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October 2015

Assistive Devices for People with Disabilities *FACT SHEET 2*

Sources of Funding for Assistive Devices in Ontario

The Assistive Devices Program of the Ontario Government

The Assistive Devices Program (ADP) provides funding assistance for Ontarians with long-term physical disabilities for assistive devices. It is a government program run by Ontario's Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. It covers many different assistive devices that people with disabilities use. For more information about ADP, go to Fact Sheet 1 "The Assistive Devices Program (ADP): Ontario Government Funding for Assistive Devices".

Many assistive devices are not covered by ADP. Also, ADP usually does not cover the full cost of the assistive device. This Fact Sheet describes some additional sources of funding for assistive devices.

What Other Sources of Funding are Available?

Ontario's Ministry of Community and Social Services may provide financial aid to people who receive the **Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)** or **Ontario Works (OW)**.

People who get ODSP or OW may receive coverage for:

- Their portion of the cost of a device funded by ADP
- The cost of assessments for assistive devices funded by ADP
- Assistive devices not covered by ADP
- Repairs and batteries for a mobility device
- Replacement of an assistive device not covered by ADP

For more information on OW and ODSP go to:

<http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/en/mcass/programs/social/index.aspx>

Or, contact your local community legal clinic. To find your nearest community legal clinic go to Legal Aid Ontario's website at www.legalaid.on.ca/en/locate. You can also contact Legal Aid Ontario by phone 1-800-668-8258 or TTY 1-866-641-8867.

More information about the funding of assistive devices through ODSP and OW can be found in the policy directives.

ODSP policy directives relating to assistive devices include:

- 5.9 Disability Related Items and Services
- 9.6 Assistive Devices
- 9.11 Hearing Aids
- 9.12 Mandatory Special Necessities
- 9.13 Mobility Devices, Batteries and Repairs

These policy directives are available online at:

<http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/en/mcass/programs/social/directives/index.aspx>.

OW policy directives relating to assistive devices include:

- 7.1 Summary of Benefits
- 7.2 Health Benefits
- 7.7 Other Benefits
- 7.8 Assistive Devices

These policy directives are available online at:

<http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/en/mcass/programs/social/directives/index.aspx>

Contact the Ministry of Community and Social Services to request these policy directives in another format:

Ministry of Community and Social Services

80 Grosvenor St

Hepburn Block, 6th Floor

Toronto ON M7A 1E9

General Inquiry: 416-325-5666

Toll Free: 1-888-789-4199

TTY: 1-800-387-5559

Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD) is an Ontario government program that provides financial assistance to parents to help with the extra costs of caring for a child with a severe disability. For example, the program may help parents with costs related to:

- Their portion of the cost of a device funded by ADP
- The cost of assessments for assistive devices funded by ADP
- Vision and Hearing products and devices
- Repairs and batteries for a mobility device

Further information can be found at:

<http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics/specialneeds/disabilities/index.aspx> or contact the Ministry of Children and Youth Services at:

Ministry of Children and Youth Services
ServiceOntario INFOline
M-1B114, Macdonald Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto ON M7A 1N3
Phone: 1-866-821-7770
TTY: 1-800-387-5559

The Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) may fund the purchase of assistive devices required as a result of a work-related injury. Information on programs and benefits offered by the WSIB can be obtained at www.wsib.on.ca. To find information about assistive devices search using the terms “assistive devices” and/or “independent living”.

The Workplace Safety and Insurance Board
Head Office
200 Front Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5V 3J1
Phone: 416-344-1000 or 1-800-387-0750
TTY: 1-800-387-0050
Fax: 416-344-4684 or 1-888-313-7373

Community Care Access Centres (CCAC) offer a wide range of community based health services such as in-home professional health care services and personal support services such as help with taking a bath and eating. CCACs may provide medical supplies and equipment to people who get their services. More information on CCACs is available online at <http://healthcareathome.ca/> or by phone at 310-2222 – no area code is required.

Municipal Programs such as **The Hardship Fund in the City of Toronto** may also provide assistance to meet medically based needs where the cost would cause undue financial hardship. More information can be accessed online. Go to [Hardship Fund](#) or copy and paste <http://goo.gl/fvoktS>

Additional contact details for the Hardship Fund in the City of Toronto

Phone within Toronto city limits: 311

Phone outside city limits: 416-392-2489

TTY: 416-338-0889

Fax: 416-338-0685

Email: 311@toronto.ca

If you do not live in Toronto, contact your local municipality to find out if a similar program exists in your area.

Charitable, Service and Disability Organizations

Various charitable and service organizations may provide financial assistance and/or assistive devices. Contact information is available through your local Community Information Service. Access their website at <http://www.211ontario.ca/> or contact them by dialling 2-1-1. You will be directly connected to an information and referral specialist providing free, confidential, multilingual access to information about the full range of community, social, health and government services. In Ontario, 211 telephone services is currently available to residents of Halton Region, Niagara Region, Simcoe County, Windsor-Essex, Thunder Bay and District, Peel Region, Ottawa and Toronto.

The following is a list of some disability organizations that provide financial assistance and/or assistive devices.

The **March of Dimes** has programs that assist consumers of assistive devices in Ontario including: funding a portion of the cost of device purchase or repair; the Home & Vehicle Modification Program; the Recycled Rental Equipment Program; and the DesignAbility Program.

March of Dimes
Assistive Devices Program
291 King Street, 3rd Floor
London, ON N6B 1R8
Phone: 519-642-3700 or 1-866-765-7237
Fax: 519-434-3712

Email: adp@marchofdimes.ca

Website: www.marchofdimes.ca

Assistive Devices Program of March of Dimes:

<http://www.marchofdimes.ca/EN/programs/adp/Pages/Adp.aspx>

The **Canadian Red Cross** offers Health Equipment Loan Programs and Homecare Services across Canada. Programs vary across the country according to type of equipment, length of loan, access procedures, and type of service.

Canadian Red Cross
Ontario Office
5700 Cancross Court
Mississauga, Ontario L5R 3E9
Phone: 905-890-1000 or 1-800-418-1111
Fax: 905-890-1008

Website: www.redcross.ca

Health Equipment Loan Program: <http://www.redcross.ca/what-we-do/community-health-services-in-canada/health-equipment-loan-program> .

Easter Seals Society, Ontario provides financial assistance towards the purchase of services and equipment to children and young adults with physical disabilities who are registered with the Easter Seals Society.

One Concorde Gate, Suite 700
Toronto, ON M3C 3N6
Phone: 416-421-8146 or 1-866-630-3336
Fax: 416-696-1035

E-mail: assistance@easterseals.org

Website: www.easterseals.org

Financial Assistance, Eligibility and Guidelines:

<http://www.easterseals.org/services/direct-financial-assistance/>

Muscular Dystrophy Canada's Mobility Equipment Program provides assistance ranging from equipment loans and recycling efforts, to funding in whole or in part the purchase of new equipment.

Karen Dunbar

Services Specialist

Phone: 1-866-687-2538 Ext. 1121

E-mail: Karen.Dunbar@muscle.ca

Website: www.muscle.ca

Mobility Equipment Program Ontario: <http://www.muscle.ca/we-can-help/financial-assistance/equipment-program-ontario-nunavut/>

The **Multiple Sclerosis Society** offers funding for equipment purchase and permanent loan. Funding programs vary from province to province. Consult your local chapter for more specific information on the programs offered in your area.

Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada National Office

250 Dundas Street West, Suite 500

Toronto ON, M5T 2Z5

Phone: 1-800-268-7582

Email: info@mssociety.ca

Website: <http://www.mssociety.ca>

Financial Assistance Ontario

<https://beta.mssociety.ca/living-with-ms/programs-and-services/service/financial-assistance-ontario-nunavut-division>

Insurance

Some insurance programs cover the cost of buying assistive devices. As well, you may consider getting insurance for your assistive device to cover situations such as where the device is lost, stolen or damaged. To determine whether you are eligible for insurance on your assistive device, contact your insurance provider and check your insurance policy.

What Taxes Apply to My Assistive Device?

The Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) is payable on most products at the time of purchase or importation. You don't have to pay HST on some medical or assistive devices. These items include wheelchairs, walkers, hearing aids, canes, crutches and communication aids such as TTYs. A list of assistive devices that are exempted from HST can be found online at: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pub/gm/4-2/4-2-e.pdf>

Income tax relief is available for people with disabilities. This includes the Disability Supports Deduction, the Medical Expense Tax Credit and the Disability Tax Credit. The rules governing the availability of these forms of tax relief are complex, and it is important to get advice from a lawyer or accountant. More information is available on Canada Revenue Agency's website at www.cra-arc.gc.ca/disability.

Contact information for Canada Revenue Agency at:

Phone: 1-800-959-8281

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/cntct/menu-eng.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 find out if they can help you. To find the nearest community legal clinic, go to Legal Aid Ontario's website at www.legalaid.on.ca/en/locate. You can also contact Legal Aid Ontario by phone 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.