

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

FUNDING GUIDE



Introduction

One of the leading obstacles in obtaining assistive technology is finding the money to pay for it. There are a wide variety of public and private entities that can assist with the purchase of equipment, but because the field of assistive technology is always changing, policies and procedures for its funding are constantly changing. It is difficult not only to identify the appropriate resources but also, to find the most direct route to successful funding for these devices.

The Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology, Inc. (FAAST) was developed to make assistive technology and related services more easily accessible to all Floridians with disabilities.

This book is designed to be a guide for anyone who needs financial assistance to purchase assistive technology as an aid to independent functioning and improved quality of life. It is intended to be simple to use for identifying possible sources of funding and providing strategies to secure it. Although the information contained in the guide is the most current information available through the latest edition, it is subject to change.

If you have any questions during the process or know of any information in this guide that needs to be changed or added, please contact us by using the information listed below.

FAAST

Phone: (844) FL-FAAST (353-2278)

Website: www.FAAST.org

Email: info@FAAST.org

Our inventory of Assistive Technology equipment available for demonstration and short-term loan is available on the FAAST website at www.FAAST.org.

This guide was last updated in May 2024.

Assistive Technology Devices



Vision

Includes items such as magnifiers, braille, speech output devices, and digital talking book readers.



Hearing

Includes items such as hearing aids, amplified phones, and CapTel's, and visual alerting systems.



Speech Communication

Products designed to assist with speaking and face-to-face communication.



Learning, Cognition, and Developmental

Products that assist with learning and cognition. Include items that provide access to educational and instructional materials for school or other environments.



Mobility, Seating, and Positioning

Products designed to augment or replace the functional limitations of an individual's mobility.



Daily Living

Enhance the capacity to live independently and assist with instrumental activities of daily living, such as dressing, personal hygiene, bathing, home maintenance, cooking, eating, shopping, and managing money.



Environmental Adaptations

Environmental and structural adaptations are built into the environment and remove or reduce barriers and promote access to and within the built home, employment, and community facilities.



Vehicle Modifications

Adaptive driving aids, hand controls, wheelchairs, and other lifts, modified vans or other motor vehicles used for personal transportation.



Computers and Related Hardware and Software

Products that enable people with disabilities to access, interact with, and use computers at home, work, or school.



Recreation, Sports, and Leisure Equipment

Products that help participation in sport, health, physical education, recreation, leisure, and dance events.

Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology

FAAST Statewide Device Loan Program

The FAAST Statewide Device Loan Program provides access to assistive technology that allows Florida residents to borrow a specific device or technology for 15 to 35 days to determine if it is the right tool and technology for their increased independence. A person in need can contact the state headquarters for information on available devices and technology. The device is shipped to the consumer at no charge. This program allows a real experience with different types of technology to allow a person with a disability to make a more informed decision prior to purchasing or acquiring assistive technology.

FAAST New Horizon Loan Program

The FAAST New Horizon Loan Program is an alternative financing program. The program offers consumers the opportunity to apply for a financial loan with the proceeds used for assistive technology. Assistive Technology is often expensive or financially out of reach without assistance, and many times, the device that a consumer needs or wants is not a part of a medical benefit plan. The New Horizon Loan Program uses preferred interest rates and credit criteria more flexible than a typical bank loan to help more individuals gain access to the technology they need for more independent daily living. Applications or more information is on the website or call the state headquarters – 850-487-3278, ext. 104.

FAAST Regional Demonstration Centers

The FAAST Regional Demonstration Centers (RDCs) work cooperatively to provide outreach, information and referral services, and training on various AT topics. Technical assistance and collaboration are also provided to state agencies and organizations to enhance the understanding of and access to AT and accessible information technology.

Additional information about the individual centers can be found here, <https://faast.org/regional-service-centers/>, or you may call or stop by the center near you.

Developing a Successful Funding Strategy for Acquiring Assistive Technology

The process of finding funding can be a challenging but necessary experience. As in all experiences, no two will be alike; some will be quick and easy, while others may be confusing and frustrating. The process of finding funding for assistive technology will be easier if you are resourceful, flexible, persistent, and informed. The following steps describe the process and give helpful hints.

STEP 1

Define the need.

Start by being prepared, know what you need and why you need it.

STEP 2

Document the need.

Prove you need the assistive technology by collecting information from professionals (i.e., speech therapists, physical therapists, rehabilitation engineers, etc.) that document your need. The documentation may include input from a combination of professionals, some or all of whom may be willing to provide assistance throughout the request process.

STEP 3

Identify the device or service needed.

Match your need with a specific device and/or service. Obtain written prescriptions or recommendations from professionals to substantiate the specific request. Find out prices of the device and service and who can best provide it. As you look at prices and options, be aware of alternative devices and services that you could use. Knowing alternatives can give you options with funding sources later. Remember, the right technology is crucial if it is to be used successfully after it is acquired. Remember that the FFAST RDCs provide device demonstrations and short-term loans of AT devices that can help in this process. You can view a listing of available equipment on the FFAST website at: www.faast.org.

STEP 4

Determine if no or low-cost alternatives are available.

Before applying for funding, investigate alternatives and options. For example, would an adaptation suffice, or could the device be borrowed from a loan closet or library? Check to see if the same device or service is available at a lower cost. Also, determine if private insurance, Worker's Compensation, or another type of

insurance will cover the cost. If there are no alternatives, have the facts well documented to show all options have been explored prior to applying for funding. It may also be possible to acquire the items at little to no cost through an AT Reuse program, such as FFAST's AT List, located at <https://faast.org/listings/>.

STEP 5

Identify appropriate funding source(s).

This guide will be a resource for you as you search for appropriate funding sources. Do not limit your options; keep a list of possible funding sources and decide where to start first. Get as much support and guidance as possible to ensure all funding options are identified.

STEP 6

Submit a request to the funding source.

Make contact with the funding source to determine what you need to do to submit a request. It is important to note that there is no one specific method to assure success. Try to get as much information on the process and required paperwork before submitting the request. It helps to find one person in the agency as a contact during the process. As you collect information and prepare the request, call your contact at the agency with questions and concerns. Making sure you understand now will save time and energy later. Keep a written record of all contacts with the agency. Complete the application and send in all the needed information with the request, keeping copies of everything that is sent. Do not be surprised if a funding source asks for re-submission with additions and/or changes, particularly on a request for expensive items. Once the request is submitted and has met all the required criteria, the only thing to do is wait. If notification or approval, or denial of a request is not received within the indicated time frame, a courtesy contact to the funding source may be advantageous.

STEP 7

Authorization is received.

Your request for funding has been approved. Be sure to understand the exact amount of the authorization, along with the terms and processes for obtaining the requested device or service. Know if the funding source will purchase the device or provide the service directly or make an arrangement with the vendor for the device or service. If the full amount of funding is not approved, go to your list of other options to supplement the amount awarded. Other options to supplement the approved funding include the New Horizon Loan Program, personal or home equity loans, or community philanthropic organizations.

STEP 8

Appeal the decision.

If your request is denied, make contact with the funding source and be sure why it was denied. If the denial was due to a lack of information or a misunderstanding, appeal the decision. Get information on the appeal process, also determine legal options and processes, and know when they may be appropriate to use.

STEP 9

Go to your next funding option.

Don't give up. If you agree with the denial of your request, go back to Step 4 and continue with the next funding source on your list. The search for funding is not often quick or easy. Investigate and exhaust all possible options for funding.

Table of Contents

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY	1
FUNDING GUIDE	1
Introduction.....	3
FAAST	3
Assistive Technology Devices.....	4
Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology.....	5
FAAST Statewide Device Loan Program	5
FAAST New Horizon Loan Program	5
FAAST Regional Demonstration Centers	5
Developing a Successful Funding Strategy for Acquiring Assistive Technology.....	6
Table of Contents.....	9
Self-Funding and Financial Education Resources	1
ABLE United – the Florida ABLE Program	1
Your Money Matters	1
Agency for Persons with Disability (APD)	2
iBudget Waiver Program	4
CDC + (Consumer Directed Care)	6
Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA)	8
Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Program (Florida Medicaid)	9
Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) Program	10
Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)	12
Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services	14
Division of Blind Services (DBS)	16
Early Steps	17
Florida Bureau of Braille and Talking Book Library	19
Vocational Rehabilitation	21

Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program	23
Traumatic Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Waiver	25
Florida KidCare	27
Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. (FTRI)	30
Home Care for the Elderly (HCE) Program	32
iCanConnect – The National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program	33
Medicaid (Florida)	35
Medicare	37
Blind Work Expense (BWE)	39
Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWE)	41
Plan for Achieving Self-Support (PASS)	43
Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)	46
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	48
Ticket to Work Program	50
TRICARE	52
Veterans Affairs - Vocational Rehabilitation and Education Program	54
Veterans Benefits	56
Private Sources of Funding – Overview	58
Florida Centers for Independent Living	60
Amputee Coalition	63
Autism Care Today!	64
American Cancer Society	65
Association of Blind Citizens – Assistive Technology Fund	66
Enchanted Peach Children’s Foundation	67
Kids Wish Network	68
Make-a-Wish Foundation	69
Special Wish Foundation	71
Sunshine Foundation – Grants/Gifts	72
Civitan Clubs	73

Computers for the Blind (CFTB)	74
Oracle Health Foundation	75
Friends of Man	76
Habitat for Humanity	77
Hearing Aid and Hearing Technology Resources	78
Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing	79
Help America Hear	81
Hike Fund	82
iServe Saturdays	83
Miracle-Ear Foundation Gift of Sound Program	84
TPA Scholarship Trust for the Deaf and Near Deaf	85
Jordan Thomas Foundation	86
The Kelly Brush Foundation Active Fund	87
Kiwanis Clubs	88
Limbs for Life Foundation	89
Lions Clubs International	90
Multiple Sclerosis Foundation	91
Muscular Dystrophy Association	94
Rebuilding Together	95
Service Source/The Abilities Foundation	97
Shriners International	99
United Cerebral Palsy	100
United Way	101
United Way 211	102
Housing Modifications	103
Solar Energy Loan Fund (SELF)	104
Vehicle Modifications	105

Self-Funding and Financial Education Resources

As you will read throughout this guide, there are times that funding may not be available through the organization(s) you are exploring, or you may not qualify for funding resources due to various reasons. Other times, you may be able to receive partial funding but not complete funding for the assistive technology that you need or want. In these situations, you may be reliant upon your own resources in order to complete the acquisition, whether through personal savings or a small loan. In order to be successful with either of these avenues of funding, it is important to understand some resources and programs available to you as well as know your credit score, what to do to either maintain strong credit or begin the building or rebuilding process of your credit. Below are just a few resources you may use to help with these goals.

ABLE United – the Florida ABLE Program

ABLE United became law on July 1, 2015, following the creation of the federal ABLE Act. ABLE stands for Achieving a Better Life Experience. The program allows for Floridians with disabilities to begin saving money without it being counted as a resource in federal means-tested programs. For example, if an individual receives Supplemental Security Income, the first \$100,000 saved in an ABLE account is not counted as a resource. The program is designed to enable individuals to save, support health independence, improve quality of life, and provide tax-free earnings when used on qualified disability expenses. For all further information on the program, please visit <https://www.ableunited.com/>.

Your Money Matters

The Florida CFO's office has many valuable resources for money management, credit building, and banking. The Your Money Matters section addresses all of these and includes a valuable resource guide specifically designed for individuals with disabilities. Go to <http://www.myfloridacfo.com/YMM/Resources/default.aspx> for links to a variety of financial tools and resources, including Credit and Debit, Saving and Spending, Life Events, Small Business, Games, and Calculators. Go to <http://www.myfloridacfo.com/MyMoney/> for the My Money guide for individuals with disabilities.

Agency for Persons with Disability (APD)

Overview

The Agency Supports Persons with Developmental Disabilities in Living, Learning, and Working in their Communities. APD works with local communities and private providers to support people who have developmental disabilities and their families in living, learning and working in their communities. APD also provides assistance in identifying the needs of people with developmental disabilities for support and services so they can reach their full potential. The agency also works to educate the public on disability issues and focuses attention on employment for people with disabilities.

Eligibility

APD serves more than 50,000 Floridians with developmental disabilities as defined in Florida Statutes, Chapter 393; this includes individuals with:

- Autism
- Cerebral palsy
- Spina bifida
- Intellectual disabilities
- Down syndrome
- Prader-Willi syndrome
- Children age 3-5 who are at a high risk of a developmental disability

Services Covered

- Medicaid HCBS Waiver through iBudget Florida
- Placement in an intermediate care facility for those with developmental disabilities
- Supported employment services
- Supported living services
- Consumer Directed Care Plus (CDC+)
- IFS funding for non-waiver customer expenses

Application Process

You can call the regional office in your area. You can find their contact information on our website at <https://apd.myflorida.com/region/>.

Contact Information

Agency for Persons with Disabilities

4030 Esplanade Way, Suite 380

Tallahassee, FL 32399-0950

Phone: (850) 488-4257

Toll-Free: 1-866-APD-CARES (1-866-273-2273)

iBudget Waiver Program

Agency for Persons with Disabilities

Overview

The iBudget Waiver provides home and community-based support and services to eligible persons with developmental disabilities living at home or in a home-like setting, allowing them to live as independently as possible in their own home or the community and achieve productive lives. Individuals enrolled in the iBudget Waiver should receive services that enable them to:

- Have a safe place to live
- Have a meaningful day activity
- Receive medically necessary medical and dental services
- Receive medically necessary supplies and equipment
- Receive transportation required to access necessary waiver services

This waiver reflects the use of an individual budgeting approach and enhanced opportunities for self-determination. This waiver aims to promote and maintain the health and welfare of eligible individuals with developmental disabilities, provide medically necessary support and services to delay or prevent institutionalization, and foster the principles of self-determination as a foundation for services and support.

Eligibility

Individuals must meet the eligibility requirements in accordance with Chapter 393, F.S. In addition, the individual must meet the level of care criteria for placement in an intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ICF/IID) and must be eligible for Medicaid under one of the program codes described in the Florida Medicaid Provider General Handbook. Medicaid Eligibility Individuals who are not already eligible for Medicaid benefits through Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicaid for Adult Disabled (MEDS-AD), or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) at the time of application for the iBudget Waiver, must apply or have a designated representative apply for Medicaid benefits through the Department of Children and Families (DCF). Individuals can apply for eligibility online at www.myflorida.com/accessflorida. **APD Eligibility:** The Agency for Persons with Disabilities maintains the statewide waitlist of individuals waiting for waiver services. Enrollment in the iBudget Waiver is available only when APD has determined they have sufficient funding appropriated to offer enrollment to an individual; when a review of the individual's diagnosis and related characteristics indicate that the ICF/IID level of criteria has been met, and when a determination of Medicaid eligibility has been made.

AT Services Covered

Some Services may be covered during the acquisition of AT devices.

AT Devices Covered

Items covered in this category generally include those specifically designed for a medical purpose and are not used by the general public for physical fitness purposes, recreational purposes, or other general utility uses. The general character, not the specific use of the equipment, determines its purpose for coverage under this category.

CDC + (Consumer Directed Care)

Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD)

Overview

CDC+ is a long-term care program alternative to the Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid Waiver. The program provides the opportunity for individuals to improve the quality of their lives by being empowered to make choices about the supports and services that will meet their long-term care needs and to help them reach their goals. CDC+ is a Florida Medicaid program that permits certain Consumers to self-direct their own Personal Assistance Services.

Eligibility

For the purpose of this program, Consumers must be enrolled in the 1915(c) iBudget Waiver. Individuals must meet the eligibility requirements in accordance with Chapter 393, F.S. In addition, the individual must meet the level of care criteria for placement in an intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ICF/IID) and must be eligible for Medicaid under one of the program codes described in the Florida Medicaid Provider General Handbook. Medicaid Eligibility Individuals who are not already eligible for Medicaid benefits through Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicaid for Adult Disabled (MEDS-AD), or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) at the time of application for the iBudget Waiver, must apply or have a designated representative apply for Medicaid benefits through the Department of Children and Families (DCF). Enrollment in the iBudget Waiver is available only when APD has determined it has sufficient funding appropriated to offer enrollment to an individual, when a review of the individual's diagnosis and related characteristics indicate that the ICF/IID level of criteria has been met, and when a determination of Medicaid eligibility has been made.

AT Services Covered

Some Services may be covered during the acquisition of AT Devices.

AT Devices Covered

Items covered in this category generally include those specifically designed for a medical purpose and are not used by the general public for physical fitness purposes, recreational purposes, or other general utility uses. It is the general character, and not the specific use of the equipment, that determines its purpose for coverage under this category.

Application

If you have any questions, please contact our CDC+ Helpline at 1-866-761-7043.

Contact Information

For a listing of APD's Regional Offices, please go to: <http://apd.myflorida.com/region/>.

Agency for Persons with Disabilities

4030 Esplanade Way, Suite 380

Tallahassee, FL 32399-0950

Phone: (850) 488-4257; 1-866-APD-CARES (1-866-273-2273)

Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA)

Overview

The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) is responsible for the administration of the Florida Medicaid program, licensure and regulation of Florida's health facilities, and for providing information to Floridians about the quality of care they receive.

Florida Medicaid is the medical assistance program that provides access to health care for low-income families and individuals. Florida Medicaid also assists the elderly and people with disabilities with the costs of nursing facility care and other medical and long-term care expenses. Please visit our Web Site at <http://ahca.myflorida.com/Medicaid> for more general information about the program.

In 2011, the Florida Legislature directed the Agency to create the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care (SMMC) program. The SMMC program has two key components: the Managed Medical Assistance program and the Long-term Care program. To learn more about the SMMC program, please visit: http://ahca.myflorida.com/Medicaid/statewide_mc/index.shtml. The majority of Florida's Medicaid recipients are receiving their medical care through a health plan contracted with the Agency for Health Care Administration.

Contact Information

Agency for Health Care Administration
2727 Mahan Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32308
888.419.3456

Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Program (Florida Medicaid)

Agency for Health Care Administration

Overview

Many types of assistive technology are covered for Medicaid recipients under Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Services. Durable Medical Equipment is defined as equipment that withstands repeated use and is used primarily to serve a definite medical purpose and for use in the home. Medicaid covers DME such as augmentative communication devices, wheelchairs, hospital beds, orthotic devices (leg and arm braces), prosthetic devices (artificial limbs), etc., and disposable medical supplies.

Eligibility Requirements

All Medicaid recipients may receive medically necessary DME and medical supplies services in accordance with coverage and limitations requirements. All DME requires, at a minimum, a prescription by an accepted medical professional. Some items require prior authorization approval.

Contact Information

Agency for Health Care Administration
2727 Mahan Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32308
888.419.3456

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) Program

(also known as Florida Medicaid Child Health Check-Up) Agency for Health Care Administration

Overview

The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) service is Medicaid's comprehensive and preventive child health program for individuals under the age of 21. EPSDT has two purposes: to assure health care resources are available and accessible and to help Medicaid recipients and their caregivers use these resources.

Eligibility Requirements

Must be eligible for Medicaid; Resident of Florida; Birth up to 21 years of age.

AT Services Covered

- Physician Services
- Vision care, including eye exams and glasses
- Lab tests and X-rays
- Medicines
- Hearing services
- Dental care includes check-ups, cleanings, fillings, and more
- Speech services
- Mental health services
- Hospital services, including psychiatric hospitals
- Help with drug, tobacco, and alcohol abuse
- Physical, respiratory, and occupational therapy
- Home health services and private duty nursing

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Hearing Aids
- Medical equipment, including wheelchairs and medical supplies

Application Process

EPSDT is part of the Medicaid program. You must have a Medicaid card to be eligible to obtain EPSDT Services. An individual can apply for Medicaid through the local office of the Department of Children and Families.

Contact Information

Agency for Health Care Administration

2727 Mahan Drive

Tallahassee, FL 32308

888.419.3456

<http://ahca.myflorida.com/Medicaid/childhealthservices/chc-up/index.shtml>

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)

Overview

In collaboration with our partners, DEO assists the Governor in advancing Florida's economy by championing the state's economic development vision and by administering state and federal programs and initiatives to help visitors, citizens, businesses, and communities.

Eligibility

There are no eligibility requirements to use most of the services at CareerSource centers. Centers are open to the public. Some of our programs have eligibility requirements and a job specialist will guide you.

Services Covered

A person with a disability can come into any CareerSource center throughout the state and receive any of the services available at that center. Assistive technology is available at the centers. Accommodations can be made for all the services available upon request. Job seekers are encouraged to call ahead to notify the center of the need for accommodation to be sure they have what you need when you arrive. All center services are free of charge.

Some of the programs available at the centers:

- Agricultural Services Program
- Alien Labor Certification Program
- Career and Professional Education Act
- Disability Program Navigator Initiative
- Federal Bonding Program
- Military Family Employment Advocacy Program
- Priority Reemployment Planning Program
- Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment Program
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Trade Program
- Veterans Employment Program
- Welfare Transition Program
- Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program
- Older Worker Program

Along with these programs, each center has workshops available such as:

- Resume Writing
- Interview Workshop
- Job Search Workshop
- Basic Computer Skills
- Social Networking
- Money Management
- eSkills Assessment
- Professional Placement Network

This is not an exhaustive list; each center has programs and workshops tailored to the population in their area. Not all the programs or workshops listed will be in each center.

Application Process

There is no application process to use the services at CareerSource centers; everyone is welcome. However, some programs have eligibility requirements; and a job seeker may have to complete an application to participate in these programs.

Contact Information

To find the center nearest you, go to <http://www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/service-locator.aspx> and type in your zip code.

To speak with a disability specialist in your area, go to <https://careersourceflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/LWDB-Assistance-Chart.pdf>.

The list will give a contact, phone number, and email address of the disability specialist in your area, along with the counties they serve.

To reach the help desk for the Department of Economic Opportunity for general information, please call 866-352-2345.

Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

Florida Dept. of Education

Overview

The Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services administers programs for students with disabilities and for gifted students. Additionally, the bureau coordinates student services throughout the state and participates in multiple inter-agency efforts designed to strengthen the quality and variety of services available to students with special needs.

Eligibility

The Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services supports school districts and others in their efforts to provide exceptional student education programs for students ages 3 - 21 who have disabilities and students who are gifted.

Each school district is responsible for providing services to students who are eligible for the following exceptional student education (ESE) programs.

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing (DHH)
- Ages Birth-5 Years
- Birth Through Two Years
- Established Conditions (EC): Ages Birth Through 2 Years Old
- Developmentally Delayed (DD): Ages Birth Through 2 Years Old
- Ages Three through Five Years
- Developmentally Delayed (DD): Ages 3-5 Years
- Dual-Sensory Impairment (DSI): Deaf-Blind
- Emotional/Behavioral Disability (E/BD)
- Gifted
- Homebound or Hospitalized (HH)
- Intellectual Disability (InD)
- Language Impairment (LI)
- Other Health Impairment (OHI)
- Orthopedic Impairment (OI)
- Specific Learning Disability (SLD)
- Speech Impairment (SI)
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- Visual Impairment (VI): Blind and Partially Sighted

School districts and schools develop their own programs to serve their students in the most effective way possible. The bureau provides training to school staff, district administrators, and others on important issues and current instructional practices; gives the district's information on state and federal law relating to the education of exceptional students; monitors the districts' compliance with those laws; helps resolve conflicts between school districts and families of exceptional students, and provides any other technical assistance school districts need.

In addition, the bureau's Resource and Information Center provides many materials to help parents understand their child's exceptionality, their child's right to free appropriate education, and the processes and activities involved in exceptional student education. The bureau also supports various activities that encourage parent involvement and parent/professional collaboration. Bureau staff respond to questions from parents and try to help them resolve concerns about their child's ESE programs and services. Parents and school districts may appeal the results of due process hearings to the bureau.

Application Process

If a person believes their child needs assistive technology or services to be provided for a free and appropriate public education, a free evaluation can be requested through the school district's exceptional student education department. Contact information for school district offices is available at the link: https://web03.fldoe.org/Schools/schoolmap_text.asp.

Contact Information

Florida Dept. of Education
Turlington Building
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
(850) 245-0505

Division of Blind Services (DBS)

Florida Department of Education

Overview/Eligibility

Services to Floridians who are blind or visually impaired are provided through 15 district offices, Florida Blind Services Rehabilitation Center for the Blind, local community rehabilitation programs serving the blind, or a local Center for Independent Living.

AT Services Covered

A person who is deaf/blind can receive the following services to help him/her get and keep a job:

- Testing to decide what technology can help both hearing and vision
- Training to learn to use assistive technology
- Guidance & counseling from a rehabilitation counselor trained in vision loss
- Finding out what can help a person at the job site
- Training to improve communication and deal with problems
- Help to get services from other agencies
- Help to decide what the person's abilities & interests are
- Support services (interpreters, note-takers, etc.)

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Vision Equipment
- Mobility
- Computer and related equipment

Application Process

To access the Division of Blind Services, please call 800.342.1828 or contact the county office at the following link <http://dbs.myflorida.com/Information/contact.html>.

Contact Information

Division of Blind Services
325 West Gaines Street
Turlington Building, Suite 1114
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400
Toll-Free: (800) 342-1828

Early Steps

Florida Early Intervention System, Florida Department of Health

Overview

Early Steps is Florida's early intervention system that offers services to eligible infants and toddlers (birth to thirty-six months) with significant delays or a condition likely to result in a developmental delay. Early Intervention is provided to support families and caregivers in developing the competence and confidence to help their child learn and develop.

Early Steps services are based on Early Steps evaluations and your family's concerns, resources, and goals. Early Steps uses a Team-Based Primary Service Provider approach which aims to empower each eligible family by providing a comprehensive team of professionals from the beginning of services through the transition. The goal is for the family to receive strong support from one person, provide a comprehensive team of professionals from beginning to end, and for the family to have fewer appointments and more time to be a "family." Services are provided to the family and child where they live, learn, and play, to enable the family to implement developmentally appropriate learning opportunities during everyday activities and routines. Most services will be early intervention home visits.

Eligibility Requirements

Services are available to any child and family who meet developmental eligibility criteria, regardless of income. Children are determined eligible for services if the child has significant delays or an established medical condition that will likely result in a delay. Once your child is determined eligible, Early Steps will put together a team of service providers to address your child's needs. This team will develop the Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP) based on family/caregivers' outcomes and goals.

AT Services Provided/Covered

Services include Evaluation/Assessment, Service Coordination; Transportation; Assistive Technology, and other services that help diminish the effects of developmental delays. Services are based on the child's needs and will be identified by the child's Individualized Family Services Plan.

AT Devices Provided / Covered

- Hearing and Vision
- Communication
- Daily Living
- Mobility, Seating, DME
- Learning Games and Toys
- Orthotics

Application Process

If you feel your child may be eligible, you can contact Florida's Early Steps Directory for application and enrollment information at (800) 218-0001.

Contact Information Local offices can be found at the following link: http://www.cms-kids.com/families/early_steps_directory/index.html.

Florida Bureau of Braille and Talking Book Library

Division of Blind Services

Overview

The Bureau of Braille and Talking Books Library serves more than 31,647 Florida residents who cannot use standard print reading materials as a result of a visual, physical, or reading disability. It is the largest library of its kind in the U.S., with a collection of more than 2.4 million items in Braille and audio format and annual loans exceeding 1.99 million items. Since 1950, the bureau has been designated by the [Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped \(NLS\)](#), as the regional library for Florida. In addition, ten sub-regional libraries provide local services to residents of metropolitan areas. Reading materials are sent to and from customers via postage-free mail, and all services are provided free.

Eligibility Requirements

If you live in Florida and have trouble reading print as the result of an eye problem, a reading disability, or difficulty holding a book because of arthritis, a stroke, or an accident, you may apply for Bureau of Braille and Talking Books Library services. Libraries, nursing homes, hospitals, schools, and other Florida institutions with customers who have disabilities that impede their use of conventional print may also apply for services. You will need your disability certified by a doctor, nurse, social worker, counselor, librarian, or other professional.

AT Services Provided/Covered

- Audiobooks on digital cartridge
- Braille books and print/Braille books
- Downloadable audio and Braille books and magazines from BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) Audio magazine subscriptions on digital cartridges—each issue must be returned to receive future issues
- Braille magazine subscriptions—no due date
- NLS Music Service—Braille, large print, & audio music instruction and music scores

AT Devices Provided/Covered

Standard or Advanced NLS Digital Talking Book player is provided on loan to active users.

Application Process

If you think Braille and Talking Book Library Services are for you, please visit <http://dbs.myflorida.com/Library/index.html> or call 800-226-6075.

Contact Information

Voice 800-226-6075; 386-239-6000

Florida Telephone Relay System (TTY): 711

Fax number: 386-239-6069

Florida Division of Blind Services

Bureau of Braille & Talking Books Library

421 Platt Street

Daytona Beach FL 32114-2803

Vocational Rehabilitation

Florida Dept. of Education Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Overview

DVR's mission is to help people with disabilities find and maintain employment and enhance their independence.

AT Services Provided/Covered

(Under qualifying circumstances)

- Evaluation/Assessment
- Purchasing/Acquisition
- Selection/Design
- Coordination
- Training/Technical assistance
- Information /Assistance
- Device Demonstration
- Device Loan

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Vision/Hearing Equipment
- Speech Communication Products
- Learning, Cognition, and Developmental Items
- Mobility, Seating, and Positioning Products
- Daily Living
- Environmental Adaptations
- Vehicle Modifications
- Computers and Related Hardware and Software Products

Application Process

You should contact your local VR office to apply for services. A VR counselor will work with you to determine if you are eligible to receive vocational rehabilitation services. A copy of the application can be found here: <https://www.rehabworks.org/customers/vr-steps.html>.

Contact Information:

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

4070 Esplanade Way

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-7016 (800) 451-4327

<https://www.rehabworks.org/contact/area-offices.html>

Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program

Florida Department of Health

Overview

The Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program's (BSCIP) purpose is to provide all eligible residents who sustain a traumatic brain or spinal cord injury the opportunity to obtain the necessary services that will enable them to return to an appropriate level of functioning in their community. Funding for the program is through traffic-related fines, temporary license tags, motorcycle specialty plates, and general revenue.

Eligibility Requirements

Florida Law (section 381.74, Florida Statute) requires that all new traumatic moderate - to - severe brain or spinal cord injuries are referred to the BSCIP's Central registry:

- Central Registry Toll-Free Number: 1-800-342-0778
- Central Registry Fax: (850) 410-1975
- Legal Florida Resident
- All New Traumatic moderate-to-severe brain injuries
- Referred to the BSCIP
- A reasonable expectation is that with the provision of appropriate services and support, the person can return to a community-based setting rather than reside in a skilled nursing facility.

AT Services Covered

- Evaluation/Assessment
- Purchasing/Acquisition
- Selection/Design
- Coordination
- Training/Technical assistance
- Information /Assistance
- Device Demonstration
- Device Loan

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Vision/Hearing Equipment
- Speech Communication Products
- Learning, Cognition, and Developmental Items
- Mobility, Seating, and Positioning Products
- Daily Living
- Environmental Adaptations
- Vehicle Modifications
- Computers and Related Hardware and Software Products
- Recreation, Sports and Leisure Equipment Products

Application Process

BSCIP suggests prospective clients complete the Central Registry Referral Form that includes the following client and supportive contact information such as name, date of birth, social security #, address, phone number, email, and brain injury or spinal cord injury information. Additional documentation may also be needed. A Central Registry Referral Form can be found on the website: <https://www.floridahealth.gov/provider-and-partner-resources/brain-and-spinal-cord-injury-program/applicants/central-registry.html>.

Contact Information

Phone: 850-245-4045

Fax: 850-921-0499

Central Registry

Phone: 1-800-342-0778; fax (850)-410-1975

Mailing Address

4052 Bald Cypress Way

Bin C-25

Tallahassee, FL 32399

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/brain-and-spinal-cord-injuries/>

Traumatic Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Waiver

Florida Department of Health – Home and Community-Based Care Waiver, Medicaid

Overview

The Acquired Brain Injury Long Term Care Waiver program provides an alternative to institutional care for individuals that have reached a plateau in their rehabilitation level and require maintenance services to avoid institutionalization and to live safely in the community.

Eligibility Requirements

Persons who:

- Are at least 18 years of age
- Must be referred to the BSCIP Central Registry
- Meet Level II nursing facility level of care
- Meets state definition of traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury or both
- Must be medically stable
- Must be financially eligible for Florida Medicaid

AT Services Covered

Case Management, Community Living Supports, Respite Care, Adult Day Health Care, Adult Day Training, Environmental Modifications, Behavior Programming, Counseling, Group Counseling, Specialized Medical Equipment, and Supplies, Supported Employment, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Nursing Supports, Family Training, Physical Therapy, Assessment, and Reassessment, Supervised Residential Care

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Vision/Hearing Equipment
- Speech Communication
- Learning, Cognition, and Development
- Mobility, Seating, and Positioning
- Daily Living

Contact Information

Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program

Phone: (850) 245-4045; fax (850) 921-0499

Central Registry

Phone: 1-800-342-0778; fax (850) 410-1975

Florida KidCare

Overview

Florida KidCare is the state's children's health insurance program for uninsured children from birth to age 19 who meet income and eligibility requirements. The 1998 Legislature created Florida KidCare in response to the passage of Title XXI of the Social Security Act in 1997 — the State Children's Health Insurance Program. Three state agencies and the Florida Healthy Kids Corporation, a non-profit organization, form the core of the Florida KidCare partnership.

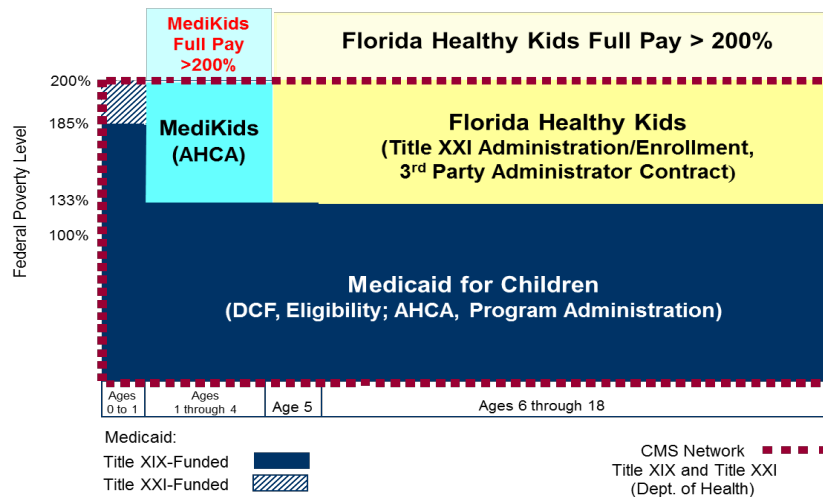
The four components are:

- **MediKids** for children ages 1 through 4, administered by the Agency for Health Care Administration
- **Florida Healthy Kids** for children ages 5 through 18, administered by the Florida Healthy Kids Corporation. The Agency for Health Care Administration contracts with the Florida Healthy Kids Corporation to conduct Title XXI eligibility determinations as required by state law
- **Title XXI Children's Medical Services (CMS) Network** for children with special health care needs, administered by the Department of Health for physical health and the Department of Children and Families for specialized behavioral health
- **Medicaid for Children** from birth through age 18, the Agency for Health Care Administration administers the Medicaid program, and the Department of Children and Families determines eligibility for Medicaid

Healthy Kids offers comprehensive health benefits that meet most children's needs. The Florida Healthy Kids Corporation contracts with licensed health plans and health insurers for its enrollees. Title XXI-funded children enrolled in MediKids or the CMS Network receive the Medicaid state plan benefit package for children, excluding waiver services. MediKids receive services through enrollment in Medicaid-managed care plans. The Department of Health contracts with approved providers and integrated care service networks for specialized health care services.

Eligibility

The figure below shows Florida KidCare eligibility by age, Federal Poverty Level, and program component. Effective January 1, 2014, children ages 6 through 18 with family incomes between 100 percent and 133 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) will be eligible for Title XXI-funded.



Eligibility Requirements

- Based on the age and family income
- Children from birth through age 18 (until their 19th birthday) from low-income families
- A family's income can be up to and including 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
-

AT Services Provided/Covered (Healthy Kids services may be more limited)

- Evaluation/Assessment
- Purchasing/Acquisition
- Training/Technical Assistance

AT Devices Provided/Covered (Healthy Kids services may be more limited)

- Daily Living
- Speech Communication
- Mobility, Seating, and Positioning
- Vision/ Hearing equipment

Application Process

Applications may be completed online at www.floridakidcare.org, or you may obtain an application by calling 1-888-540-KIDS (5437).

Contact Information

Phone: 1-888-540-5437

Website: www.floridakidcare.org

Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. (FTRI)

Florida Public Service Commission

Overview

Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. (FTRI) is a statewide nonprofit 501(c) 3 organization that administers the Specialized Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program for citizens of Florida who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf/Blind, and Speech Disabled. FTRI is also responsible for the education and promotion of the Florida Relay Service.

The Florida Legislature passed the Telecommunications Access System Act (TASA F.S. 427) in 1991. The intent of TASA is to provide basic telecommunications services for Hard of Hearing, Deaf, Deaf/Blind, and Speech Disabled individuals in the most cost-effective way possible. TASA mandates that the FTRI equipment distribution program and the Florida Relay Service be funded by a monthly surcharge billed to all telephone customers (landlines) in the State of Florida. The specialized telephone equipment and ring signaling devices provided through this program are loaned to all qualified permanent Florida residents for as long as they need it, at no charge.

Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility is open to Florida residents with hearing or speech loss. To receive specialized telephone equipment, you must provide proof of eligibility. You must provide proof of residency with a Florida driver's license or ID card or another form of eligible identification.

AT Services Provided/Covered

- Training/Technical Assistance

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Amplified Phones
- Text Telephones
- Voice and hearing carryover phones
- In-line Amplifiers
- Audio/Visual/Tactile Ringers
- Deafblind Communicators
- TeliTalk

Application Process

An application may be completed online or received through the mail.

Contact Information

Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc.

1820 East Park Avenue

Suite 101

Tallahassee, FL 32301

<http://www.ftri.org/>

Voice 1-800-222-3448, TTY 1-888-447-5620, VP 1-850-270-6016

Home Care for the Elderly (HCE) Program

Department of Elder Affairs

Overview

The mission of the HCE program is to foster an environment that promotes well-being for Florida's elders and enables them to remain in their homes and communities.

The HCE Program supports care for Floridians age 60 and older in family-type living arrangements within private homes as an alternative to institutional or nursing home care. A basic subsidy is provided for support and maintenance of the elderly, including some medical costs. A special subsidy may also be provided for services and/or supplies.

Eligibility

Individuals must be age 60 or older, have income less than the Institutional Care Program (ICP) standard, meet the ICP asset limitation, be at risk of nursing home placement, and have an approved adult caregiver living with them who is willing and able to provide or help arrange for care.

AT Devices and other Services provided

In addition to an average \$160 monthly subsidy provided by the program, special subsidies are authorized for some consumers and can be used for: wheelchairs, assistive devices, ramps, and home accessibility modifications.

Application Process

Contact the Elder Helpline for information on applying for services.

Contact

Area Agencies on Aging provide the local administration for the program.

Contact the Elder Helpline at 1-800-96-ELDER (1-800-963-5337) for the center near you.

Website: <https://elderaffairs.org/programs-services/caregiving/home-care-for-the-elderly-hce-program/>

iCanConnect – The National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program

Overview

iCanConnect promotes the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP), a federally funded program made possible by the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010.

The goal is to get technology into the hands of Americans with combined hearing and vision loss so they can connect with family, friends, and community. For those who qualify, technology equipment used for distance communication is provided free. Installation, training, and technical support are also available at no charge.

The iCanConnect program is administered in Florida by the Helen Keller National Center (HKNC)

Eligibility Requirements

- Have combined hearing and vision loss verified by a doctor or professional service provider
- Be able to be trained to use adaptive technology that makes it possible to use telephone, computer, or other communication equipment
- Meet the program's income guidelines

Must meet at least one of these hearing guidelines:

- Chronic hearing disabilities so severe that most speech cannot be understood with optimum amplification
- Progressive hearing loss has a prognosis leading to the above condition

Must meet at least one of these sight guidelines:

- Visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with corrective lenses
- A field defect such that the peripheral diameter of the visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees
- Progressive visual loss with a prognosis leading to one or both of the above conditions

AT Services Offered

- Training / Technical Assistance

AT Devices Offered

Technology such as smartphones, screen readers, and braille devices are provided free of charge, along with one-on-one training, to those whose income qualifies for the program.

Contact Information

HKNC SE office

PO Box 380

Concord GA 30206

516-393-7733

516-393-1597 (fax)

website: www.icanconnect.org

abhattacharyya@helenkeller.org

hanvey@helenkeller.org

Medicaid (Florida)

Overview

Medicaid provides medical coverage to low-income individuals and families. The state and federal government share the cost of the Medicaid program. Medicaid services in Florida are administered by the Agency for Health Care Administration.

Eligibility

Medicaid eligibility in Florida is determined either by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) or the Social Security Administration (for SSI recipients).

DCF determines Medicaid eligibility for:

- Parents and caretakers' relatives of children
- Children
- Pregnant women
- Former Foster Care Individuals
- Non-citizens with medical emergencies
- Aged or disabled individuals not currently receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Application Process

Individuals may apply for assistance online at: www.myflorida.com/accessflorida/ For information about the FL Medicaid Redetermination Plan visit: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/medicaid>.

If an individual wants to apply using a paper application, the Family-Related Medical Assistance Application is for individuals who desire to apply for medical assistance only. If the individual wants to apply for other programs, such as Temporary Cash Assistance and/or food assistance, the individual must complete the ACCESS Florida Application. Two paper applications will be required if the individual is requesting Family-Related Medicaid in addition to other programs.

Applications for individuals not determined eligible for Medicaid will be referred electronically to the Federally Facilitated Marketplace or Florida Healthy Kids. For more information about the Federally Facilitated Marketplace and Florida Healthy Kids, visit these websites: <https://www.healthcare.gov/> and <https://www.healthykids.org/>.

Contact Information

Customer Call Center

1-866-762-2237

8am to 5pm Mon-Fri

Florida Relay 711 or

TTY 800-955-8771

FAX: 866-886-4342

Mailing Address

ACCESS Central Mail Center

P.O. Box 1770

Ocala, FL 34478-1770

Medicare

Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services US Department of Health & Human Services

Overview

Medicare covers certain medical services and items in hospitals and other settings. Some are covered under Medicare Part A, and some are covered under Medicare Part B. As long as you have both Part A and Part B, these services and items are covered whether you have the Original Medicare Plan or you belong to a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO).

Part A helps cover your inpatient care in hospitals. This includes critical access to hospitals and skilled nursing facilities (not custodial or long-term care). It also helps cover hospice care and home health care. You must meet certain conditions to get these benefits.

Part B helps cover medical services like doctors' services, outpatient care, and other medical services that Part A doesn't cover. Part B is optional. Part B helps pay for covered medical services and items when they are medically necessary. Part B also covers some preventive services.

The Original Medicare Plan is one of your health coverage choices as part of the Medicare Program. You will be in the Original Medicare Plan unless you choose to join a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO). Most people get their coverage through the Original Medicare Plan.

Medicare Advantage Plans are health plan options that are approved by Medicare and run by private companies. They are part of the Medicare Program and sometimes called "Part C." When you join a Medicare Advantage Plan, you are still in Medicare. Some of these plans require referrals to see specialists. In many cases, the premiums or the costs of services (co-pays) can be lower in a Medicare Advantage Plan than they are in the Original Medicare Plan or the Original Medicare Plan with a Medigap policy.

Medicare Advantage Plans provide all of your Part A (hospital) and Part B (medical) coverage and must cover medically necessary services. They generally offer extra benefits, and many include Part D drug coverage. These plans often have networks, which means you may have to see doctors who belong to the plan or go to certain hospitals to get covered services. In many cases, your costs for services can be lower than in the Original Medicare Plan.

Medicare offers prescription drug coverage for everyone with Medicare. This is called "Part D."

Eligibility Requirements

People age 65 or older; People under age 65 with certain disabilities; and People of all ages with End-Stage Renal Disease (permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant).

AT Services Provided/Covered

- Evaluation/Assessment
- Purchasing/Acquisition
- Selection/Design
- Training/Technical Assistance

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Daily Living
- Speech Communication
- Mobility, Seating, and Positioning
- Vehicle Modifications
- Vision/Hearing Equipment
- Other Home/Worksite Modifications

Application Process

Applications for a Medicare health insurance card are accepted at your local office for the Social Security Administration. You can also apply online; according to the Medicare website, “It’s convenient, quick and easy.” Additional information is also available online or by phone.

Contact Information

Phone: (800) 633-4227 (24 hrs., 7 days a week)

Website: <https://www.medicare.gov/>

<https://www.medicare.gov/about-us/accessibility-nondiscrimination-notice>

Blind Work Expense (BWE)

Social Security Administration

Blind Work Expense (BWE) and Impairment related work expense is a work incentive for individuals receiving SSI or SSDI who have a primary diagnosis of blindness and who earn income. The Social Security Administration (SSA) will not count any earned income that you use for expenses to work when they decide your SSI or SSDI eligibility and payment amount. These work-related expenses do not have to be related to your blindness, but they must be reasonable work-related expenses that you incur. The amount of these expenses must also be below the total countable income formula used by Social Security in determining your SSI or SSDI payment each month.

Eligibility Requirements

If you are statutorily blind and apply for or are receiving Social Security Disability benefits under SSI, you are eligible for blind work expenses. To qualify for a BWE, the individual must be under age 65 or age 65 or older and receive SSI payments due to blindness before reaching age 65.

AT Devices Covered

Some examples of Blind Work expenses may include Dog guide expenses, Transportation to and from work, dues or fees (such as licenses, union dues, etc.), Vehicle modifications, Work-related training, Federal, state, and local income taxes, Social Security taxes, Visual and Sensory aids, Translation of materials into Braille, Medical equipment or supplies that help you work, Attendant Care Services, Meals consumed during work hours and Therapy.

Application Process

If you meet the eligibility requirements above, contact one of the four companies below for application of benefits services.

Contact Information

Four companies are listed on the Social Security website as Work Incentive Planning and Assistance organizations:

ServiceSource Florida, 2735 Whitney Road, Clearwater, FL 33760.

Phone: 727-600-8923

<https://www.servicessource.org/florida/>

Brevard Achievement Center Inc., 1845 Cogswell Street, Rockledge, FL 32955

Phone: 321-632-8610

<https://bacemploy.com>

Keys Advocacy Center Inc., 103400 Overseas Highway, Pink Plaza, Suite 243, Key Largo, FL 33037

Phone: 305-453-3491

<https://www.cilofthekeys.org>

Opportunity Development Inc. (works with CIL Jacksonville)

Phone: 904-399-8484

<https://www.ciljacksonville.org>

Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWE)

Social Security Administration

Overview

If you need to pay for certain items or services in order to be able to work, you may be able to use the Social Security Employment Support called an Impairment-Related Work Expense (IRWE). The expense must, as its name implies, be related to your impairment and be needed in order to work. It cannot be an expense that any similar worker without a disability would also have such as the purchase of a uniform, or bus fares if the bus is not specifically used for transporting you because of your disability.

If your SSA Claims Representative agrees that your claimed work expenses can be included in an IRWE, you may recover up to 50% of those expenses by having your SSI check increased up to its maximum amount. The IRWE does not provide cash payments. For an SSDI recipient, it simply allows the individual to earn more than the SGA amount without losing the cash benefit.

The IRWE is best suited for ongoing expenses such as out-of-pocket prescription costs or a lease or monthly payment rather than a large upfront payment for large one-time expenses. Many vendors require the full payment at the time of purchase, but it may also be possible to prorate a one-time expense over a twelve-month period maximum.

Eligibility Requirements

Persons must have a disability and meet all the eligibility requirements for SSI or SSDI with the exception of income and/or resources. If SSI is not received because of excess income or resources, deducting impairment-related work expenses may help an individual to qualify for SSI.

IRWE are deductible for SGA and SSI payment purposes when:

- The expenses are directly related to enabling an individual to work
- A person needs the item or services in order to work due to a severe physical or mental impairment
- The cost is paid by the person with a disability and is not reimbursable by another source

AT Services Provided/Covered

Some Services may be covered during the acquisition of AT Devices

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Daily Living
- Vision/Hearing Equipment
- Speech Communication
- Computer and related
- Learning, Cognition, and Developmental
- Environmental Adaptations
- Mobility, Seating, and Positioning
- Vehicle Modifications
- Other Home/Worksite Modifications

Application Process and Contact Information

Four companies are listed on the Social Security website as Work Incentive Planning and Assistance organizations. These organizations can answer questions regarding the application process and answer general questions.

ServiceSource Florida, 2735 Whitney Road, Clearwater, FL 33760.

Phone: 727-600-8923

<https://www.servicesource.org/florida/>

Brevard Achievement Center Inc., 1845 Cogswell Street, Rockledge, FL 32955

Phone: 321-632-8610

<https://bacemploy.com>

Keys Advocacy Center Inc., 103400 Overseas Highway, Pink Plaza, Suite 243, Key Largo, FL 33037

Phone: 305-453-3491

<https://www.cilofthekeys.org>

Opportunity Development Inc. (works with CIL Jacksonville)

Phone: 904-399-8484

<https://www.ciljacksonville.org>

Plan for Achieving Self-Support (PASS)

Social Security Administration

Overview

A Plan for Achieving Self-Support (PASS) lets you spend or save income (other than SSI income) and/or resources for employability investments and work expenses that SSA agrees will help you move toward a goal that will make you financially more self-supporting. (SSA calls such a goal an "occupational goal.") Any income included in a PASS must come from earned or unearned income sources (including in-kind support and/or deemed income) other than SSI. The amount of income you may include in a PASS cannot exceed your non-SSI income.

SSA must agree that your occupational goal is "feasible" for you and that your plan to achieve that goal is "viable." Any assistive technology included in your plan must, in some way, enable the person to perform a job or to get to a job.

Eligibility Requirements

Persons must be blind or disabled, and persons must meet all the eligibility requirements for SSI with the exception of income and/or resources; the individual must have either earnings, unearned income, or resources to set aside in a PASS; If SSI is not received because of excess income or resources, developing a PASS may help an individual to qualify for SSI.

AT Services Provided/Covered

Some services may be covered during the acquisition of AT Devices.

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Daily Living
- Vision/Hearing Equipment
- Speech Communication
- Computer and related
- Learning, Cognition, and Developmental
- Environmental Adaptations
- Mobility, Seating, and Positioning
- Vehicle Modifications
- Home/Worksite Modifications

Application Process

A PASS must contain the following to be approved by SSA:

The plan must have a designated and feasible work goal; the plan must be in writing; the plan must be designed for the individual's needs, goals, abilities, and circumstances; the plan must include a specific financial plan; the plan must include a specific and limited time frame for achieving work goals (no longer than 48 months).

The plan must describe how the funds set aside must be clearly identifiable and only used for the PASS; a separate savings account for the PASS is also required. Persons with disabilities have a fundamental role in developing their own plan. They can write their own plan or select persons to assist them, such as parents, educators, vocational counselors, job coaches, social workers, or employers. The Social Security Administration MUST approve the PASS before it can go into effect.

Contact Information

Five companies are listed on the Florida Vocational Rehabilitation website as Work Incentive Planning and Assistance organizations. Their contact information is below. For a link, please go to: <https://www.rehabworks.org/docs/manual/WIPAmapping.pdf>.

Brevard Achievement Center Inc.

Phone: 321-632-8610 Fax: 321-259-3614

www.bacbrevard.com

Center for Independent Living in Central Florida

Phone: 305-453-3491 (CIL of the Keys/ Subcontractor)

Fax: 305-453-3488 (CIL of the Keys/ Subcontractor)

www.cilorlando.org

Gulfstream Goodwill Industries, Inc.

Phone: 561-848-7200 x 2263; Fax: 561-848-0346

<https://goggi.org>

Independent Living Resources of NE Florida Opportunity Development, Inc.

Phone: 904-339-8484

Toll Free: 888-427-4313; Fax 904-402-8941

Service Sources / Abilities, Inc. of Florida

Phone: 727-538-7370

Toll Free: 800-259-5709; Fax: 888-958-6695
Email: WIPA.Referrals@servicesource.org
<https://www.servicesource.org>

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

Social Security Administration

Overview

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) is administered both nationally and locally by the Social Security Administration (SSA). SSDI is a social insurance program for individuals who are blind or disabled, who are unable to work as a direct result of the disability, and who have paid into the Social Security program for approximately one-half the number of years since age 21 and who are under 65 years of age. A wage earner and his or her dependents can receive benefits if the individual is determined to be disabled based on a specific list of criteria. The payment amount is based on a worker's lifetime average earnings covered by Social Security. The amount may be reduced by workers' compensation payments and /or disability benefits. It is not affected by other income or resources.

Eligibility Requirements

- Persons must have a severe mental or physical impairment (including blindness) that is verified by a physician based on lab tests, examinations, or other objective medical procedures.
- The disability must have lasted or is expected to last a minimum of twelve (12) consecutive months or result in death.
- The disability must prevent the person from doing his or her work or other gainful activity.
- The spouse and dependent children of fully insured workers, including adult children with disabilities whose disability began prior to age 22, also are eligible for benefits upon the retirement, disability, or death of a primary beneficiary.

AT Services Covered

AT services are not provided or covered. However, after getting disability benefits for two years, the individual will be automatically enrolled in and able to access AT services and devices available through Medicare.

AT Devices Provided/Covered

AT devices are not provided or covered. However, after getting disability benefits for two years, the individual will be automatically enrolled in and able to access AT services and devices available through Medicare.

Application Process

Apply in person or by phone at your local Social Security office, or call (800) 772-1213 for an appointment with a Social Security representative who will help with the application. You can also apply online at ssa.gov/apply for disability. Social Security information/publications, as well as address and phone number for your local SS office, are also available online or by phone.

Contact information

Phone: (800) 772-1213 or (800) 325-0778 (TDD)

Website: www.ssa.gov

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Social Security Administration

Overview

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is administered both nationally and locally by the Social Security Administration (SSA). The purpose of the SSI program is to assure a minimum level of income to persons who are elderly or have a disability and have limited income and resources. Specific eligibility criteria must be met. Individuals must meet the SSA's definition of "disabled" or "blind" but do not need any social security work credits to obtain SSI payments. There is no disability waiting period for SSI. People may be eligible for SSI even if they have never worked, and they may also receive social security payments if they are eligible for both. Children and adults with disabilities may qualify for SSI payments.

Eligibility Requirements

- Persons 65 or older who have limited income and resources
- Persons who are blind (child or adult) or have a disability (child or adult) who have limited income and resources.
- Must be a U.S. citizen or reside in the U.S. legally.

AT Services Provided/Covered

AT services are not provided or covered. However, SSI recipients are usually able to get Medicaid and thus access AT services.

AT Devices Provided/Covered

AT devices are not provided or covered. However, SSI recipients are usually able to get Medicaid and thus access AT devices.

Application Process

Apply in person or by phone at your local Social Security office, or call (800) 772-1213 for an appointment with a Social Security representative who will help with the application. Social Security information/publications, as well as address and phone number for your local SS office, are available online or by phone.

Contact Information

Phone: (800) 772-1213 or (800) 325-0778 (TDD) Website: www.ssa.gov

Ticket to Work Program

Social Security Administration

Overview

The Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program (Ticket Program) is an employment program for people with disabilities who are interested in going to work. The Ticket Program is part of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 – legislation designed to remove many of the barriers that previously influenced people’s decisions about going to work because of the concerns over losing health care coverage. The goal of the Ticket Program is to increase opportunities and choices for Social Security disability beneficiaries to obtain employment, vocational rehabilitation (VR), and other support services from public and private providers, employers, and other organizations.

Eligibility Requirements

Under the Ticket Program, the Social Security Administration provides disability beneficiaries with a Ticket they may use to obtain the services and jobs they need from a new universe of organizations called Employment Networks (ENs).

AT Services Provided/Covered

- Evaluation/Assessment
- Purchasing/Acquisition
- Selection/Design
- Coordination
- Training/ Technical Assistance

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Vision/Hearing Equipment
- Speech Communication
- Learning, Cognition, and Developmental
- Mobility, Seating, and Positioning
- Daily Living
- Environmental Adaptations
- Vehicle Modifications
- Computers and Related
- Recreation, Sports and Leisure Equipment

Application Process

The Ticket Program is flexible and voluntary – beneficiaries receiving Tickets can contact one or more ENs to discuss services, and once an agreement between the beneficiary and EN is reached, the two work together to develop a work plan to assist the beneficiary in reaching his or her employment goal.

Contact Information

Phone: (866) 968-7842 or (866) 833-2967 (TTY)

Website: <https://choosework.ssa.gov/>

TRICARE

United States Department of Defense

Overview

The mission of TRICARE is to provide quality health care for members of the Armed Forces, military families, and others entrusted to the Department of Defense's care. TRICARE offers several different health plan options to meet your needs. Plan availability depends on who you are and where you live.

Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) is a supplemental benefit program that provides services and supplies beyond the basic TRICARE military health care program. ECHO is available to active duty family members (ADFM) who meet the qualifications of a specific physical, developmental and/or mental disability. The program provides beneficiaries with coordinated ECHO services and supplies to reduce the disabling effects of the qualifying condition or disorder.

Eligibility Requirements

TRICARE is available to active-duty service members and retirees of the seven uniformed services, their family members, survivors, and others who are registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). TRICARE is also available to National Guard/Reserve members and their families. Benefits will vary depending on the sponsor's military status.

AT Services Provided/Covered

- Evaluation/Assessment
- Purchase/Acquisition
- Coordination
- Information/Assistance

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Vision/Hearing Equipment
- Speech Communication
- Mobility, Seating and Positioning
- Environmental Adaptations

Application Process

Generally, it is the sponsor's responsibility to make sure that his or her family members are enrolled in DEERS through the nearest military personnel office. All military sponsors should ensure that the status of their families (marriage, divorce, new child, etc.) is current in the DEERS files so TRICARE claims can be processed quickly and accurately.

Contact Information

TRICARE Regional Office – North

Phone: 1-800-444-5445

Website: <https://www.tricare.mil/>

Veterans Affairs – Vocational Rehabilitation and Education Program

Department of Veterans Affairs

Overview

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment is an employment-oriented program that assists veterans with service-connected disabilities by offering services and assistance to help them prepare for, find and keep suitable employment. Suitable employment is work that is within the veterans' physical, mental and emotional capabilities and matches their patterns of skills, abilities, and interests. Under vocational rehabilitation, a veteran can take part in one of the following programs: college or university education; trade, business, or technical school education; apprenticeship or other on-the-job training; on-farm training; employment services.

Eligibility Requirements

A veteran with a VA-established service-connected disability of at least 10 percent with a serious employment handicap; or 20 percent with an employment handicap and is honorably discharged or released from military service. A service member pending medical separation from active duty may apply, but the disability rating must be at least 20 percent.

AT Services Provided/Covered

- Evaluation/Assessment
- Purchasing/Acquisition
- Coordination
- Training/Technical Assistance

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Vision/Hearing/Speech Equipment
- Learning, Cognition, and Developmental
- Mobility, Seating, and Positioning
- Daily Living
- Environmental Adaptations
- Vehicle Modifications
- Computers and Related
- Recreation, Sports and Leisure Equipment

Application Process

For information on VA benefits, you should contact an accredited Veterans Service Organization. The FL Department of Veterans Affairs is an accredited Veterans Service Organization; visit their website at www.floridavets.org.

Contact Information

Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs
11351 Ulmerton Road, Suite 311-K
Largo, FL 33778-1630
(727) 518-3202

Veterans Benefits

Department of Veterans Affairs

Overview

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) is a federal agency that oversees the various benefit programs available for honorably discharged veterans. The DVA is the largest purchaser of AT devices and equipment for persons with disabilities. The DVA operates a vocational rehabilitation program for eligible veterans. Assistive technology can be provided to meet vocational goals and pursue gainful employment.

Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility for veterans' benefits is complex. Not all veterans are eligible for all benefits. Generally, if a veteran is eligible for admission to a VA Medical Center (VAMC), then any disabilities he or she has will be treated and/or covered. Entitlement to services varies and is based on the veteran's disability rating. Services are provided on a space-available basis and according to an assigned category of either mandatory or discretionary. Veterans in the mandatory category receive free services, while veterans in the discretionary category may be required to contribute to the cost of care.

AT Services Provided/Covered

- Evaluation/Assessment
- Purchasing/Acquisition
- Coordination
- Training/Technical Assistance

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Vision/Hearing/Speech Equipment
- Learning, Cognition, and Developmental
- Mobility, Seating, and Positioning
- Daily Living
- Environmental Adaptations
- Vehicle Modifications
- Computers and Related
- Recreation, Sports and Leisure Equipment

Application Process

For information on VA benefits, contact an accredited Veterans Service Organization. These organizations not only give information but can also act as your representative through the VA system.

Contact Information

Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

www.floridavets.org

11351 Ulmerton Road, Suite 311-K

Largo, FL 33778-1630

(727) 518-3202

Private Sources of Funding – Overview

A person who needs funding for assistive technology may turn to a private charitable organization, trust, or foundation for assistance. There are a variety of such sources in the state, but they have restrictions on what they will provide, have widely varying eligibility requirements, and the resources available to them are limited. It is impossible to generalize concerning them. Each must be approached individually, and you may have to contact many to decide which, if any, will best be able to help you. Many such organizations have no central state offices but must be contacted at the local chapter. These local chapters differ greatly in the resources available to them and thus in the number of gifts they can provide. Assistive technology for people with disabilities may be only one of many things that an organization will fund. As a result, depending upon the organization, you may be competing for limited dollars.

Some may accept applications concerning assistive technology for persons with disabilities but give priority to other areas such as education. Many groups will have financial need requirements, and many may limit their giving to specific geographical areas. Even if a person meets all eligibility requirements, there is certainly no guarantee of having a request accepted for funding. Resources are always limited, and because there are many people competing for the same money, requests are decided on an individual basis. What is funded for one person may not be funded for the next. You will have to check with each source on their eligibility requirements.

There are many organizations that exist at particular locales and restrict their funding to the immediate geographic vicinity. A few examples are offered here, but it is possible that such an organization exists in your locality that is not listed. Here are some ideas for seeking out these community groups: you may look in the yellow pages under social service agencies, clubs, associations, and civic and/or fraternal organizations; look in the white pages; call your local 2-1-1 service for sources. Your church or religious organization is another valuable resource.

Foundations are non profit organizations that support charitable activities to serve the common good. Individuals, families, or corporations create them with endowments. They make grants with the income they earn from investing in the endowments. You can learn more about foundations by visiting your local libraries. There may be local trusts in your community. A trust officer at a bank usually operates them. Call and ask for the trust department to find out what trusts exist in your community. Scan the local paper on a regular basis to look for publicity about organizations and/or individuals that provided funding for an individual.

Another possible local source of assistance, particularly for individuals who work for large employers, is Employee Assistance Programs. Some large employers have been known to provide assistive technology to employees or their family members through these programs. If your company has such a program, it would be a possibility worth investigating.

The next several pages contain contact information on some charitable organizations and foundations that may provide funding for assistive technology. This list is not intended to be exclusive. There may be other sources available in your community that are not included.

Florida Centers for Independent Living

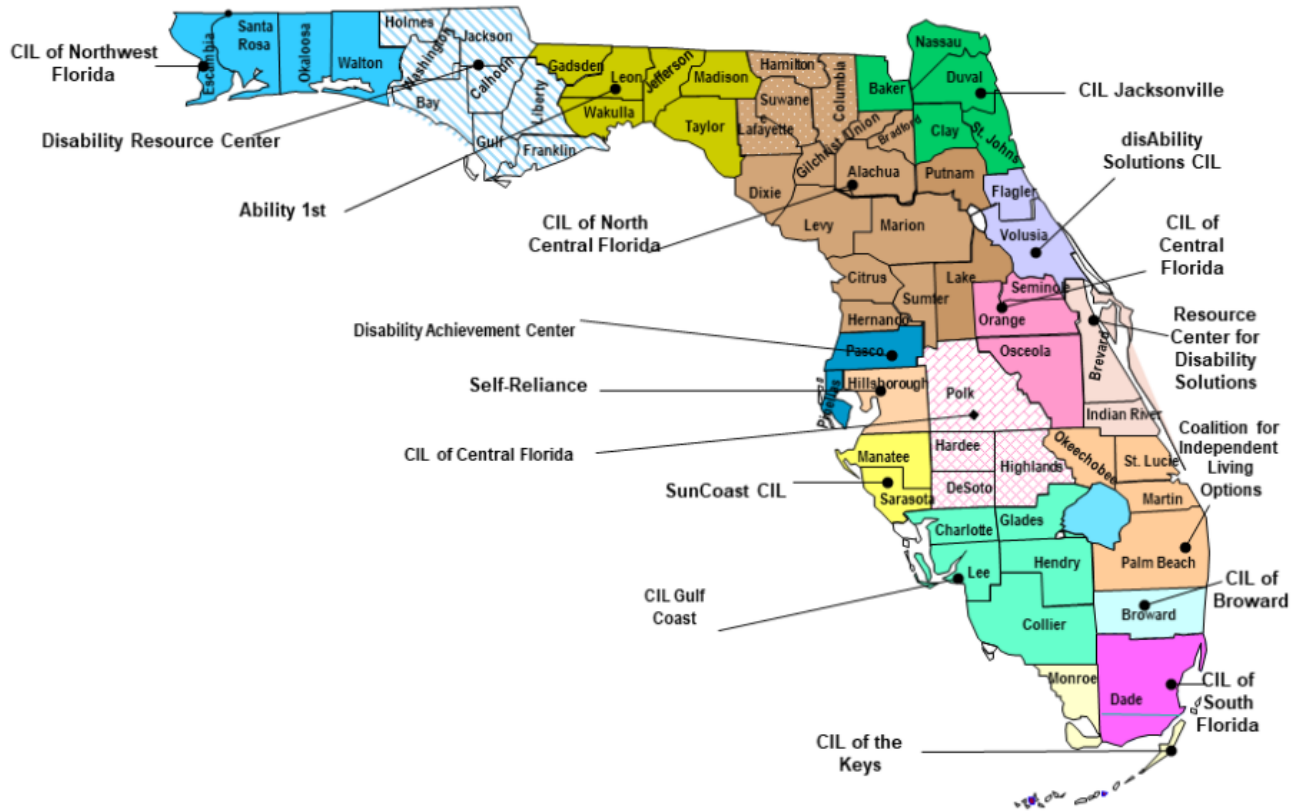
Centers for Independent Living (CILs) empower persons with disabilities to take charge of their lives and guide their own destinies. In addition, CIL staff, boards, and consumers work together to remove barriers and prejudices in society so that all individuals can live and work and enjoy all that their communities have to offer. Fifty-one percent of the staff and boards of CILs are persons with disabilities, which means that they play significant roles in the decision-making responsibilities of the Centers.

The Centers focus on five core services: Information & Referral; Individual & Systems Advocacy; Skills Training; Peer Support; & Transition (Nursing Facility to Community and School to Adult Life). In addition, each CIL also offers unique services tailored to the needs of its community which may include:

- Home Modifications
- Durable Medical Equipment Donation Closet
- Power Mobility Refurbishment
- Computers and Computer Repair
- Training for the use of Assistive Technology

The Centers are strategically located throughout the state and provide service to each county. Use the map below to locate the Center serving your community and contact them by phone for their specific services and requirements.

Network of Centers for Independent Living in Florida



CIL Disability Resource Center – (850) 595-5566; www.cilnwf.org

Counties: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton

Disability Resource Center - 1-850-769-6890; www.drcpc.org

Counties: Bay, Washington, Holmes, Jackson, Calhoun, Gulf, Liberty, Franklin

Ability 1st – 850-575-9621; www.ability1st.info

Counties: Leon, Wakulla, Gadsden, Madison, Taylor, Jefferson

CIL of North Central Florida – 352-378-7474; www.cilncf.org

Counties: Alachua, Bradford, Citrus, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Lafayette, Lake, Levy, Marion, Putnam, Sumter, Suwannee, Union, Lake

CIL Jacksonville – 904-399-8484; www.ciljacksonville.org

Counties; Duval, Nassau, Baker, Clay, St. Johns

Disability Solutions for Independent Living – 386-255-1812; www.dsil.org

Counties: Volusia, Flagler

Disability Achievement Center – 727-539-7550; <https://www.mydacil.org>
Counties: Pinellas, Pasco

CIL of Central Florida – 407-623-1070; www.cilorlando.org
Counties: Orange, Seminole, Osceola, Hardee, Highlands, Polk, DeSoto

Resource Center for Disability Solutions – 321-633-6011; www.rcdsfl.org
Counties: Brevard, Indian River

Self-Reliance CIL, Inc. – 813-375-3965; www.self-reliance.org
Counties: Hillsborough

SunCoast CIL, Inc. – 941-351-9545; www.scil4u.org
Counties: Manatee, Sarasota

Coalition for Independent Living Options, Inc. – 561-966-4288; www.cilo.org
Counties: Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Okeechobee

CIL of Broward – 954-722-6400; www.cilbroward.org
Counties: Broward

CIL Gulf Coast – 239-260-4575; <https://www.cilgulfcoastflorida.org>
Counties: Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee

CIL of the Keys – 305-453-3491; <https://www.cilofthekeys.org>
Counties: Monroe

CIL of South Florida – 305-751-8025; www.cilsf.org
Counties: Dade

Amputee Coalition

Overview

The Amputee Coalition has developed reliable resources to help answer your questions about living with limb loss and limb difference. Browse our entire collection of resources which includes Fact Sheets, videos and webinars, publications and articles covering a wide range of topics.

If you don't find what you are looking for, please feel free to call us during business hours at [888/267-5669](tel:8882675669) or send a message via our [contact form](#).

Financial Assistance for Prosthetic Services, Durable Medical Equipment, and Other Assistive Devices

<https://www.amputee-coalition.org/resources/financial-assistance-for-prosthetic-services/>

Contact Information

Amputee Coalition
601 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Suite 420, South Building
Washington, DC 20004
888-267-5669
www.amputee-coalition.org

Autism Care Today!

Overview

One in 59 children in America have an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Autism is more common than juvenile diabetes, pediatric AIDS, and pediatric cancer combined. Early and intense therapies have been proven to be effective, yet most children go without due to financial restraints. Autism Care Today fills a necessary gap by providing assistance for these children today to ensure they have a better tomorrow.

Autism Care Today has put a temporary hold on accepting new applications for the remainder of 2020. In these ever-changing times, we are developing new ways to continue to support and assist families in the upcoming year.

Contact Information

Autism Care & Treatment Today!
20750 Ventura Blvd, Suite 160
Woodland Hills, CA 91364
(877-922-8863)

<https://www.act-today.org/>
AutismCareToday@gmail.com

American Cancer Society

Overview

The American Cancer Society provides information, education services, and rehabilitation to cancer patients and their families in an effort to eliminate cancer as a major health problem. Upon request, Durable Medical Equipment may be provided.

Contact Information

Phone: (800) 227-2345

Website: <https://www.cancer.org/>

Association of Blind Citizens – Assistive Technology Fund

Overview

The Association of Blind Citizens (ABC) operates the Assistive Technology Fund. The Assistive Technology Fund (ATF) will provide funds to cover 50% of the retail price of adaptive devices or software. The ABC board of directors believes that this program will allow blind and visually impaired individuals access to technology products that will have a significant impact on improving employment opportunities, increasing the level of independence, and enhancing their overall quality of life.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

The products covered by this program must retail for a minimum of \$200 with a maximum retail price of \$6,000. Persons eligible to apply for assistance must have a family income of less than \$50,000 and cash assets of less than \$20,000. Applications will be reviewed by the Assistive Technology Committee, and recommendations will be submitted for board approval. If applicants are selected to receive a technology grant, applicants will be asked to provide documents such as tax returns, bank statements, and any other documents that the ABC board or its designee would deem necessary to assess the financial need for the grant.

Applicants must be legally blind and a resident of the United States to qualify for this program. Applications must be submitted by June 30th and December 31st for each grant period (two per year). Applicants will be notified if their request for a grant is approved. Applicants may submit one request per calendar year. All applications must be submitted via e-mail. You will be notified by ABC within 45 days after the application deadline. The grantee will have 30 days after notification to purchase the product. If the purchase cannot be made within 30 days, ABC reserves the right to withdraw the award and assign it to another applicant. All decisions are final.

The application form is on the website at www.blindcitizens.org (From the home page, click the Assistive Technology Fund link)

Contact Information

PO Box 246

Holbrook, MA 02343

Phone: (781) 961-1023

Website: <https://blindcitizens.org/>

Email: president@blindcitizens.org

Enchanted Peach Children's Foundation

Overview

The Enchanted Peach Children's Foundation, was founded on the premise that terminally ill children, regardless of race, color, religion, or economic status, are denied the basic right to grow into adulthood. For these unfortunate children, the Children's Wish Foundation provides an experience of a lifetime in the form of a favorite wish.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Enchanted Peach Children's Foundation will fulfill the favorite wish for any child not expected to live until the age of 18. Each wish, truly the child's own wish, must be completed while the child is healthy enough to fully enjoy it. The immediate family is included in the wish fulfillment, so that the child and family will share in the experience. Assistive technology will be considered if it is truly the wish of the child. Application information is available online or by phone.

Contact Information

Phone: (800) 323-9474 (WISH)

Website: <https://enchantedpeach.org/>

Kids Wish Network

Overview

Kids Wish Network is a federally recognized 501(c)3 nonprofit charitable organization whose sole mission is to grant wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses. Kids Wish Network actively seeks out children who have "slipped through the cracks" of society, that is, children without parents or other advocates. Some examples of wishes include computers with assistive technology, theme park visits, shopping sprees, meeting celebrities, and traveling are all popular choices. We have also fulfilled many requests for special commodity wishes such as accessible playground sets. The wish cannot accommodate pets, travel outside the US, hunting trips, motorized vehicles, hospital equipment, land/housing, or medical treatments.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

To qualify for assistance, an individual must have a terminal or life-threatening illness and must be between 3 and 18 years of age. Application information is available online or by phone.

Contact Information

Phone: 727-789-0008

Email: info@kidswishnetwork.org

Website: <https://www.kidswishnetwork.org/>

Make-a-Wish Foundation

Overview

Founded in 1983, this Foundation grants special wishes to children under the age of 18 who have terminal illnesses or life-threatening medical conditions. Although most wishes involve things such as special vacations and trips or meeting celebrities, assistive technology can be provided if it is the sincere wish of the child.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

To qualify for assistance, an individual must have a terminal or life-threatening illness and must be less than eighteen years of age. Local "wish teams" are brought together to work out the details of each wish. Make-a-Wish has never turned down a wish for a child who is eligible. Application information is available online or by phone.

Contact Information

Make-A-Wish Central and Northern Florida

1020 North Orlando Avenue, Suite 100, Maitland, FL 32751

Website: <https://wish.org/cnfl>

Phone: (407) 622-4673

Toll Free: (888) 874-9474

Make-A-Wish Central and Northern Florida, Northeast Region

10151 Deerwood Park Blvd., Building 300, Suite 120, Jacksonville, FL 32256

Phone: (904) 580-5906

Make-A-Wish Central and Northern Florida, Northwest Region

P.O. Box 14211, Tallahassee, FL 32317

Phone: (407) 622-4673 ext. 201

Make-A-Wish Southern Florida, Inc

4491 S State Road 7, Suite 201, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33314

Website: <https://wish.org/sfla>

Phone: (954) 967-9474

Make-A-Wish Southern Florida, Southwest Florida Regional Office

3655 Bonita Beach Road, Suite 3, Bonita Springs, FL 34134

Phone: (239) 992-9474

Make-A-Wish Southern Florida, Suncoast Regional Office

8126 Lakewood Main Street, Suite 202, Sarasota, FL 34202

Phone: (941) 378-9474

Make-A-Wish Southern Florida, Tampa Bay Regional Office

1300 N. Westshore Blvd., #100, Tampa, FL 33607

Phone: (813) 288-2600

Special Wish Foundation

Overview

A Special Wish Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to granting the wishes of children under the age of 21 and diagnosed as having a life-threatening disorder. A Special Wish Foundation is the only major wish-granting organization in the United States that grants wishes to qualifying infants, children, and adolescents from birth through and including the age of 20 years.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

The Special-Wish-Foundation has two criteria that must be met before a wish is considered:

- A child must be diagnosed as having a life-threatening disorder
- A child must be under the age of 21.

The foundation grants wishes across the US. Assistive technology will be considered if it is truly the wish of the child.

Contact Information

Phone: (614) 258-3186

Website: <https://aspecialwishfoundation.org/>

Sunshine Foundation – Grants/Gifts

Overview

Sunshine answers the dreams of seriously ill, physically challenged, and abused children, ages 3-18, from all over the country. Although the most frequently fulfilled "wish" is a trip to Disney World or Disneyland, another common dream that the foundation provides is the purchase of a computer or other assistive technology.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

In order to receive a dream through Sunshine Foundation, a child must meet the following requirements:

- They must be between the ages of 3-18
- The child must be seriously ill, physically challenged or abused
- The parent's/guardian's annual income may not exceed \$75,000; and
- The child may not have had a dream granted through any other wish-granting organizations.

Contact Information

Phone: (215) 660-7314

Website: <https://www.sunshinefoundation.org/>

Email: info@sunshinefoundation.org

Civitan Clubs

Overview

To build good citizenship by providing a volunteer organization of clubs dedicated to serving individual and community needs with an emphasis on helping people with developmental disabilities. This can include the purchase of Assistive Technology. To obtain the address and telephone number of the nearest Civitan Club, there are 12 sites across Florida.

Contact Information

1-800-CIVITAN

<https://civitan.org/>

Computers for the Blind (CFTB)

Overview

Computers for the Blind is a non-profit 501(c)3 volunteer organization located in Richardson, TX. They provide accessible computers to persons who are blind and visually impaired. CFTB collects donated laptop and desktop computers from businesses and individuals. Skilled volunteer computer technicians wipe them clean and install screen reader software (NVDA). Upon request, CFTB provides larger monitors and/or a trial version of Zoomtext. The full version is available for purchase. E-mail and word processor software is part of the software library, along with simple accessible tutorials on how to operate the accessible software.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Anyone with a visual impairment who is serious about using it and is willing to commit to the learning process. The cost to the consumer starts at \$175 for a desktop and \$200 for a laptop. For general inquiries or to request a computer call or visit our website.

Contact Information

Phone: (214) 340-6328

Website: <https://computersfortheblind.net/>

Oracle Health Foundation

Overview

Oracle Health Foundation provides pediatric grants that cover a wide variety of clinical, equipment, travel and lodging, and vehicle modification costs related to children's healthcare needs. Please review the following information for more details on the specific types of covered expenses as well as eligibility requirements to apply for grants.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

First Hand encourages Cerner associates, business partners, and clients, as well as the public, to refer cases to the Foundation. Applications are processed and evaluated by First Hand's Clinical Decision Committee composed of healthcare professionals and associates from Cerner Corporation. In order to be considered for funding, the following criteria must be fulfilled: 1) The child must be under the care of a pediatrician; 2) The case must involve a specific child with a specific need; 3) The grant request must be clinically relevant to the health of the child; 4) There must be no existing financial net (such as Medicaid or private insurance) to cover the requested expenses; 5) The case must be in a proactive stage. An application for debt reduction for expenses already incurred will not be considered for First Hand Foundation funding; 6) Because First Hand believes in empowering the families it helps, the families must do their own legwork in seeking medical advice and treatment for their children. First Hand provides its support by funding the procedures and equipment recommended by experts. First Hand partners with other organizations to help the same child, to maximize the impact of its funding; and 7) The child must be 18 years of age or younger (a child 18-21 can be considered if under the care of a pediatrician and in a child-like state). Applications are available online or by phone.

Contact Information

Phone: (816) 201-1569

Website: <https://www.oraclehealthfoundation.org/request-a-grant/>

Friends of Man

Overview

At Friends of Man, every dollar contributed by donors goes directly to aid individuals and families in need of assistance. Friends of Man was founded to provide donors with the opportunity to have 100% of their gift used for charitable purposes. No money whatsoever is taken out for administrative expenses - and there are no salaries.

Friends of Man is a Colorado-based organization but does provide some assistance throughout the country for the following needs:

- Prostheses
- Wheelchairs
- Medical Equipment
- Wheelchair Ramps
- Mobility Equipment
- Home Modifications

Eligibility and Application Process

Friends of Man will only accept applications from referring professionals. Referring Professionals (health care and social workers, clergy, counselors, etc.) submit applications on behalf of people in need of assistance. Friends of Man carefully considers all requests, and if the application is approved, Friends of Man pays a vendor for the needed items or services. Friends of Man will require a substantial copay from resources in the home state, and the applicants have to provide proof of financial need. The minimum application amount is \$250.

Applications may be requested by the referring professional at applications@friendsofman.org.

Contact Information

P. O. Box 937
Littleton, Colorado 80160-0937
Phone: (303) 798-2342; FAX: (303) 798-2345
Email: volunteers@friendsofman.org
<https://www.friendsofman.org/>

Habitat for Humanity

Overview

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian ministry founded on the conviction that every man, woman, and child should have a decent, safe, and affordable place to live. There are hundreds of habitat affiliates across the country, and while the main focus is new home construction, some affiliates do provide home modification services such as wheelchair ramps and a variety of other modifications in the home to help make it accessible.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Contact your local habitat for information on the services that they provide. Contact information for a habitat affiliate that may be in your area is available online or by phone.

Contact Information

Phone: (800) 422-4828

Website: www.habitat.org

Hearing Aid and Hearing Technology Resources

The following organizations may provide funding for hearing aids for those in need.

Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Overview

The program offers several aid programs: Preschool-Age, Parent-Infant, School-Age, Arts & Sciences, Law Scholarship, AVT Scholarship, and AVEd Scholarship.

Arts & Sciences Award Program

Available to students who are deaf or hard of hearing in grades one through twelve, awards help students participate in after-school, weekend or summer programs that enrich language and develop skills in the arts or sciences.

George H. Nofer Scholarship for Law

This program provides awards of \$5,000 each year for up to three full-time graduate students who are attending an accredited law school or a master's or doctoral program in public policy.

Parent-Infant Financial Aid Program

For families of infants and toddlers under the age of 4 who are pursuing a spoken language outcome for their child.

Preschool-Age Financial Aid Program

The Preschool Financial Aid program helps families of children from age 4 until they begin first grade with many expenses including auditory support services, speech-language therapy, preschool tuition, etc. Award amounts vary and are made once a year.

School-Age Financial Aid Program

The School-Age Financial Aid program is for students who are deaf and hard of hearing who are in first through twelfth grades at a parochial, independent or private mainstream school. Awards help with educational costs like tuition, books, equipment, room and board, auditory and speech language support services, academic tutoring, transportation, and other school-related expenses. Please Note: Public school, oral school, home school and post-secondary students are not eligible for this program.

The Doreen Pollack AVT Scholarship

AG Bell and The Listen Foundation have established a professional scholarship in the name of Doreen Pollack, a pioneer in the standards of excellence in listening and spoken language. The purpose of this scholarship is to assist LSLS professionals in fulfilling the requirements for certification as a Listening and Spoken Language Specialist (LSLS™) in Auditory-Verbal Therapy (LSLS Cert. AVT).

The AG Bell AVEd Scholarship

AG Bell has established a professional scholarship to support certification of educators through the AG Bell Academy. The purpose of this scholarship is to assist LSLS professionals in fulfilling the requirements for certification as a Listening and Spoken Language Specialist (LSLS™) in Auditory-Verbal Education (LSLS Cert. AVEd).

Contact Information

Phone: (202) 337-5221

TTY: 202-337-5221

Website: www.agbell.org

Email: financialaid@agbell.org

Help America Hear

Overview

Help America Hear is proud to offer the Help America Hear Program, which provides NEW high-quality hearing aids Nationwide to men, women, and children with limited financial resources. There is a \$250 minimum application fee.

Help America Hear is made possible by the generosity of hearing health care professionals and manufacturers who donate their time and services. The program is also sponsored by our many corporate and private donors. We trust you will respect the integrity of the program and deeply appreciate the kindness of everyone involved.

Through a matching grant from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF), all High School Seniors with hearing loss are eligible to apply for a scholarship receive two (2) state-of-the-art ReSound Hearing Aids that best fit his/her hearing loss, plus a \$4,000 Scholarship towards the student's college or vocational school of choice

Contact Information

Phone: (888) 580-8666

Email: info@helpamericahear.org

Website: www.helpamericahear.org

Hike Fund

Overview

The HIKE Fund, Inc. is a not-for-profit charity incorporated under the laws of the State of Nebraska and registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt charity. The Fund is the continuing philanthropic project of Job's Daughters International.

The purpose of the Fund is to provide hearing devices for children with hearing losses between the ages of newborn and twenty years whose parents are unable to meet this special need financially. Estimates of 100 children are provided with hearing devices each year. Examples of eligible hearing devices include hearing aids, enclosed caption converters for television, tactile units, FM units (into which a hearing aid is plugged for amplification), computers to assist deaf children in communicating, as well as other technical devices may be prescribed.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Children are eligible to receive a grant providing the need is verified by a prescription from an audiologist or physician. The following list of items must be included in the application packet to be considered for funding:

- a letter from the parent(s) or guardian(s) explaining the financial need
- statement of income and expenses
- a copy of the previous year's income tax return and the most recent pay stub(s) from each wage earner
- a recent (within the past 12 months) audiogram AND quote from a licensed and/or certified audiologist and/or physician
- an itemized cost quotation from the supplier which should include the cost of hearing aid(s) or device(s), cost of ear mold(s), and professional fees.

Applications can be downloaded from the website listed below.

Contact Information

Phone: (712) 325-0812

Website: www.thehikefund.org/

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheHIKEfund/>

iServe Saturdays

Overview

"We believe it is important to use the gifts and resources of our church community to help our neighbors and church members who need assistance. Our projects focus on safety and access for persons in their homes, including minor carpentry and home repair, small painting projects, home and yard maintenance and similar activities"

iServe has taken applications for the purchase and installation of grab bars for individuals in need in the Tallahassee area

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Applicants must be in the Tallahassee area.

The application can be downloaded from the website below.

Contact Information

Killlearn United Methodist Church
2800 Shamrock St. South
Tallahassee FL 32309
850-893-1116

<https://killlearn.church/missions#Local>

Contact ministry leader, Keith Tischler at kctish@hotmail.com.

Miracle-Ear Foundation Gift of Sound Program

Overview

The Miracle-Ear Foundation serves and supports children and adults who have hearing loss. Our Gift of Sound program provides at no-cost hearing aids and hearing support services to families or individuals who have income that is significantly limited, who are unable to afford the high cost of quality hearing instruments, and who exhausted all possible resources for their hearing health. Hearing challenges are unique; every application for service and support are considered on an individual basis. The application fee for adults, age 19 years and older, requesting services from the Miracle-Ear Foundation is \$150. This is a non-refundable fee; please make sure you fit the eligibility criteria before applying. Application information is available online or by phone.

Contact Information

Phone: (800) 234-5422

Website: www.miracleearfoundation.org

TPA Scholarship Trust for the Deaf and Near Deaf

Overview

The Travelers Protective Association of America established the TPA Scholarship Trust for the Deaf and Near Deaf in 1975 to provide financial aid to children and adults who suffer deafness or hearing impairment and who need assistance in obtaining mechanical devices, medical or specialized treatment or specialized education as well as speech classes, note takers, interpreters, etc. and in other areas of need that are directly related to hearing impairment.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Persons who suffer deafness or hearing impairment may obtain an application for aid from the Trust at The Travelers Protective Association. The completed application must be returned to the Trust by March 1st each year. Trustees review all applications on file in April; notify recipients in May and scholarship checks are mailed after August 1st. Recipients may receive additional aid and must complete a new application. The selection of recipients and the amount of the scholarship awarded shall be decided upon by the majority of the Trustees meeting in April to review the applications. Applicants demonstrating the greatest financial need are given preference regardless of race, creed, age, or sex. Completed applications are due by March 1st, annually. Application information is available online or by phone.

Contact Information

Phone: (636) 724-2227; (877) 872-2638

Website: www.tpahq.org

Email: support@tpahq.org

Jordan Thomas Foundation

Overview

The Jordan Thomas Foundation provides children affected by limb loss with the prostheses they need throughout childhood and adolescence and serves as a caring resource, advocate and support system for these children and their families. More detailed information on the Foundation can be found here: <http://www.jordanthomasfoundation.org>

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

The Jordan Thomas Foundation seeks to help children in the Southeastern USA first but also provides support to children all over the United States as well as children from other countries who are in the US on medically sponsored visas.

The Board of Directors of the Foundation accepts applications, provided upon request through the website, and serves as the review and acceptance committee. Recipients must present documentation of financial needs. Attending physicians and prosthetists are required to submit information on the application as well as the parent(s) or guardian.

The Foundation also has a one-time assistance program for young adults, ages 18-24 years old. The same application and requirements are used.

Contact Information

Jordan Thomas Foundation
9005 Overlook Blvd
Brentwood TN 371027
(615) 455-5505
info@jordanthomasfoundation.org

The Kelly Brush Foundation Active Fund

Overview

The Kelly Brush Foundation is dedicated to making active lifestyles a reality for anyone with a spinal cord injury. **Life is better active!**

Through the Active Fund, we provide grants for individuals with paralysis caused by spinal cord injury to purchase adaptive sports equipment. We believe in the power of sport and recreation to foster inclusion and overcome the barriers of paralysis. We have helped over 900 people from 48 states purchase handcycles, monoskis, sports chairs, racing chairs, hockey sleds,

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Individuals with paralysis caused by spinal cord injury who reside in the US.

To review Active Fund guidelines, please go to <https://kellybrushfoundation.org/theactivefund>.

Contact Information

Kelly Brush Foundation

3 Main Street

Suite 105

Burlington, VT 05401

802-846-5298

info@kellybrushfoundation.org

Kiwanis Clubs

Overview

Kiwanis clubs, located in 80 nations, help their communities in countless ways. Each community's needs are different—so each Kiwanis club is different. By working together, members achieve what one person cannot accomplish alone. Service is at the heart of every Kiwanis club, no matter where in the world it's located.

The Kiwanis Clubs do not generally provide assistance for the purchase of assistive technology, but it is not excluded as a possibility. Local clubs can be convinced to help. To obtain the address and telephone number of the nearest Kiwanis Club, contact your local chamber of commerce or visit their website.

Contact Information

Website: www.kiwanis.org

Limbs for Life Foundation

Overview

Limbs for Life awards prosthetic care to clients both in the US and developing countries. Prosthetic limbs range from \$15,000 to over \$100,000 each.

A qualified applicant is provided with partial or complete funding for an advanced prosthesis fitted by a certified prosthetist.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Once the amputee receives our application, they are to fill out the forms thoroughly, having a prosthetist of their choice review, fill out, and sign the prosthetist pages. (This includes the Proposed Fee Schedule and Current Prosthetist). Once both the amputee and prosthetist sections are completed, the entire packet should be mailed back to Limbs for Life.

At this point, a criminal background check is processed for each applicant. This step is taken to verify that the amputee fits these criteria: 1) must be a legal resident of the United States; and 2) must not have a felony in their criminal history. If the applicant fails to meet either one of these criteria, they will be notified by letter.

Finally, if the applicant passes the background check, their application will go before the board of directors for confirmation. If selected, we will send a letter to the amputee and their prosthetist informing them that the applicant has been approved for financial assistance. Application information is available online or by phone.

Contact Information

Phone: (888) 235-5462

Website: www.limbsforlife.org

<https://www.limbsforlife.org/get-help/>

Email: admin@limbsforlife.org

Lions Clubs International

Overview

For nearly 100 years, Lions Clubs have provided resources for individuals who are blind or who have severe vision or hearing loss worldwide. A local Lions club in or near your community may sponsor a program that provides assistance for the purchase of eyeglasses, hearing aids, health-related services, scholarships, or educational needs. To find a Club near you, please search for a local club online or call.

Contact Information

Phone: (630) 571-5466

Website: <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en>

Local Club Locator: www.lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-approach/club-locator

Multiple Sclerosis Foundation

Overview

The Multiple Sclerosis Foundation offers four separate programs that may assist with Assistive Technology funding. These programs are the Assistive Technology Program, Brighter Tomorrow Program, Computer Grant Program, and the Cooling Program.

Assistive Technology Program

The MSF Assistive Technology (AT) Program strives to educate and assist individuals with MS across the country about the myriad of AT options available and how to access these options. The MSF AT Program may provide an AT product, help locate a product, or help with funding for a wide range of devices that allow individuals with MS to function more independently in activities of daily living, as well as recreational, educational, and vocational activities.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Questions will be asked regarding symptoms, level of disability, income, family support, and assistance requirements. This information helps the AT coordinator to assess the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive needs of the patient. The financial status also plays a role in determining eligibility for the MSF Assistive Technology Program. Upon review, the AT coordinator will determine what AT will be provided through the MSF or if a referral to another resource is needed. All equipment is ordered from a licensed medical equipment supplier. Applications are available online or via postal mail.

Brighter Tomorrow Grant

Each year the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation makes dreams come true for individuals with multiple sclerosis across the country through the Brighter Tomorrow grant. The goal of the grant is to provide individuals with MS with goods or services (valued at up to \$1000.00 per recipient) to improve their quality of life by enhancing safety, self-sufficiency, comfort, or well-being. Recipients of the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation's Brighter Tomorrow grant have received appliances, televisions, furniture, hobby supplies, retreats, and various home modifications.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

To qualify, a person must be 18 years of age or older and diagnosed with MS, or the parent of a minor child diagnosed with MS and be a permanent U.S. resident. They must not have any other means of fulfilling the need they express.

Applicants are asked to provide basic personal and financial information, and to write a brief essay of 100 words or less to describe how the grant would help them have A Brighter Tomorrow. Applications are available online or via postal mail using the information above. Applications are accepted from June 1 to September 1 of each year.

Computer Grant Program

Computer Grant Program provides refurbished desktop computers for individuals with MS on limited or fixed incomes. For those who do not know how to use a computer, training may be provided. The application process requires verification of a diagnosis of MS and a brief essay from the applicant explaining how a computer will enhance their quality of life. A computer, monitor, keyboard, and mouse will be granted. Internet access and technical support will be the responsibility of the grant recipient. Applications are accepted from June 1 to September 1 of each year. Applications are available online or via postal mail using the information above.

Cooling Program

More often than not, heat and MS don't mix. As the body temperature rises, weakness, fatigue, visual disturbances, and other symptoms can become aggravated and temporarily worsen. While heat does not actually make MS worse, it does alter the passage of nerve impulses, causing a feeling of weakness, especially in the limbs.

But keeping the body cool can help a person with MS to reclaim those sun-splashed days of summer and the countless activities associated with the season, like gardening, fishing, walking, biking, family outings, barbecues, and baseball games. The MSF Cooling Program offers a variety of items, free of charge, including cooling vests, neckties, wristbands, bandanas, work collars, skull pads, and baseball hats.

Application Process

Our program cycle begins on February 1st and continues through June 1st. All applications are confidential and will be reviewed by the grant committee. Applications are available online or via postal mail using the information above.

Contact Information

(888) 673-6287 (888) MSFOCUS

Website: www.msfocus.org

Email: support@msfocus.org

Muscular Dystrophy Association

Overview

The Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) is a non-profit organization that cares for individuals with any one of the 43 different types of neuromuscular diseases. The MDA provides an array of services to individuals with particular neuromuscular diseases while also funding research studies throughout the world. These services can include wheelchair and leg braces, loan closets for durable medical equipment (DME), and other aids.

Contact Information

Website: www.mda.org

Phone: 1-800-572-1717

Rebuilding Together

Overview

Rebuilding Together is a national organization with more than 150 affiliates across the country. Rebuilding Together, Inc. National and its affiliates are committed to providing free home rehabilitation and ramps to low-income families. Affiliates participate in Rebuilding Together Capacity Corps, National Rebuilding Day, and the Organizational Developmental Institute.

Contact Information

Rebuilding Together Miami/Dade INC.
3628 Grand Ave.
Miami, FL 33133
(305) 200-5711
www.rtmiami.org

Rebuilding Together Broward County

4824 NE 12th Ave.
Oakland Park, FL 33334
(954) 772-9945
info@rebuildingtogetherbroward.org
<http://www.rebuildingtogetherbroward.org>

Rebuilding Together North Central Florida

4550 SW 41st Blvd.
Suite 2
Gainesville, FL 32608
(352) 373-2573
mail@rebuildingtogetherncf.org

Rebuilding Together of the Palm Beaches

7501 North Jog Rd.
West Palm Beach, FL 33412
(561) 697-2700
<https://www.swa.org/695/Rebuilding-Together>

Rebuilding Together Orlando

126 E. Colonial Dr.

Orlando, FL 32801

(407) 898-3777

<https://www.rtcfl.org/>

Rebuilding Together Tampa Bay

911 East 122nd Ave.

Tampa, FL 33612

(813) 878-9000

Email: info@rttb.org

Website: <https://www.rttb.org>

Service Source/The Abilities Foundation

Overview

The Abilities Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit support organization that raises, invests, and distributes funds to the benefit of Abilities, Inc. of Florida, which does business as the ServiceSource Florida Regional Office, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Established in 1983 and governed by an all-volunteer board of trustees, the Foundation generates revenue from individuals, corporations, and foundations through events, appeals, grant writing, and planned giving.

The Foundation's vision is to ensure that people with disabilities have the opportunity to participate with dignity in everything that community life has to offer. Its mission is to support the needs of Floridians and military veterans with disabilities through gainful employment, affordable housing, independent living, recreational/cultural resources, advocacy, health, and accessible marketplaces.

ServiceSource is a leading disability resource nonprofit with regional offices and programs located in ten states and the District of Columbia. They serve more than 17,000 individuals with disabilities annually through a range of innovative and valued employment, training, habilitation, housing, and other support services.

Thanks to the Foundation, Abilities, Inc. and ServiceSource, thousands of people who were once dependent upon government and families for support are now contributing to the life and economic strength of their communities as productive wage-earners and tax paying citizens. Your investment in the Foundation ensures that a disability will not stand in the way of a person's quest for gainful employment and fulfillment and dignity it engenders.

Primary Services Offered

- Benefits Counseling
- Employment Opportunities
- Group Supported Employment
- Housing
- Interpreting & Deaf Services
- Long Term Community Integration Programs
- Warrior Bridge Veterans Services
- Vocational Evaluation & Placement
- Vocational Rehabilitation Services
- Youth Transition Services

Contact Information

2735 Whitney Road
Clearwater, FL 33760
727-538-7370

Shriners International

Overview

Shriners Hospitals for Children is a network of pediatric specialty hospitals, founded by the Shrine, where children under the age of 18 receive excellent medical care free of charge. The Shriners provide assistance to children with specific health problems and disabilities. They provide a variety of services that could include the provision of assistive devices such as wheelchairs as part of their treatment plan, and their services are centered on a series of hospitals they sponsor nationally.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Most children that receive services from the Shriners are patients in their hospitals. A child must be under 18 years of age and have one of the following disabilities or health difficulties: orthopedic problems, spinal problems, or severe burns.

Contact Information

Shriners International Headquarters

2900 Rocky Point Dr.

Tampa, FL 33607

813-281-0300

Website: <https://www.shrinersinternational.org/>

Email: marketing@shrinenet.org

Locations: <https://www.shrinersinternational.org/Locations>

United Cerebral Palsy

Overview

“The United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) Elsie S. Bellows Fund”. The Bellows Fund is a national program operated by the national UCP that provides grants for purchasing or repairing AT equipment for individuals with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities and their families who are in financial need and do not have other funding resources are eligible. Nominations and funding are made through UCP’s local affiliates, which directly assess an individual’s AT needs and financial qualifications. Some examples of allowable requests for AT include but are not limited to:

- Wheelchairs (manual and power)
- Computer equipment
- Lifts in the nominee’s own/parent’s van or home
- Hearing aids

For more information about the Elsie Bellows Fund, contact your local UCP affiliate or the national UCP office at <https://ucp.org/resource-guide/assistive-technology/>. NOTE to readers: We regularly post information about little-known funding sources such as the Bellows Fund. Just remember, the items above may be eligible for funding through more traditional sources such as Medicaid, Medicaid waivers, private insurance, or the state vocational rehabilitation agency.

Contact Information

There are two affiliate UCP offices in Florida. To find the location nearest you, please call the number below or use the website.

Phone: 202-776-0406

Website: <https://ucp.org/>

UPC Locations: <https://ucp.org/find-us/>

Florida Locations: <https://ucp.org/find-us/#florida>

United Way

Overview

United Way Worldwide is the leadership and support organization for the network of nearly 1,800 community-based United Ways in 45 countries and territories. They envision a world where all individuals and families achieve their human potential through education, income stability, and healthy lives. The United Way of Florida consists of over 30 local offices. To obtain the address and phone number of the nearest United Way affiliate, call or visit their Website.

Contact Information

Phone: (850) 488-8287

Website: <https://www.uwof.org/>

Local United Way: <https://www.uwof.org/find-your-local-united-way>

United Way 211

Overview

United Way 211 is a source of locally curated social services information. Call, text, or chat with your local 211 to speak to a community resource specialist in your area that will help you find services and resources that are available to you.

Contact Information

Phone: 211

Text: 898-211 with your zip code

Website: <https://www.211.org/>

Housing Modifications

Overview

In addition to the multiple agencies and organizations listed in this guide, funding for home modifications to address accessibility issues such as ramps and bathrooms are often available through your specific city or county. Often these funds are disbursed through grants or low to no-interest loans, sometimes with no payments under certain conditions.

Eligibility and applications vary per program, so contact your local city or county housing authority or local government offices. Often these programs are titled as a Homeowner Rehabilitation Program or an Emergency Home Repair Program or Local Housing Assistance Programs.

State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIPP)

Overview

Florida Housing Finance Corporation also has an entire website dedicated to Special Needs Housing which includes information and resources for individuals with physical and developmental disabilities. The website can be found here:

<https://floridahousing.org/programs/special-programs/ship---state-housing-initiatives-partnership-program>.

Solar Energy Loan Fund (SELF)

Overview

SELF has developed special low-cost financing programs for disabled homeowners through its Home Adaptation Loan Options ("HALO") program.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

- Must be the owner of the home undergoing improvements
- The home must be in Florida
 - Must be current on property taxes
- Must be current on the mortgage/s
- Must provide proof of income
- Must have disposable income to cover loan payments

The application can be found at: <https://www.tfaforms.com/5074072>.

Contact Information

2400 Rhode Island Ave.

Fort Pierce FL 34954

(772) 468-1818

Website: <https://solarenergyloanfund.org/improvements/disability/>

Vehicle Modifications

Overview

Several programs in this guide may provide certain vehicle modifications for eligible clients. However, often vehicle modifications are not covered or only partially covered for most individuals. To help offset the cost of modified vehicles, several automobile manufacturers offer cash rebates for newly purchased vehicles to help offset the cost of installing the adaptive equipment. Also, adaptive vehicle dealers may offer financing options for their inventory. Adaptive equipment is defined as equipment required by persons with a permanent disability to drive, enter, exit, and/or be transported safely in a motor vehicle. Factory optional equipment does not qualify for reimbursement. Programs differ from company to company, so call for more information.

National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association (NMEDA)

NMEDA is a non-profit trade association of mobility equipment dealers, manufacturers, driver rehabilitation specialists, and other professionals dedicated to expanding opportunities for people with disabilities to drive or be transported in vehicles modified with mobility equipment. All members work together to improve transportation options for people with disabilities.

When searching for a mobility dealer near you, NMEDA is an excellent resource to start with.

Phone: ((813) 264-2697

3327 West Bearss Avenue, Tampa, FL 33618

Website: www.nmeda.com

Email: info@nmeda.com

Vehicle Mobility Programs by Manufacturer

Ford Accessibility Program

(800) 952-2248

Website: <https://www.ford.com/accessibility/>

G M Mobility Reimbursement Program

(800) 323-9935

(800) 833-9935 (TTY)

Website: <https://programs.gm.ca/programs/mobility.html>

Lexus Mobility Program

(800) 255-3987

Website: <https://www.lexus.com/content/dam/lexus/documents/privacy/LexusMobilityForm.pdf>

Mobility by Volvo Program Reimbursement

(800) 550-5658

Website: <https://volvo.custhelp.com/app/answers/list/c/292>

Toyota Mobility Program

(800) 331-4331

(800) 443-4999 (TTY)

Website: <https://www.toyotamobility.com/>