### **SUBJECT: HEARING AIDS, #04-06**

A benefit is provided by the City of Edmonds Disability Board for both hearing tests (once every three years) and hearing aids as follows:

- Preapproval from the Board is required for the initial purchase of any hearing aids or the replacement of hearing aids. HR may approve hearing aid purchase reimbursement up to the maximum allowed by this policy for any replacement hearing aids.
- Hearing aid claims must be accompanied by supporting documentation from a licensed physician or hearing specialist.
- The reimbursement cost for the purchase of hearing aids will be based on the current rates charged by Costco. The purchase of hearing aid insurance and/or a warranty at time of purchase is also required and will be reimbursed by the Board. For the replacement of hearing aids, HR staff has the authority to process these requests provided they meet the policy guidelines. Additionally, if any member does not have a Costco membership and a membership is required to purchase the hearing aids (which have been approved for purchase by the Board), the Board will provide a reimbursement for the cost of the annual Gold Star membership for the LEOFF 1 retiree.
- HR staff has the authority to process Board pre-approved hearing aid purchase requests for reimbursement with the appropriate supporting documentation from a licensed physician and/or hearing specialist up to the current rate charged by Costco for hearing aids.
- Replacement of hearing aids will only be covered after 36 months and if the current hearing aid cannot be reasonably repaired, presuming the hearing aid is not covered by warranty or insurance. The Disability Board will consider replacement of hearing aids after 36 months if a different model or style of hearing aid is needed due to a significant hearing change or if a new hearing aid significantly accommodates the members hearing loss. In most cases, HR may approve replacement hearing aid purchase reimbursement requests up to the limits set by this policy.

- The cost of batteries is covered under this policy.

**NOTE:** Any special needs above and beyond the dollar amount set in this policy are subject to appeal by the LEOFF 1 member to the City of Edmonds Disability Board with appropriate medically necessary documentation. This policy will be reviewed by the Disability Board on an annual basis.