

Paying for assistive devices

This tool will help you identify the assistive devices you need or want, explore how to reduce the costs, and how to pay for these items.

For many people with disabilities, assistive devices may help the person achieve independence so they can reach their other goals. Assistive devices may be large purchases, requiring more money than a person can reasonably expect to have after covering their basic living expenses.

What to do

- **Identify all the assistive technology that you need and the cost.** Research the cost of the device or service. If you do not know what you need or what your options are, you may be able to get an assistive technology evaluation. Check with your medical provider for a referral.
- **Figure out if your health insurance will pay for part or the entire item.** If you have health insurance, prior authorization may be required. The assistive device or service must be medically necessary. You may need a letter of medical necessity or prescription from your doctor.
- **Identify potential ways to pay for the items.**
- **Identify ways to keep the costs as low as possible.** You may qualify for a federally funded Alternative Financing Program that provides affordable financing to purchase assistive technology. Contact your local Department of Rehabilitation or visit the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living website acl.gov/programs/assistive-technology/assistive-technology for additional support or information.



Paying for assistive devices that you need or want

1. Estimate the costs of these expenses.
2. Figure out if your health insurance will pay for part or the entire item.
3. Identify potential ways to pay for the items.
4. Look for ways to keep the costs as low as possible.

Assistive technology	Specific item(s) and cost(s)	Insurance coverage	Ways to pay for what is not covered by insurance	Ways to cut expenses/reduce the overall cost
<p>Mobility aids Examples include: wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, canes, crutches, prosthetic devices, and orthotic devices</p>				
<p>Cognitive assistance Examples include: computer, software, and electrical assistive devices</p>				
<p>Daily task assistive devices Examples include: kitchen implements, dressing aids, and medication dispensers with alarms that help people remember to take their medicine on time</p>				
<p>Modifications to a home Examples include: wider doors, lower countertops, grab bars in bathroom</p>				

Assistive technology	Specific item(s) and cost(s)	Insurance coverage	Ways to pay for what is not covered by insurance	Ways to cut expenses/reduce the overall cost
<p>Modifications to a vehicle Examples include: Adjustable foot pedals, wide doors, large interior door handles, dashboard- mounted ignition</p>				
<p>Educational assistive devices Examples include: automatic page-turners, recorders, book holders, and adapted pencil grips</p>				
<p>Assistive technology for people who are deaf or hearing impaired Examples include: hearing aids, closed captioning, software</p>				
<p>Assistive technology for people who are blind or visually impaired Examples include: voice recognition programs, screen readers, screen enlargement applications</p>				
<p>Other</p>				

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