



The SMD Assistive Technology Support Program

People looking for funding assistance to purchase technology can now turn to SMD and the Assistive Technology Support Program for help. The goal of the program is to help more people with disabilities gain access to products that can improve their daily lives by helping cover the sometimes considerable costs of technology.

WHAT IS ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Assistive Technology (AT) is a product or piece of equipment that helps a person with a disability to carry out their daily activities, and to maintain a healthy and independent lifestyle. Here are several different examples of products and equipment that might be considered as AT.

1. AT can help people communicate with others, and/or help people to understand what is being said to them.

- *It can be as simple as a thick pen with a rubber grip, to speech devices that a person can use to create messages that are then displayed on a screen. Or a type of hand held electronic device that has a series of symbols or pictures that can be used to communicate with others. It doesn't have to be electronic; it could also be a board with letters, symbols, or pictures on it that can be arranged to form messages.*

2. AT can assist a person with bathing and dressing.

- *A shower seat or bench*
- *A long handled shoe horn*

3. AT can help you move around.

- *A walker, or cane*
- *A wheelchair (electric or manual) that is not available through SMD Wheelchair Services, or a scooter*
- *A lift that will assist you transferring in and out of bed or a bath lift*
- *Vehicles can be adapted for people with disabilities, steering wheels; controls can also be adapted for people who have physical disabilities or mobility impairments.*

4. AT can assist with adaptations for the home

- *Installing Wheelchair lifts and other mechanical lifts*
- *Power door openers*

These are just a few of the many different products and equipment that could be considered for our funding program.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THIS PROGRAM

To be eligible for funding assistance under the SMD Assistive Technology Support Program, applicants must:

- Be a member of SMD Alliance;
- Purchase their assistive technology ("AT") within the current fiscal year;
- Have less than 80% of their actual costs already being provided by one or more third party funders;
- Have received no other funding under this Program within the current fiscal year; and
- Complete the application process in a manner acceptable to the SMD Foundation / Easter Seals Manitoba.

Applications must also be made by the person who will be using the assistive technology device (although in some cases, applications can be made by an advocate, legal guardian, or a substitute decision maker appointed by the Vulnerable Persons' Commissioner in the Province of Manitoba).

Program Benefits

- For those who are eligible, SMD will provide a refund of up to 20% of the cost for the assistive device. The maximum that this 20% can be is \$2500.

E.g. If the Assistive Technology costs \$1000, SMD will refund up to \$200

However, if the Assistive Technology costs \$15,000, SMD will only refund to a maximum of \$2500.

HOW DO YOU APPLY

Application forms may be obtained from:

- SMD Fulfillment Center (825 Sherbrook Street)
- SMD Foundation / Easter Seals Manitoba (825 Sherbrook St)
- SMD regional offices (see website); or
- SMD website at www.smd.mb.ca

Submit completed applications to:

SMD Assistive Technology Support Program
SMD Foundation / Easter Seals Manitoba
825 Sherbrook Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3A 1M5

Review Process

1. Applications will be reviewed by the SMD Foundation / Easter Seals Manitoba to ensure:

- a) All eligibility criteria has been met
- b) The application has been completed in a manner acceptable to SMD Foundation / Easter Seals Manitoba

2. Applications which have not been satisfactorily completed will be returned to the applicant with a letter of explanation.

3. Applications which **do not** meet the eligibility criteria will be sent a letter of explanation.

4. Applications which **do** meet the eligibility criteria and have been satisfactorily completed will be forwarded to the SMD Assistive Technology Committee for a decision regarding the funding.

Approval Process

- The Committee will meet on a quarterly basis at the minimum;
- Applications will be reviewed and considered on a “first come, first served” basis;
- Support is subject to the Assistive Technology Committee of the SMD Foundation / Easter Seals Manitoba’s approval of an application
- Support is subject to the availability of funds.
- Decisions of the Committee will be deemed ‘final’; and
- All applicants will receive a letter to explain the decision of the Committee.

NEED MORE INFORMATION

For information relating to this program please contact:

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