

Assistive Devices For People With Disabilities

FACT SHEET 1

The Assistive Devices Program (ADP): **Ontario Government Funding for Assistive Devices**

What is the Assistive Devices Program (ADP)?

The Assistive Devices Program (ADP) provides money to Ontarians with physical disabilities for assistive devices. It is a government program run by Ontario's Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. ADP provides funding in different ways. Depending on the device category and specific device, the ADP can cover up to 75% of the cost, pay a fixed amount, or pay annual grants to the consumer.

What is an Assistive Device?

An assistive device is a tool, product or type of equipment that helps you carry out your every day activities. It may help you do such things as move around, see, communicate or eat. Assistive devices help people to live more independently.

Examples of assistive devices are:

- Mobility devices such as wheelchairs, crutches, walkers and scooters
- Hearing aids and TTYs
- Visual aids such as brailers, magnifiers and mobility canes
- Diabetic and ostomy supplies

Is the Assistive Device I Need Covered by ADP?

ADP does not cover all assistive devices.

ADP funds devices in the following categories:

- Communication Aids
- Diabetic Supplies
- Enteral Feeding Equipment/Supplies
- Hearing Aids
- Orthotic Devices
- Ostomy Supplies
- Pressure Modification Devices
- Prosthetic Devices
- Respiratory Supplies/Equipment
- Visual Aids
- Wheelchairs, Positioning and Ambulation Aids

To find out if the assistive device you need is covered by ADP you can contact ADP directly at:

Phone: 416-327-8804 or 1-800-268-6021
TTY: 416-327-4282 or 1-800-387-5559
Fax: 416-327-8192

As well, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care provides a list of the categories of devices that are covered and a list of the categories of devices that are not covered by ADP. The list of categories of devices covered by ADP can be accessed online at:

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/adp/categories.html>. The list of categories of devices not covered by ADP can be accessed online at:

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/adp/notcov.html>. The specific devices that are covered are also set out in the device-specific manuals. The manuals can be accessed online at:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/pub/pub_menus/pub_adp.html.

Am I Eligible for ADP?

In order to get funding from ADP to buy an assistive device you must:

- have a valid Ontario Health card;
- be an Ontario resident;
- have a physical disability requiring the use of an assistive device for 6 months or longer.

There may be additional eligibility criteria depending on the specific type of assistive device. Eligibility for some devices is restricted to certain age groups or people who meet medical criteria. There are device specific manuals issued by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care that outline the additional criteria for specific devices. The manuals can be accessed online at:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/pub/pub_menus/pub_adp.html. You can also request a copy of a device specific manual by contacting the ADP at:

Phone: 416-327-8804 or 1-800-268-6021
TTY: 416-327-4282 or 1-800-387-5559
Fax: 416-327-8192

Some people are not eligible. These are Group 'A' veterans for their pensioned conditions, people with a primary diagnosis of a learning disability and people who are entitled to coverage for the device through Workers' Compensation. Also, ADP does not fund devices that are needed for sports, work or school only.

There are no income limits to get ADP so you may be eligible whatever your income.

Make sure that ADP has approved the device before you buy it. Otherwise ADP will not fund the device.

How do I Apply for ADP?

For most devices, a doctor refers you to an "authorizer". An authorizer is a health care professional, such as an occupational therapist or physiotherapist, registered with ADP. He/she does an assessment and recommends appropriate assistive devices to best meet your needs. Registered authorizers work in hospitals, home care agencies or private practice. There may be authorizer assessment fees which ADP does not pay for.

An application or authorization form must be completed. You fill in part of the form and the rest will be filled in by other people, such as an authorizer (e.g. health care professional) and a seller/vendor.

There are different application forms used for applying to ADP. Different device categories have different forms. Most application forms are available through a registered authorizer or a registered seller/vendor or by calling ADP at the contact information below. Application forms are also available online at:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/forms/form_menus/adp_fm.html.

You can get your device from a seller/vendor who is registered with ADP. Your ADP authorizer must provide you with a list of registered sellers/vendors in your area.

What can I do if I am Denied ADP?

If the authorizer does not submit your application to ADP because he/she does not believe you are eligible, you may:

- get a second opinion from another authorizer if you disagree with the first authorizer's assessment.

If your application is rejected by ADP, you may:

- contact ADP directly and ask to speak with a Claims Assessment Clerk to make an inquiry.
- make a written request to ADP for your application to be reviewed. You should include any additional documents which may confirm your eligibility.

If you are denied ADP and you would like to take the action described above, you may contact ADP at:

Phone: 416-327-8804 or 1-800-268-6021
TTY: 416-327-4282 or 1-800-387-5559
Fax: 416-327-8192

If you are not satisfied with the responses you get from ADP, you may contact a lawyer to see if there is legal action you can take.

How can I contact ADP?

ADP may be contacted by telephone, TTY or Fax at the following numbers:

Phone: 416-327-8804 or 1-800-268-6021
TTY: 416-327-4282 or 1-800-387-5559
Fax: 416-327-8192

You may obtain additional information about ADP from their website at: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/program/adp/adp_mn.html.

This fact sheet contains general information only. It is not a substitute for getting legal advice about your particular situation. Each situation is unique and requires different solutions. The law can also change. If you have a legal problem, contact a lawyer or your community legal clinic. Community legal clinics give free legal advice, but not all of them can help with assistive devices. Check with the community legal clinic in your area to see if they can help you. To find the nearest community legal clinic look at Legal Aid Ontario's website at www.legalaid.on.ca/en/locate. You can also call Legal Aid Ontario at 1-800-668-8258 or TTY 1-866-641-8867.

This publication is available in alternate formats, on ARCH's website at www.archdisabilitylaw.ca or by contacting ARCH by phone at 1-866-482-2724 or TTY at 1-866-482-2728.

For more information about assistive devices, see *Assistive Devices in Canada: Ensuring Inclusion and Independence (2007)*, available on ARCH's website at <http://www.archdisabilitylaw.ca/publications/archPapers.asp>.