



The Assistive Technology Funding Guide

SMD Foundation

February 2008

The information in this guide was carefully checked and organized. Changes may have been made to some assistance programs later. Please confirm the details of the programs directly with the sponsoring organizations.

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February 2008



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Part 1 – General Information

1. What is Assistive Technology?

Assistive Technology has come to mean many things and has become a part of daily life at home, work, and play. In general, it is any item, piece of equipment or system that is used to increase, maintain, or improve how a person performs task(s) of daily living. Assistive Technology can be simple, such as the use of a magnifying lens to read the instructions on a pill bottle, or the replacing of buttons with Velcro to make clothing easier to put on and take off. Some people think of assistive technology as being computer technology or an adaptive aid to help with daily living.

The Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) is a not-for-profit membership organization of manufacturers, sellers or providers of technology-based assistive devices and/or services. The ATIA defines Assistive Technology (AT) as

any item, piece of equipment, product or system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of persons with disabilities.¹

However, disability related groups may have a much more restricted definition of what Assistive Technology is, and this will affect the resources that may be available. For example, some organizations limit the definition of AT to being related only to computers for people with disabilities, while others are much broader in their definition and may include products like clothing, bicycles, wheelchair ramps, and vehicle modifications.

¹ Source: The US technology-related assistance for individuals with disabilities act of 1988, Section 3.1. Public Law 100-407, August 9, 1988 (renewed in 1998 in the Clinton Assistive Technology Act)



2. What kind of help is available to get assistive technology?

Some groups provide the actual products while others may provide funding to purchase products. Some funding is available as grants to purchase products, while others are set up as a loan. The following provides more information about the various choices that may be available to people with disabilities.

2.1. Supply of products

It is possible to obtain products to make daily living easier for a person with a disability. Some organizations may allow a person to borrow these products or devices. For example, SMD Wheelchair Services can provide the possibility to ‘borrow’ a wheelchair for daily use. In some cases, this may be for free and for a specific length of time, perhaps until the person no longer needs the item. The organizations that supply the products may recycle the products or parts, and they may also help with servicing or repairs that might be needed.

Please see further program information on:

- SMD Wheelchair Services 17
- Rehabilitation Engineering Department 18
- Rehabilitation Centre for Children 19
- Employment and Income Assistance (products / devices) 21 – 22
- Open Access Resource Centre 27
- Manitoba Home Care Program 51



2.2. Grants

There are a number of groups that provide funding for the purchase of assistive technology products. There may be restrictions on who can receive funding, for example: children, seniors, people over 18 years of age. The individual with the disability will be the owner of the products and will probably be responsible for the costs of repair and maintenance. It is usually necessary to fill in some forms to get approval from the organization first, before buying the assistive technology item. There are two main types of organizations that provide this kind of funding:

A. Government based funding (Grants)

Family income is looked at when money is given to buy assistive technology. If the assistive technology is in relation to the accessibility of the home, the value of the house will also be considered.

Please see further program information on:

- VIP – Veterans Independence Program16
- Children’s Special Services20
- Vocational Rehabilitation Program (building & vehicle)23 – 26
- Students with Disabilities
– Manitoba Advanced Education & Literacy52 - 53

B. Non-profit charity-based funding (Grants)

Most of these groups review the income of the occupants who live in the home. The charity may require the family or individual to also present paperwork to show all of the living expenses for the past one to two years.

Please see further program information on:

- Poppy Fund42
- Elks & Royal Purple Fund for Children43
- The Manitoba Afflicted Children's Fund44
- The Kinsmen Club of Winnipeg44
- The Lions Foundation of Manitoba & Northwestern Ontario45
- Special Needs Program - Variety Club46
- The War Amps – CHAMP47
- The War Amps - Adult Prosthetics Program47
- President’s Choice Children’s Charity48



2.3. Financial Loans

There are groups that will lend money for assistive technology. Most of this funding is for making modifications to a person’s home, and often requires the person with the disability to be one of the registered owners of the home. In some cases, the repayment of the loan starts only after the person with the disability is no longer living in that home. In those situations, a legal document called a “lien” may be registered against the title of the property to be sure that the loan will be repaid.

In some situations, the loans are forgivable over time, which means that all or part of the loan may not need to be repaid.

Please see further program information on:

- RRAP10 – 14
- HASI - Home Adaptations for Seniors’ Independence Program .15
- Employment and Income Assistance (home modifications)21 – 22
- Vocational Rehabilitation Program
(Technical aids, devices, equipment)23 – 26
- Emergency Repair Program40
- Manitoba Hydro
Energy Finance Plan & Power Smart Residential Loan41

2.4. Refunds

When a person with a disability buys assistive technology, he/she may be able to get back part or all of the cost for the product/service. In some situations, the refund may be only for a part of the taxes on the item. In these situations, the purchase of the products/services must be made first, with proof of payment (receipt).

Please see further program information on:

- Goods and Services Housing Rebate30 – 31
- Goods and Services Tax rebate32
- Federal Excise Gasoline Tax Refund Program33
- Canada Border Services Agency – Customs Tariff34
- Retail Sales Tax refund35 – 37
- Manitoba Health49 - 50



2.5. Tax Credits

An individual may be able to deduct the cost of assistive technology from his/her income tax or property taxes. There are specific rules about the type of technology; for example, is it being put in place to provide accessibility into a house, or is it a medically related requirement because of the specific disability.

To qualify for some of these credits, it may be necessary to show medical documents to prove that that the technology is required. Some of these credits may be spread out over several years rather than being claimed all in one taxation year.

Please see further program information on:

- Canada Revenue Agency – Personal Income Tax28 - 29
- City of Winnipeg Home Renovation Tax Assistance Program38 - 39

3. Who can apply?

In most situations, the applications are made by the person with the disability, by a parent of a child with a disability, or by a person with the legal responsibilities to make decisions for the person with the disability.

4. How do I apply for financial assistance?

For all situations, a person looking for financial assistance for the cost of assistive technology should check directly with these organizations for the most current information. Funding rules, criteria, and deadlines can change. Every attempt was made to verify the conditions at the time of compiling of this guide; however, changes may have subsequently been made to a particular program.



Part 2 The Sources

1. RRAP – The Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program

The federal and provincial governments share the costs of this program. It is run by various agencies in each of the provinces. In Manitoba, it is administered by the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation. The RRAP program delivers funding in four major areas of housing:

- 1.1. **Homeowner RRAP** provides financial assistance to low-income homeowners by lending money for "eligible" repairs to their homes. These kinds of repairs are to improve the house for health and safety reasons.

If you own your home, you may be eligible for assistance to renovate it. Total gross household income (before taxes) must be below the established Housing Income Limit (HIL) for the area where the property is located. In the City of Winnipeg, for example, gross household income would need to be from \$23,000 to \$45,000

The Homeowner RRAP is limited to major repairs in at least one of five key areas — structural, electrical, plumbing, heating, fire safety. Your home must be at least five years old and valued at less than \$125,000.

The RRAP is designed to make sure a home is safe and healthy, not to pay for general maintenance of the home. However, it is possible that there may be safety issues relating to non-level sidewalks or driveway, badly worn flooring in bathrooms, leaky pipes, and insufficient or out of date electrical systems. The RRAP Standards list includes all mandatory items which will restore the home to a minimum level of health and safety.

The money for these repairs is in loan form, with a maximum between \$16,000 and \$19,000 per household, depending on the location of the property. This loan may not have to be repaid if certain conditions are met. The loan covers up to 100 per cent of the actual cost for mandatory repairs. (Only repairs defined in the RRAP Standards as 'mandatory' will be considered for funding, and all mandatory repairs must be completed.) If the cost of repairs is higher than the loan amount, the homeowner must cover the additional costs.



For further information on the RRAP Program in Manitoba contact:
Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation — Affordable Housing
113 – 114 Garry Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 4V4
voice: **945-5566** (in Winnipeg)
toll-free voice: **1-866-689-5566**
website: www.manitoba.ca/fs/housing

- 1.2. **RRAP for Persons with Disabilities** provides financial assistance to homeowners and landlords by providing a forgivable loan to pay for modifying the houses or rental units to meet the needs of occupants with disabilities. To obtain assistance, a homeowner's house must be valued at less than \$125,000, and the total household income must be below the Housing Income Limit (HIL) listed for that area (ranges from \$23,000 to \$45,000 gross household income in the City of Winnipeg). The rules are different for rental properties; further information regarding rental properties can be obtained directly from Manitoba Housing & Renewal Corporation.

To receive funds from RRAP for People with Disabilities, the changes or modifications to the dwelling must relate to the occupant's disability. Most modifications that make it easier for the occupant with disabilities to live independently are eligible for funding. These include items such as a ramp, mechanical wheelchair lift, bathtub lift or wheel-in shower, customized kitchen counter heights, cupboards, and the addition of handrails.

The maximum loan is between \$16,000 and \$19,000, depending on the location of the property. If the cost of repairs is higher than the loan amount, the homeowner/landlord must cover the additional costs. The loan also depends on the actual cost of the repairs that are eligible to receive funding. In some cases, the loan may not have to be repaid.

For further information on the RRAP Program in Manitoba contact:
Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation — Affordable Housing
113 – 114 Garry Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 4V4
voice: **945-5566** (in Winnipeg)
toll-free voice: **1-866-689-5566**
website: www.manitoba.ca/fs/housing



1.3. **Rental Residential Rehabilitation Assistance** (Rental RRAP) helps landlords of affordable self-contained housing to pay for certain repairs to self-contained units used by low-income tenants. The repairs must be about health and safety standards, and the money is in the form of a forgivable loan.

ALL of the following conditions must be met in order to receive funds:

- The total gross household incomes of tenants are at, or below, the established limits.
- The projects have pre-RRAP and post-RRAP rents set at, or below, the Median Market Rents (MMR) for the area.
- The property lacks basic facilities or requires major repair in one or more of the following five key areas — structural, electrical, plumbing, heating, fire safety.
- Tenants are not family relatives of the property owner.

Assistance is in the form of a forgivable loan — it does not have to be repaid if certain conditions are met. The maximum loan is between \$24,000 and \$28,000 per self-contained unit, depending on the location of the property. The loan covers up to 100 per cent of the cost for mandatory repairs. This is the actual cost of repairs that are eligible to receive funding. (Only repairs defined in the RRAP Standards as 'mandatory' will be considered for funding, and all mandatory repairs must be completed.)

For further information on the RRAP Program in Manitoba contact:
Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation — Affordable Housing
113 – 114 Garry Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 4V4
voice: **945-5566** (in Winnipeg)
toll-free voice: **1-866-689-5566**
website: www.manitoba.ca/fs/housing



1.4. Rooming House Residential Rehabilitation Assistance

(Rooming House RRAP) offers loans to owners of rooming houses, who offer affordable rents to low-income individuals, to pay for eligible house repairs. Eligible repairs are those required to bring properties up to minimum levels of health and safety, and which prolong the life of the rooming house. Owners/landlords of rooming houses with more than three bed-units, used as permanent residences for the occupants, may be eligible for assistance under this program.

Applicants must meet ALL of the following conditions:

- Rental rates for the bed-units are at, or below, the established levels for the market area.
- The property lacks basic facilities or requires major repairs in at least one of five key areas — structural, electrical, plumbing, heating, fire safety.
- Tenants are not relatives of the property owner.

Eligible repairs are limited to mandatory repairs, listed in the RRAP Standards, to bring rooming houses up to minimum levels of health and safety. Once repaired, the property should have a further useful life of 15 years.

Assistance is in the form of a fully forgivable loan — it does not have to be repaid if certain conditions are met. The maximum loan is between \$16,000 and \$19,000 per bed-unit, depending on the geographic location of the property. The loan covers up to 100 per cent of the cost for mandatory repairs. This is the actual cost of repairs that are eligible to receive funding. (Only repairs defined in the RRAP Standards as 'mandatory' will be considered for funding, and all mandatory repairs must be completed.) To be eligible under this program, owners of rooming houses must:

- Agree to place a limit on rents charged after the repairs are completed
- Limit rent increases during the term of the agreement
- Agree to rent only to tenants with incomes at, or below, the income limit
- Cover the cost of any mandatory repairs that are higher than the loan amount.



For further information on the RRAP Program in Manitoba contact:
Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation — Affordable Housing
113 – 114 Garry Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 4V4
voice: **945-5566** (in Winnipeg)
toll-free voice: **1-866-689-5566**
website: www.manitoba.ca/fs/housing



2. HASI - Home Adaptations for Seniors' Independence Program

HASI provides financial assistance to homeowners and landlords to carry out minor home adaptations/changes that can help low-income seniors who are having difficulties with daily living activities in the home. Homeowners and landlords may be eligible for assistance if the senior occupant is 65 years of age or older, AND if all the following conditions are met:

- Total gross household income is below the Housing Income Limit (HIL) for the area. For landlords, only the income of the tenant's household is relevant.
- At least one member of the household is a senior with age/related difficulties affecting daily living activities.
- The home receiving these adaptations/changes is the homeowner's permanent residence.

Eligible home adaptations/changes are mostly for permanent construction, replacements or relocations that make it easier and safer for seniors with age-related difficulties to perform daily activities in the home. These adaptations may be permanent or temporary and are not intended to restore the house to minimum property standards. Examples of eligible adaptations/changes include items such as handrails in hallways and stairways, easy-to-reach work and storage areas in the kitchen, lever handles on doors and faucets, walk-in showers, grab bars and bathtub seats. All required repairs must be started within 60 days of approval and be completed within 90 days of approval.

Assistance is in the form of a forgivable loan — it does not have to be repaid as long as the senior continues to live in the house for at least six months after the repairs are complete. The maximum loan is \$3,500. If the cost of repairs is higher than the loan amount, it is the homeowner's responsibility to cover any additional costs. The loan also depends on the actual cost of the repairs that are eligible to receive funding.

For further information on the [HASI Program](#) in Manitoba contact:

Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation — Affordable Housing

113 – 114 Garry Street

Winnipeg, MB R3C 4V4

voice: **945-5566** (in Winnipeg)

toll-free voice: **1-866-689-5566**

website: www.manitoba.ca/fs/housing



3. VIP – Veterans Independence Program

The Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) Health Benefit program and the Veterans Independence Program (VIP) can provide assistance to qualified Veterans, released or still-serving Canadian Forces (CF) members, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) members, and certain civilians, as well as their dependants or survivors. The assistance under the Health Benefit program may include funds for 'Aids for Daily Living' including products to assist with dressing or eating, raised toilet seats, and bath benches. As well, this program may assist with 'Special Equipment', including healthcare beds, walkers, lifts, wheelchairs, and vehicle driving aids.

The VIP program may provide funding for simple construction to adapt an eligible veteran's home to allow the veteran more daily independence. For example, bathrooms, kitchens, and doorways can be changed to provide access for basic everyday activities such as food preparation, personal hygiene, and sleep. Home adaptations for VIP funding do not include general renovations or repairs, but may include handrails on stairways, and barrier-free ramps.

Assistance is typically in the form of direct funding for the product or service; approval of the costs in advance of the purchase or construction is required.

For further information on the [Veterans Independence Program](#) contact:

Veterans Affairs Canada

voice toll free: **866-522-2122 (English)** OR **866-522-2022 (French)**

website: www.vac-acc.gc.ca/clients/sub.cfm?source=services/vip



4. SMD Wheelchair Services

SMD Wheelchair Services can offer manual and/or motorized wheelchairs on a long-term loan basis.

SMD Wheelchair Services provides maintenance and repair services directly at consumers' homes, workplaces or schools, anywhere in the province. Emergency repair service is also available.

People covered by Employment and Income Assistance are entitled to the same wheelchair loans and repair services as anyone else covered through Manitoba Health, and any requests for equipment from the EIA pool can be directed to SMD Wheelchair Services.

Some services are also available for people in personal care homes or institutions if they have already had their wheelchairs for more than six months prior to entering the facility. People who have had their wheelchair loan in place for the six month period can continue to use their chairs and will remain eligible for repair services.

For further information on the SMD Wheelchair Services Program contact:

SMD Wheelchair Services

1111 Winnipeg Avenue

Winnipeg, MB R3E 0S2

voice: **975-3250**

toll-free voice: **800-836-555**

fax: **(204) 975-3240**

website: [//smd.mb.ca/wheelchair_services.aspx](http://smd.mb.ca/wheelchair_services.aspx)



5. Rehabilitation Engineering Department – Health Science Centre Winnipeg

The Rehabilitation Engineering Department assists people with disabilities to gain the highest possible level of independence through the use of orthotic, electronic, mechanical, and assistive technology devices. There are two divisions:

- The Orthotic division designs and builds custom orthotic devices for both daily living and specialty uses.
- The Electronic and Mechanical Assistive Technologies (EMAT) division provides specialized electronic and mechanical aids for adults with physical disabilities. These aids include automotive adaptations, scooter and wheelchair modifications and seating, communication aids, environment controls, and many other devices to enhance daily living.

The Electronic and Mechanical Assistive Technologies Unit provides customized products for the daily problems faced by people with disabilities. A skilled and dedicated team custom designs and manufactures devices not commercially available currently, or modifies and customizes commercially available equipment to assist people with disabilities live more active, independent lives. Some past successes include custom telephones, custom tools to allow a person to return to work, and custom electronic controls for operating lights and appliances.

Many aids that are not commercially available are custom designed and built, including: keys, cutlery, appliances, transfer aids, and a variety of adapted everyday items for use in the home. Office furniture, computers, and industrial equipment can be modified for the workplace. The Automotive Services area has been customizing and modifying a wide variety of motor vehicles for 25 years. Many of the devices are available through the Rehabilitation Engineering Department at no cost to the client, or in some situations, on a cost-recovery basis.

For further information on the Rehabilitation Engineering Department Program contact:

Rehabilitation Engineering Department

Health Sciences Centre

MH036 - 59 Pearl St.

Winnipeg, MB R3E 3L7

voice: **787-2202**

fax: **787 5099**

email: re@hsc.mb.ca

website: www.hsc.mb.ca/re/



6. Rehabilitation Centre for Children

The Rehabilitation Centre for Children provides service for the specific and unique needs of children with physical and developmental disabilities. The assistive technologies provided are typically in two major areas:

- The Prosthetic/Orthotic Department involves the supply of prosthetic/orthotic products to support a child with a disability so that he or she can be as independent as possible.
- Mechanical Design and Services Program designs and builds adaptive equipment to meet a child's specific needs when a suitable product is not commercially available.

Many of the devices are available at no cost to the family, or in some instances, on a cost-recovery basis.

For further information on the program at the programs offered by the Rehabilitation Centre for Children contact:

Rehabilitation Centre for Children

633 Wellington Crescent
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3M 0A8
voice: **452-4311**
fax: **477-5547**
email: info@rccinc.ca
website: www.rccinc.ca



7. Children's Special Services

Children's Special Services provides support to families to care for children who have physical and/or mental disabilities. Supplies and equipment are available to families with children who have developmental and/or physical disabilities. Equipment may include seizure helmets, bath lifts, and lifts for vans. The aim is to provide basic and adequate support to families to help them pay for some of the extra items needed when caring for a child with a disability.

Families with children who have developmental and/or physical disabilities may get help to make "basic" accessibility modifications to their home. The modifications must be directly related to the child's disability and are based on individual need and circumstances. Examples of modifications are ramps, railings, lifts, and widened doorframes. The program will fund only eligible modifications to the child's primary residence. This means the home in which the child spends the majority of his or her time.

The level of service and support depends on the particular circumstances of each family and the needs of the child with the disability. As the circumstances of families change, services could also change.

For further information on the programs offered through Children's Special Services contact the **Children's Special Services Program** central intake and information in Winnipeg: voice: **945-1335**

OR obtain further contact information for other locations within Manitoba from the Family Services and Housing

Centralized Service Locations service centre:

102 - 114 Garry Street

Winnipeg MB R3G 1G1

toll-free voice: **877-587-6224**

email: provservic@gov.mb.ca

website: www.gov.mb.ca/fs/pwd/css.html



8. Employment and Income Assistance

Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) is a provincial government administered program of last resort for people who need help to meet basic personal and family needs. A person with a disability enrolled in the program may be eligible to receive support for the purchase of various items including:

- 8.1. Major Appliance: Assistance may be provided to help pay for the repair, or the purchase of a washing machine, refrigerator, or stove.
- 8.2. Essential Household Furnishings: If furnishings are not included in the rent, a one-time payment may be provided to help buy basic household furnishings. This assistance is available only for the person with a disability who does not have the financial ability to purchase furnishings when moving out of an institution or the parents' home.
- 8.3. Products and aids to assist with daily living: A person with a disability, registered with the EIA program, and who requires health services or assistance with activities of daily living require service, and who requires products or assistive technology for daily living tasks, may be eligible for additional assistance.

In some situations, the program may provide assistive technology for the home environment. The products may be loaned or purchased so that a “basic” level of care / accessibility is provided within the home for the personal care of the individual with the disability. This means the products provided may include: homecare beds, raised toilet seats, toilet frames, and mobile floor stand lifts for transfers.

- 8.4. Building modification - Where no other municipal, provincial or federal program provides funding, the EIA Program may fund building modifications required for a disabled person to access assessment, training or employment. The work to provide “basic” accessibility might include assistive technologies like ramps, mechanical lifts or stair glides, bathroom modifications, visual signal mechanisms, audible signal mechanisms, hand rails, and grab bars.

If EIA pays for major house repairs (over \$200 per year) there will likely be a requirement to repay these amounts if the property is sold (from the money from the sale), or if it is refinanced . A lien (a legal document) will be filed with the government against the title of the property for the value of the repairs to be sure that these costs will be repaid when the house is sold in the future.



For further information on the programs offered through the **Employment and Income Assistance** programs, contact:

**Employment and Income Assistance
Community Service Delivery**

119 - 114 Garry Street
Winnipeg MB R3C 4V7

voice: **945-2177**

email: csd@gov.mb.ca

website: www.gov.mb.ca/fs/assistance/eia.html



9. Vocational Rehabilitation Program

The Canada-Manitoba Labour Market Agreement for Persons with Disabilities (LMAPD), an agreement between the federal and provincial governments, is a cost-sharing agreement to operate the Vocational Rehabilitation Program for persons with a disability, to prepare for, find, and maintain employment. The program includes support for employment-related assistive technologies such as:

- 9.1. Building modification - Where no other municipal, provincial or federal program provides funding, the Vocational Rehabilitation Program may fund building modifications so that a person with a disability can have access to assessment, training or employment. Where a building modification is required at a place of training, the program may contribute up to 50 percent of the cost, up to a maximum of \$5,000, on a one time only basis. Where a building modification is required at a place of employment, the program may contribute up to 75 percent of the cost, up to a maximum of \$30,000, on a once only basis. The employment hours must be for more than 15 hours per week, and the employer must present the job offer in writing. The modifications might include assistive technologies such as ramps, mechanical lifts or stair glides, bathroom modifications, visual signal mechanisms, audible signal mechanisms, hands rails and grab bars.
- 9.2. Technical Aids, Devices, Special or Adaptive Equipment – Funding may be available for assistive technologies required to remove a barrier to training and/or employment for a person with a disability. The following are examples of items which have been funded:
 - adaptations to wheelchairs or specialized wheelchairs;
 - tactile reading devices;
 - optical character readers - audio, Braille, tactile;
 - computers and related personal access systems;
 - closed circuit television readers;
 - print to Braille and Braille to print hardware and software;
 - tape recorders (generally four track);
 - calculators to meet specific disability needs;
 - telephone devices for the deaf;
 - communication devices (Bliss /hearing aids); and
 - orthotic devices (e.g. writing splints).

Generally, equipment will not be covered for the purpose of job search or during periods of unemployment. Funding of equipment and/or technology in order to retain skills while searching for employment is not considered under the Vocational Rehabilitation Program.



It is not always necessary to purchase equipment. Rental or lease arrangements should be considered, especially where it is anticipated that there will not be an ongoing need for the equipment or where there is uncertainty as to appropriateness of the equipment.

Depending upon the situation, the ownership of purchased equipment may be retained by the Vocational Rehabilitation Program or may be transferred to the individual requiring the assistive technology. A Memorandum of Understanding document may be required between the program and the individual to establish the conditions of support and ownership of this equipment.

9.3. Vehicle Modifications - The Vocational Rehabilitation Program provides a limited amount of funding for necessary modifications to the vehicle used for a person with a disability to be transported, or for independent transportation, to the training or employment site. Funding may cover up to 75% of the costs of the vehicle modifications. The capital cost for the purchase of the vehicle will not be considered. The following assistive technologies associated with a vehicle may be considered under the program:

- hand controls;
- foot controls;
- zero effort driving controls;
- wheelchair lifts and ramps;
- automatic electric door openers;
- transfer boards;
- special tie downs or safety devices;
- communication devices when required for safety;
- remote control devices; and
- steering column modifications.

The application for assistance must show any other sources of funding before funds from the Vocational Rehabilitation program can be used for the modifications. This program can potentially fund assistive technology for vehicles owned by a company or business, as well as by an individual person with a disability. If a vehicle is owned by a company or by a self-employed individual, the program may contribute up to 75 percent of the costs to a maximum of \$25,000, provided there is a confirmed offer of permanent employment or a viable business plan in cases of self-employment. If the individual owns the vehicle and requires the modifications to access training or employment, the program may contribute up to 75 percent of the cost, to a maximum of \$30,000.



For further information on the programs offered through the Vocational Rehabilitation Program for People with Disabilities, contact: the employment-focused services for people with a mental, psychiatric or learning disability that are provided through the regional offices of Manitoba Family Services and Housing.

Vocational Rehabilitation Program Central Intake and Information in Winnipeg, voice: **945-1335**

OR obtain further contact information for other locations within Manitoba from Family Services and Housing Centralized Service Locations service centre:

102 - 114 Garry Street
Winnipeg MB R3G 1G1
toll-free voice: **877-587-6224**
email: provservic@gov.mb.ca
website: www.gov.mb.ca/fs/pwd/css.html

For individuals with physical disabilities, services are provided through three designated agencies.

- Individuals with a visual disability may contact:

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)

Manitoba Division
1080 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3G 3M3
voice: **774-5421**
toll-free voice: **800-552-4893**
TTY Deaf Access Line: **775-9802**
fax: **775-5090**
email: manitoba@cnib.ca
website: www.cnib.ca/en/mb-sk



- Individuals with a spinal cord injury may contact:

Canadian Paraplegic Association (CPA)

Manitoba Division
825 Sherbrook Street
Winnipeg, MB R3A 1MS
voice: **786-4753**
toll-free voice: **800-720-4933**
fax: **786-1140**
email: winnipeg@canparaplegic.org
website: www.cpamanitoba.ca

- Individuals with other physical disabilities, including deaf or hard of hearing, may contact:

Society for Manitobans with Disabilities (SMD)

825 Sherbrook Street
Winnipeg, MB R3A 1MS
voice: **975-3010**
toll-free voice: **866-282-8041**
TTY Deaf Services: **975-3083**
TTY toll-free: **800-225-9108**
fax: **975-3073**
website: [//smd.mb.ca/adult_services.aspx](http://smd.mb.ca/adult_services.aspx)



10. Open Access Resource Centre

Open Access Resource Centre (OARC) operates an extensive equipment loan program for people with impaired speech. They and their service provider can assess the everyday usefulness of a communication device by trying it for a free six-week trial. Generally, these devices, called augmentative and alternative communications (AAC), are electronic communication aids that enable people with impaired speech to communicate with others by picture, word, and simulated or recorded voice. They are designed for people with a wide range of speech impairments and physical disabilities. Most devices can be modified for individual needs and lifestyles, and assist in communicating specific phrases / messages or produce electronically generated speech. The six-week trial allows the person with the disability and their service providers to assess the suitability of equipment, at no cost.

There is no age limit for using the Centre's resources, and a referral is not required. However, experience shows that the equipment trial is most successful when the speech therapist working with the person and other service providers are involved in the initial selection of equipment, and throughout the trial period.

If the trial has been satisfactory, individuals may decide to purchase their own equipment. If outside funding for the purchase is needed, OARC can often help, by verifying that the equipment chosen suits the person's communication needs.

For further information on the program offered by the **Open Access Resource Centre** contact:

Open Access Resource Centre
3 - 120 Maryland Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3G 1L1
voice: **949-2430**
fax: **775-2385**
e-mail: oarc@oarc.ca
website: www.oarc.ca



11. Canada Revenue Agency – Personal Income Tax

It is sometimes possible to claim some expenses related to assistive technology on both the federal and provincial portions of income taxes. The expenses are claimed as deductions on the regular annual income tax return, and for those with low incomes, this may create a very small change on the income tax return. The potential deductions can include:

- Disability supports deduction (line 215)
- Refundable medical expense supplement (line 452)
- Medical Expenses (line 330)

Some costs may be deductible for certain disability support expenses for going to work, or school, or to do paid research. Some of the assistive technologies that might qualify as allowable expenses include: Bliss symbol boards, Braille note takers, Braille printers, devices or software, electronic speech synthesizers, optical scanners, page turning devices, talking textbooks, TTY telephone devices, and voice-recognition software.

Under the category of Medical Expenses (line 330) , there may be opportunities to include some costs related to: air conditioners, air filters/purifiers, infant monitors, bathroom aids, computer peripherals, incontinent supplies, driveway modifications, electronic speech synthesizers, elevators / lifts, environmental control systems, hearing aids, optical scanners, page-turning devices, home modifications including ramps, widening doorways, modified cabinets in bathrooms and modified cabinets in kitchens, TTY telephone devices, vehicle modifications, voice recognition software, walking aids, and others.

The definitions of eligible expenses to be claimed under any of these categories can change frequently. Typically, most of these expenses will require appropriate documentation (as defined by Canada Revenue Agency) prescribing the required use. For further information or assistance on the disability related deductions on **Personal Income Tax** returns, write to ask specific questions:

Winnipeg Tax Centre
PO Box 14001 STN Main
Winnipeg MB R3C 3M3



OR for more information by phone: Ask for a senior person who has knowledge in the area of disability related claims at

toll-free voice: **800-959-8281**

TTY toll-free: **800-665-0354**.

OR check out further information and downloadable forms and guides from the Canada Revenue Agency:

website: www.cra.gc.ca



12. GST - Goods and Services Housing Rebate

The rebate available under this GST program allows anyone who owns an existing house or condominium and is undertaking substantial renovations, including modification to make an accessible home environment, to obtain a partial refund of the GST paid on the construction. It is also possible to apply for this rebate for the GST paid on the construction required to convert an existing non-residential property into a personal residence. (Converting a barn or an old corner grocery store into a residential unit, for example) The rebate may also be available for the costs relating to a major addition to a home.

This rebate also applies to the construction of a new home on land that is owned or on leased property (20 year or longer lease). Typically, the home has to be the primary residence for the homeowner or a relative. In order to be eligible for the rebate, the house (including land and other structures such as a garage) must have a fair market value less than \$450,000.

Major construction changes must be made to meet the definition of a "substantial renovation". For example, if the interior of a building is essentially gutted, the renovation project would likely qualify as a substantial renovation. Generally, 90% or more of the interior of an existing house is the minimum that has to be removed or replaced to qualify as a substantial renovation.

Only regularly lived-in areas are considered as substantial renovation for a GST rebate. This would include the main floor living areas, and finished basements and attics. Garages or crawl spaces are not included. Work done in a partially completed, but not yet lived-in basement, does not count toward the 90% test.

A renovation of a basement, or adding a garage or a deck to an existing house, would not meet the definition of a substantial renovation and would not qualify for the rebate.

If an addition to an existing house is constructed, it should at least double the size of the lived-in areas of the existing house in order to qualify. An example might be if a homeowner added a full second story to an existing bungalow and significantly changed the layout of the original main floor. This construction would double the size of the lived-in area, and it would appear as if the original house no longer existed.



The construction of a porch, sunroom, family room, or bedroom is not considered to result in a newly built house, and therefore, would not be applicable for the rebate.

For further information or assistance on the **Housing Rebate Program**: check out the downloadable guide and forms at: www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pub/gp/rc4028/README.html

OR for more information by phone:
toll-free voice: **800-959-5525**
TTY toll-free: **800-665-0354**.

OR check out further information from the Canada Revenue Agency:
website: www.cra.gc.ca



13. GST - Goods and Services Tax Rebate

Some goods and services that people with disabilities use are exempt from, or have a zero-rating, for the Goods and Services Tax (GST). Typically, this means a person with a disability should not pay GST when buying these goods or services.

Examples are: wheelchairs, walkers, and other similar mobility aids specially designed for use by individuals with disabilities, hearing aids, prescription eyewear, an environmental control device to control appliances, toilet-seats, bath-seats, shower-seats specially designed for use by an individual with a disability, patient lifters, clothing specially designed for use by an individual with a disability, incontinence products, auxiliary driving controls for a vehicle, and modification of a vehicles to adapt them for the transportation of an individual using a wheelchair.

If a new or used vehicle is purchased from a dealer, and the vehicle already has auxiliary driving controls or a device designed to allow a wheelchair to be placed directly in the vehicle, then the GST applies to the purchase price of the vehicle only. A rebate for the GST on those parts of the purchase price that relates to these controls / devices / modifications / installation can be applied for from the Canada Revenue Agency.

The definitions of eligible expenses to be claimed can change over time. Most of these expenses will require appropriate documentation (as defined by Canada Revenue Agency) to accompany the application.

For further information or assistance on the **GST Specially Equipped Motor Vehicle Rebate Program**: check out the downloadable guide (see page 25 - 26) at www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pub/tg/rc4064/rc4064-06e.pdf and forms at: www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pbg/gf/gst518/README.html

OR for more information by phone:
toll-free voice: **800-959-5525**
TTY toll-free: **800-665-0354**.

OR check out further information from the Canada Revenue Agency:
website: www.cra.gc.ca



14. Federal Excise Gasoline Tax Refund Program

A person with a permanent mobility-related disability, who cannot safely use public transportation, can apply for a refund for part of the federal excise tax on the gasoline for his/her accessible vehicle.

The definition of eligibility for this refund program can change over time. This program will require appropriate documentation (as defined by Canada Revenue Agency).

For further information or assistance on the **Excise Gasoline Tax Refund Program**: check out the downloadable guide and claim form:
www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pbg/ef/xe8/xe8-00b.pdf

OR for more information by phone:
toll-free voice: **866-330-3304** or **800-959-5525**.
TTY toll-free: **800-665-0354**.

OR check out further information from the Canada Revenue Agency:
website: www.cra.gc.ca



15. Canada Border Services Agency – Customs Tariff

The Canada Border Service Agency (CBSA) allows people with disabilities to import duty-free goods (and the articles and materials used in those goods) that are specifically designed for use by people with disabilities (assistive technology).

As with any out of country purchase, it is necessary to declare these purchases upon entering Canada. Items designed specifically for use by people with disabilities, may be able to be labelled under tariff item No. 9979.00.00 when making a customs declaration so that duty does not need to be paid.

It is possible to ask later for an adjustment / reimbursement to the duties paid if the exemption was not made at the time of declaring the items at the border.

For further information or assistance, contact the **Canada Border Services Agency** regarding the special tariff to be applied to goods to be used specifically for people with disabilities. CBSA staff can explain any special requirements ahead of time, so that goods clear customs quickly.

Check out the downloadable guide (see page 26) at www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pub/tg/rc4064/rc4064-06e.pdf

OR for more information by phone:
toll-free voice: **800-461-9999**
TTY toll-free: **866-335-3237**.

OR check out further information and downloadable forms and guides from the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA):
website: <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/>



16. Retail Sales Tax Refund

The Manitoba provincial sales tax does have exemptions for specific assistive technology for people with physical disabilities. Many products for use by a person with a disability are exempt. However, if Retail Sales Tax is paid when buying these products, it is possible to apply later for a refund of the taxes paid.

The Manitoba Finance Department, Taxation Division has an extensive list of items that can be purchased exempt from the 7% Retail Sales Tax (RST). Many items are exempt from the RST, and a refund may be requested. Some items require a “prescription” by a medical doctor to accompany the request in order for the item to be considered exempt. The following is a short list of some of the items not requiring a ‘prescription’:

- Hearing aids, including replacement batteries for hearing aids.
- Alarm devices & attachments to telephones or televisions for use by people with a hearing impairment.
- Equipment that is designed solely for the use of people who are blind, including: navigational equipment; Braille writing supplies; special guides and indicators for household appliances or recreational equipment; and low vision aids.
- Equipment and supplies designed solely for the use of a person a physical disability, including: hair wash basin for beds; bed ladders, commodes, raised toilet seats, urinals; specialty cutlery items; grab bars; incontinent pads, pants, diapers and liners; patient-lifts and replacement parts; reaching aids; wheelchair mounted assistive robots; inclined platform lifts, stair glide lifts, elevators and ramps; accessible vehicle controls, walkers, including grips and tips; wheelchairs and electric powered scooters; wheelchair accessories (e.g. restraining devices, head rests, cushions, trays, bags and pouches); wheelchair batteries; wheelchair lifts installed in vehicles and modifications to a vehicle to specifically accommodate such lifts.

(See the Information Service Bulletin number 002; “Drugs, Medical Equipment and Supplies for Human Use” for a complete listing of all of the products that are deemed to be exempt and the conditions required for them to be considered exempt.)



The following is a short list of some of the items that require a ‘prescription’ to be considered tax exempt for a person with a disability:

- Bathtubs and whirlpools specially designed for people with physical disabilities, including installation.
- Beds similar to hospital beds that are designed for people with special needs, including footstools, bedside rails, monkey bars, overbed tables, mattresses, mattress covers and pads, and air cushions (but not including decorative or detachable headboards and bedding).
- Computer accessories designed to accommodate people with physical disabilities (e.g. joystick, keyguard and mouse).
- Lift chairs and recliners.
- Page turners designed for people with physical disabilities
- Writing aids specially designed for people with physical disabilities, such as pen holders or overhead easels for persons confined to a bed.

(See the Information Service Bulletin number 002; “Drugs, Medical Equipment and Supplies for Human Use” for a complete listing of all of the products that are exempt and the conditions required for them to be considered exempt.)

The definitions of eligible products deemed to be exempt under any of the categories can change. If the Retail Sales Tax has been paid on any of the items, a refund may be applied for from the Manitoba Finance department. The refund process will likely require appropriate documentation (as defined by Manitoba Finance) for any potential refund.

For further information or assistance on the **Retail Sales Tax** exemptions: check out the downloadable Information Service Bulletin number 002: www.gov.mb.ca/finance/taxation/bulletins/002.pdf

OR for more information contact:

Winnipeg Office

Manitoba Finance - Taxation Division

101 - 401 York Avenue

Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0P8

voice: **945-5603**

toll-free voice: **800-782-0318**

fax: **948-2087**



Westman Regional Office
Manitoba Finance - Taxation Division
349, 340 - 9th Street
Brandon, Manitoba R7A 6C2
voice: **726-6153**
toll-free voice: **800-275-9290**
fax: **726-6763**

email: MBTax@gov.mb.ca
website: www.gov.mb.ca/finance/taxation



17. City of Winnipeg Home Renovation Tax Assistance Program

The City of Winnipeg established a program of real property tax credits to encourage and assist in the renovation of residential homes. This program is approved and funded annually and has limited funding for tax credits. Therefore, this program operates on a “first come, first served” basis.

The home must be solely residential and must have been built before January 1, 1982. The home and land must have an assessed value of \$114,600.00 or less in 2007.

The maximum amount that can be claimed is \$10,000.00 for standard renovations, and \$6,000.00 for energy efficiency renovations. The maximum 2007 Program tax credit that may be available is \$1,500.00. The maximum annual tax credit of \$500.00 may be available in the subsequent years of 2008, 2009 and 2010, as a property tax reduction. These tax credits will reduce the property taxes payable over four years.

The renovation costs that may be eligible include: materials; contractor labour; retail sales tax & G.S.T.; drafting and architectural plans; permit fees; legal and inspection fees.

The standard renovations eligible for the 15% tax credit include modifying a home to accommodate a disabled person, or renovating for reasons of safety or occupant health. The standard renovations can also include: the renovating of kitchens, bathrooms & unfinished basements; construction of an additional living space; installing, repairing or upgrading a plumbing system, electrical system, or a ventilation system (not including an air conditioner); reinforcing or repairing a foundation or basement, including weeping tile, excavation and related landscaping; home security alarms; installing or repairing exterior sheathing, roofing, shingling, soffits, fascia, eavestroughing, doors or windows (excluding skylight windows); installing or repairing a water or sewer system, including excavation and related landscaping; and the constructing or repairing a deck, veranda or garage.

The program includes Energy Efficiency Renovations that generally meet or exceed Manitoba Hydro Power Smart guidelines to be eligible for a 25% tax credit. See Section 20 for further information about the Manitoba Hydro programs. Work can include insulating an unfinished basement with insulation to the walls and floors; upgrading a primary heating system, and/or an electrical system, and/or a ventilation system; insulating walls and/or an attic; upgrading and insulating doors and windows. For further information, visit the Manitoba Hydro Website at www.hydro.mb.ca.



The definition of eligible construction work may change, and the final determination and requirements should be obtained from the Home Renovation Tax Assistance Program Office of the City of Winnipeg Planning, Property, and Development Department.

For further information regarding **The Home Renovation Tax Assistance Program** contact:

The Home Renovation Tax Assistance Program Office

Planning, Property and Development Department

Unit 31 – 30 Fort Street

Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 4X7

voice: **986-7352**

fax: **986-6347**

website: www.winnipeg.ca/ppd/programs_hrta.stm



18. Emergency Repair Program (ERP)

This program provides financial assistance to low-income, rural homeowners by providing a forgivable loan to pay for emergency repairs to ensure the occupants' continued safety in the home.

If the home requires an emergency repair, which left unattended would jeopardize the health and safety of the occupants, then the homeowner may be eligible for assistance under this program. The home must be the principle residence throughout the year and must be located in a rural Manitoba area with a population of fewer than 2,500. To be eligible for the program, the total gross household income must be below the established Housing Income Limit (HIL) for the area where the property is located.

These emergency repairs may be permanent or temporary and are not intended to restore the house to minimum property standards, but rather, to ensure the residence is fit for continued safe occupancy. Work that is not considered urgent will not qualify for assistance. All required repairs must be started within 60 days of approval and be completed within 90 days of approval.

Assistance is in the form of a fully forgivable loan — it does not have to be repaid as long as the occupant continues to live in the house for at least six months. The amount of the loan depends on where the house is located.

Northern areas of the province may be eligible for up to \$9,000; southern areas up to \$6,000. If the cost of repairs is higher than the loan amount, the homeowner must cover the additional costs. Only urgent repairs are considered under this program.

For further information on the [ERP Program](#) in Manitoba contact:

Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation — Affordable Housing

113 – 114 Garry Street

Winnipeg, MB R3C 4V4

voice: **945-5566** (in Winnipeg)

toll-free voice: **1-866-689-5566**

website: www.manitoba.ca/fs/housing



19. Manitoba Hydro Energy Finance Plan & Power Smart Residential Loan

The principle residence of a homeowner as well as seasonal cottage and farm related buildings that are serviced by Manitoba Hydro may be eligible for a renovation loan through Manitoba Hydro. Loans between \$500 and \$5000 are available with a five year term and interest rates of 11% through the Energy Finance Plan. Loans between \$500 and \$7500 are available with a five year term and interest rates of 6.5% through the Power Smart Residential Loan plan.

Various upgrades to electrical and natural gas services and equipment can be completed under these programs. Of special interest for people with disabilities might be the inclusion in both programs of electrical work that includes security lighting and fixtures. As well, the purchase and installation of central air conditioning systems may be eligible under the Energy Finance Plan. To take advantage of either program, a participating contractor can assist with completing the Loan Agreement to obtain approval for the loan. Manitoba Hydro will pay the contractor, and monthly loan payments will appear on the homeowner's Manitoba Hydro energy bill.

The work performed by the contractor must be completed within six months of the date of signing the Loan Agreement. The loan becomes due and payable if the building is sold. Construction work already started or completed before Manitoba Hydro receives the application is not eligible for the loan.

For information on the Energy Finance Plan, download the brochure at:
www.hydro.mb.ca/customer_services/financial_programs/energy_finance_plan.pdf

Or contact:

Manitoba Hydro

820 Taylor Avenue

Winnipeg, Manitoba R3M 3T1

voice: **474-3311** (in Winnipeg)

toll-free voice: **888-624-9376**

website:

www.hydro.mb.ca/customer_services/financial_programs/energy_finance_plan.shtml

For information on the Power Smart Residential Loan Program, contact:

Manitoba Hydro

820 Taylor Avenue

Winnipeg, Manitoba R3M 3T1

voice: **474-3311** (in Winnipeg)

toll-free voice: **1-888-624-9376**

website: www.hydro.mb.ca/your_home/residential_loan.shtml



20. **Poppy Fund – Royal Canadian Legion (Manitoba and Northwest Ontario Command)**

The Poppy Fund provides emergency relief to needy Canadian ex-service personnel and their dependents. The ex-service personnel need not be, or have been, members of the Legion. Grants may be provided based upon the need for food, clothing, fuel, and shelter. The Poppy fund does not provide on-going funding. Poppy funds may also be approved for the benefit of allied Veterans. There is also a provision for medical equipment.

The grants provided are confidential. The Poppy Trust Fund Committee keeps a confidential record of all transactions for audit by the proper authorities. The names of the recipients are not released outside the committee records without the expressed written consent of the recipients, their parents, or guardians, as applicable.

For further information regarding the **Poppy Fund** contact:

Manitoba & Northwestern Ontario Command

The Royal Canadian Legion

563 St. Mary's Road

Winnipeg, MB R2M 3L6

voice: **233-3405**

fax: **237-1775**

email: mblegion@mts.net

website: www.manitobanwontariocommand.ca/



21. Elks & Royal Purple Fund for Children

The Personal Assistance Program was developed to help meet the special needs of children up to the age of 19, anywhere in the country, when funds are not available from any other source. Assistance has been granted for a number of purposes including some forms of assistive technology including hearing aids / FM systems; TTY; closed caption units; wheelchairs/lifts; home renovations to facilitate improved home care; and communication devices.

Applications must be approved by the National Charities Committee, and must be sponsored by a Lodge or Provincial Association to be considered. The application process requires the family to get a letter from the child's doctor or medical professional to provide confirmation of need. Other information that is required includes exact cost, duration of treatment, type of equipment recommended, etc. It may be necessary to shop around for the best price for equipment needed (eg. computer).

When suppliers or professional people are involved, payment will be made directly to them. Original receipts are needed if the request for funding is made after the item is purchased. Other sources of funding must be investigated. Provincial and area programs can often provide funding to families in need. Medical plans or group benefits may also be accessed. Lodges are also encouraged to participate in providing funds for personal assistance cases.

The application will also require information about the financial status of the family including all sources of income, plus child tax credit, allowances, alimony, child support, etc. To confirm the current level of income, a copy of the most recent income tax return or pay stubs from two consecutive months for the income earner(s) is required. The Family Income/Expense Report needs to show all assets and liabilities.

The program also reserves the right to arrange for publicity of the assistance provided to the specific child / family by the charity.

For further information contact:

The Elks and Royal Purple Fund for Children

100 - 2629 – 29th Avenue

Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 2N9

voice: **(306) 569-3723**,

toll-free voice: **888-843-3557**

fax: **(306) 565-2860**

website: www.elks-canada.org



22. The Manitoba Afflicted Children's Fund Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF); Grand Lodge of Manitoba

Grants by the Manitoba Afflicted Children's Fund provide financial assistance, based on need and funds available, to children with disabilities in Manitoba, under the age of seventeen.

Financial assistance is to cover specialized needs such as braces for limbs, hearing aids, special shoes, glasses, and other assistive technology where these items are not provided for through medical plans or other funding sources.

For further information contact the current **Independent Order of Odd Fellows at: Grand Lodge of Manitoba**
email: grandsecretary@ioofmanitoba.org

23. The Kinsmen Club of Winnipeg

For families and individuals to request financial assistance, they must send a recent Revenue Canada Notice of Assessment, (from their Income Tax Return) as well as a detailed letter describing the specific needs, and how the money donated will be used. If the request is educational, a letter from an educational professional indicating the specific needs should be included; if the request is medical, the letter should be from a medical professional, indicating the specific needs. At least three competitive quotations for any product, equipment, or any other types of goods or services should also be included.

There are approximately 44 Kinsmen or Kinette clubs throughout Manitoba; the closest club may offer the best opportunities for assistance. For further information contact the Kinsmen Club of Winnipeg at:

Kinsmen Club of Winnipeg
161 Grandin St.
Winnipeg, MB R2H 0A8
voice: **233-5462**
fax: **233-6415**
website: www.kinsmenclub.com/

To contact Kinsmen or Kinette clubs throughout Manitoba, download:
www.kincanada.ca/about/findaclub/documents/ManitobaClubs.pdf



24. The Lions Foundation of Manitoba & Northwestern Ontario

The Lions Foundation grants funding to purchase specialized equipment for children and adults with physical disabilities. The funding may assist with the cost of assistive technology such as wheelchairs, motorized scooters, hospital beds, and computers for special needs students.

Grants awarded usually focus in the area of medical assistance and specialized equipment. In most cases, the maximum grant to an individual would be according to the need, and subject to approval by the Screening Committee.

Applications should be accompanied by a letter of explanation, a letter from the attending physician, and a quotation for the costs of the equipment required.

The application will also require information about the financial status of the family, with all sources of income, including Family Allowances, Workers Compensation, Social Assistance, Employment Insurance, and all other income from other sources. A statement of monthly living expenses for food, shelter, utilities, transportation, and other costs must be included. A listing of family assets, including RRSPs, term deposits, bonds etc. is required. To confirm the current level of income, a copy of the most recent Revenue Canada statement of Income Tax Assessment for the person applying for the assistance and spouse is needed. The application will also require a letter from the sponsoring Lions Club, and a letter from the recipient to explain the need for the equipment. .

For further information, contact:

Lions Foundation of Manitoba & Northwest Ontario

105 - 691 Wolseley Avenue

Winnipeg, MB

voice: **788-8508**

toll-free voice: **800-552-6820**



25. Special Needs Program - Variety Club

The Variety Club's Special Needs Program has approved funding for various forms of assistive technologies for children with disabilities, including specialized or adapted tricycles and bicycles, closed circuit readers for the visually impaired, wheelchair ramps or lifts, home renovations to accommodate a wheelchair, and the family deductible portion of digital hearing aids for children with hearing impairment.

Cases are reviewed based on individual need and on the availability of funding at the time of the request.

Requests must be made in writing, clearly outlining the child's disability, the assistance required, with detailed information about the costs involved. The request should be supported by documentation from a health care or other professional, such as a doctor, occupational therapist, physiotherapist, school principal, or resource teacher.

For further information about the **Special Needs Program**, contact:

Variety's Special Needs Department

611 Wellington Crescent

Winnipeg, MB R3M 0A7

voice: **982.1058**

fax: **475-3198**

email: info@varietymanitoba.com

website: www.varietymanitoba.com/special_needs.html



26. The War Amps

Through the CHAMP Program and the Adult Prosthetics Program, the War Amps organization provides assistance for amputees in Canada to obtain assistive technology related to artificial limbs.

The programs provide financial assistance to cover the cost of artificial limbs when provincial medical plans or private insurance plans do not cover the entire cost.

The CHAMP Program helps to create a positive attitude for children towards the wearing of artificial limbs. Recreational limbs for playing musical instruments, swimming, skiing, or other activities are considered to be a necessity for child amputees.

For adults with disabilities who register with The Adult Prosthetics Program, the War Amps offers financial assistance towards the purchase of artificial limbs.

For further information regarding the **CHAMP program**, contact:

The War Amps CHAMP Program

2827 Riverside Drive

Ottawa, ON K1V 0C4

toll-free voice: **800-267-4023**

fax: **(613) 731-3234**

email: champ@waramps.ca

website: <http://www.waramps.ca/champ/home.html>

For further information regarding the **Adult Prosthetics Program** contact:

The War Amps Adult Prosthetics Program

2827 Riverside Drive

Ottawa, ON K1V 0C4

toll-free voice: **877-622-2472**

fax: **(613) 731-3234**

email: nac@waramps.ca

website: www.waramps.ca/adult/home.html



27. President's Choice Children's Charity

President's Choice Children's Charity (PCCC) is dedicated to helping children who have a physical or developmental disability. The PCCC goal is to remove some of the obstacles that make everyday living extremely difficult, and to make it a little easier for the child or family to cope with the disability. PCCC provides grants to assist with the purchase of assistive technology such as mobility equipment, and for the construction of accessibility modifications.

The funding from PCCC is available for use in Canada to assist a child with a disability, under the age of 19, who lives permanently in Canada.

A request for funding must include a completed application form for Financial Assistance, which is available at the PCCC website. The application will require proof that the household income does not exceed \$70,000 based upon a copy of the most recent Notice of Assessment(s) from Canada Revenue Agency or a copy of the most recent Social Assistance payment.

The application must be accompanied by a letter describing the situation, what the need is, and how the grant will help. As well, the application must include a copy of a licensed medical practitioner's diagnosis of the disability and a second letter from a social agency, occupational therapist or physiotherapist, which supports the request and gives an independent view of the family situation. Two written quotes from a vendor/supplier showing the cost of the product / assistive technology should accompany the application. The application must also show any additional funding that has been requested or obtained from other sources

The Application for Financial Assistance form must be submitted before the equipment is ordered, purchased or before the services/programs are received.

For further information, contact:

President's Choice Children's Charity

1 President's Choice Circle

Brampton Ontario L6Y 5S5

toll-free voice: **866-996-9918**

email: pccharity@loblaw.ca

website: www.presidentschoice.ca/ChildrensCharity/



28. Manitoba Health

28.1. Telecommunications Program

Manitoba Health will provide financial assistance towards the cost of telecommunications equipment that allows telephone conversations to be conducted by keyboard and display terminal instead of voice (TTY). Manitoba Health will pay 80% of the equipment cost to a maximum allowable rebate of \$428.00.

All Manitoba residents who are profoundly deaf or speech impaired are eligible.

28.2. Hearing Aid Program

Manitoba residents under the age of 18, who require a hearing aid as prescribed by an otolaryngologist or audiologist, are eligible.

Manitoba Health will refund:

- 80% of a fixed amount for an Analog device,
- 80% of a fixed amount for a Digital or Analog device up to a maximum of \$1800
- 80% of a fixed amount for additional services, and ear impressions.

The program does not cover: repairs after the warranty expires; the cost of batteries; ear mold replacements; additional ear molds; lost hearing aids.

28.3. Orthopaedic Shoes Program

Manitoba Health will refund the following amounts:

- 50% of the cost of non-customized orthopaedic shoes up to a maximum of \$27.80
- 50% of the cost of shoes for children with different sized feet to a maximum of \$41.80
- 50% of the cost of custom-made shoes to a maximum of \$139.00

An allowance of \$5.55 per pair of shoes is also provided for modifications. All Manitoba residents under 18 years of age are eligible.



28.4. Eyeglasses Program

Manitoba Health will reimburse 80% of a fixed amount for eyeglasses regardless of what was paid for them. This fixed amount is based on the type of glasses prescribed by a doctor. There is a \$50 deductible amount on eyeglass reimbursements. If two family members, aged 65 and over, require glasses in the same year, between April 1st and March 31st, only one \$50 deductible is applied to the total purchase.

All eligible Manitoba residents may claim one reimbursement every three years. If there is a change in the prescription, the supplier needs to submit an additional claim.

The following items are not covered unless medically required: sunglasses, tinted lenses, contact lenses, two pairs of glasses with the same prescription, and repairs.

All Manitoba residents 65 years of age and over are eligible.

28.5. Prosthetic and Orthotic Program

All Manitoba residents who require prosthetic or orthotic services, as prescribed by a medical practitioner, are eligible.

In most cases, Manitoba Health will pay 100% of the cost of:

- Limb prosthetic devices and services
- Limb and spinal orthotic devices and services

Devices and services can only be provided by a person who is certified as a prosthetist or orthotist by the Canadian Board for Certification of Prosthetists and Orthotists. A claim for one device every two years is allowed unless there has been a change in prescription, or the initial device is damaged beyond repair.

For more information on the above programs offered through Manitoba Health, contact:

Ancillary Programs – Insured Benefits Branch:

voice: **786-7365** or **788-2526**

toll free voice: **800-392-1207** extension **7365**

TTY: **774-8618**

TTY Relay Service outside Winnipeg: **711** or **800-855-0511**

email: insuredben@gov.mb.ca

website: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/mhsip/index.html>

(check under “Special Programs” in left hand column)



29. Manitoba Home Care Program

Home Care is provided to Manitobans of all ages based on assessed need, and taking into account other resources available to the individual, including families, community resources and other programs. The Regional Health Authorities (RHA's) have operational responsibility for Home Care, including planning, delivery and ongoing management of the services.

This service helps Manitoba residents, registered with Manitoba Health to stay in their home for as long as possible. If they require more assistance with health services or daily living activities than is available from existing supports and community resources, they may be eligible for the Home Care Program.

In some instances, the Home Care Program may provide assistive technology for the home environment. The products may be lent or purchased so that a basic level of personal care / accessibility in the home is provided for the person with the disability. The devices provided may include: homecare beds (manual and electric), and mobile floor stand lifts for transfers.

Further information regarding the support available for a specific location within Manitoba can be obtained from the local Regional Health Authorities
Outside of Winnipeg:

To find the contact information for a particular Regional Health Authority within Manitoba, click on the map located at:

www.gov.mb.ca/health/rha/rhamap.html

or check the website list at:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/rha/contact.html>

Within Winnipeg, contact:

Winnipeg Regional Health Authority – Homecare Program

voice: **940-2655**

fax: **947:9964**

OR ask for further directory assistance through:

Manitoba Government Inquiry

voice: **945-3744**

fax: **945-4261**

toll-free voice: **866-626-4862**

TTY: **945-4796**

email: mgi@gov.mb.ca



30. Students with Disabilities Manitoba Advanced Education and Literacy

30.1. Canada Study Grants for the Accommodation of Students with Permanent Disabilities provides grants of up to \$8,000 to cover the exceptional education-related costs associated with permanent disabilities. Types of disabilities may include: deafness or hearing impairment, blindness, visual impairment, physical disability, learning disability, etc.

Students must first apply for a Canada Student Loan/Manitoba Student Loan in order to establish need. They must also submit an application to Manitoba Student Aid for the grant, including verification of their disability (such as a medical certificate, or a learning disability assessment, or a document proving that they receive federal and/or provincial disability assistance), confirmation of the disability-related services or equipment required, and a detailed cost-estimate.

If an individual has a permanent disability and wishes to receive only the grant, without participating in the student loan program, a letter stating this must be submitted.

30.2. Canada Access Grants for Students with Permanent Disabilities.
This up-front grant will cover the lower amount of either \$2,000 or the student's assessed federal need. Assistance of up to \$2,000 is available per loan year.

30.3. Part-time Canada Study Grants for High Need Students
Grants of up to \$1,200 per year are available to students who have a valid reason for studying on a part-time basis (care for young dependent children, students with disabilities, etc.). Assistance is based on an assessment of financial need. There are maximum income limits for eligibility.

For further information, contact **Manitoba Advanced Education and Literacy** department through the student aid offices in Winnipeg or Brandon:

Manitoba Student Aid - Winnipeg

401 - 1181 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg MB R3G 0T3

voice: **945-6321**

fax: **948-3421**



Manitoba Student Aid - Brandon

Room 362 - 340 9th Street

Brandon MB R7A 6C2

voice: **726-6592**

toll-free voice within Manitoba: **800-204-1685**

TTY: (204) **945-8483**

TTY outside Manitoba: **866-209-0696**

website: www.gov.mb.ca/educate/sfa/pages/sfaFrontDoor_en.html