

Resources for Funding Assistive Technology

Usually, the most readily available funding resource for medically necessary technology is your health insurance, private and/or public. While you are with the Infant and Toddler Connection, we will assist you in obtaining assistive technology which your child needs in order to achieve functional goals, excluding items necessary for life support (your doctor will make arrangements for these). We believe it is important for you to learn all you can about how to access your insurance benefits, and we can help you do this. Infant and Toddler Connection is considered to be the payer of last resort, however we cannot require that you use your private insurance. For more information please contact the Assistive Technology Coordinator at (703)246-7187.

Some alternative resources for funding are named below. These are available to you while enrolled with Infant and Toddler Connection, and also after your child goes to school or reaches age 3 years and beyond.

1. Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority: Makes loans to people with disabilities (or their families) for assistive technology. Loans can be used for wheelchairs, adapted vans, home modifications, and augmentative communication devices, etc. These loans have an easier approval criteria, more flexible terms and lower interest rates than other loans. For more information call (804) 662-9000 or go to the website www.atfla.org.
2. Medicaid Waiver Programs: Home and Community based Waivers were established to provide alternative services for people who would be eligible for institutional placement. The Technology Assisted Waiver is available to children who are dependent on device-based respiratory or nutritional support, and does include durable medical equipment. The Mental Retardation Waiver, includes assistive technology, and is available to children up to age 6 with developmental delay and persons older than six with a diagnosis of mental retardation. There is a waiting list for enrollment. The Developmental Disabilities Waiver includes assistive technology and serves children who are age six or older and do not have a diagnosis of mental retardation. Your service coordinator can provide you with more information.
3. Supplemental Security Income (SSI): Available to persons of all ages with disabilities and limited incomes. Administered by the Social Security Administration. Call toll free (800) 772-1213
4. Disabled Children's Relief Fund Organization: For physically challenged children with inadequate health insurance. www.dcrf.com Request a grant application packet by calling (516) 377-1605
5. Kaitlin Marie Bell Foundation, Inc.: Supports the needs of mentally and physically challenged children to improve lifestyle opportunities and quality of life by providing equipment and services which would not otherwise be affordable. A letter from the perspective recipient should request an application, which is reviewed by a board. Website is www.kmbfoundation.org and the mailing address is The Kaitlin Marie Bell Foundation, Inc., 741 Milbrae Road, Richmond, VA 23236. Phone (804) 323-6026

6. Eric Fund: Founded to help assistive technology for individuals with disabilities to help them live, work and go to school, participating actively in community life. Cash awards are made annually to persons with disabilities living in the Washington DC area, who demonstrate need. www.ericfund.org or write to The Eric Fund, PO Box 65188, Washington DC, 20005-5188
7. Bloomfield, Inc.: Supports AT and services which enable physically challenged children and young adults in the attainment of their highest potential while assisting their integration into the daily life of their environs. The board of Trustees will consider any reasonable need or project based on guidelines. Awards made every few months. Contact Bloomfield, Inc., PO Box 2, Ivy, VA 22945 Phone (804)379-1042
8. Muscular Dystrophy Association: Must have muscular dystrophy and be assessed at MDA clinics held in this area at Children's National Medical Center or at Georgetown. The organization will make equipment recommendations and provide financial assistance. Call (800) 572-1717 Website MDAUSA.org will provide list of qualifying diseases.
9. Easter Seal Equipment Loan program (no financial assistance): Equipment loans can be made with doctor prescription for up to 90 days, times two. Call (703) 538-4480
10. Local charitable organizations may consider case by case situations: Families should contact Elks Club at (703) 560-2188. Knights of Columbus have been responsive to AT needs of children (individuals) while the Moose Lodge will review written requests from organizations. The Lions Club will assist with eye glasses.

After you have left Infant and Toddler Connection, the Children's Hospital in Richmond, Virginia, can help you with additional assistive technology. The vision of the Assistive Technology Department at Children's Hospital is for all children, adolescents and adults who can benefit from assistive technology to have access to evaluations, equipment and training. They serve people with a wide array of neuromuscular and developmental disabilities, including brain and spinal cord injury, cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy. Evaluations and training services are available for the following Assistive Technology:

- Assistive Daily Living Aids
- Augmentative Communication
- Classroom, Home, or Work Site Modifications
- Computer Access and Adaptations
- Electronic Aids to Daily Living
- Independent Living Evaluations
- Orthotics and Customized Head pointers
- Multiple Positioning Aids (standers, walkers, adapted chairs, etc)
- Wheelchair and Customized Seating

For additional information on Children's Hospital, call (804) 321-7474 or visit their website at www.childrenshosp-richmond.org.

