

KATS NETWORK

"Disability Solutions Through Technology"

The Buck Starts Here...

A Guide to Assistive Technology Funding

in

Kentucky



14th Edition

Kentucky Assistive Technology Service Network

Workforce Investment Department – Office of Vocational Rehabilitation – Louisville, KY

1-800-327-5287

The Buck Starts Here...

A Guide to Assistive Technology Funding in Kentucky

14th Edition

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K A T S N · E · T · W · O · R · K

Kentucky Assistive Technology Locator

"Disability Solutions Through Technology"

Kentucky's online lending library and exchange site for Assistive Technology

www.katsnet.at4all.com

Find assistive technology to help you at home, school, work and play on the **Kentucky Assistive Technology Locator**

- Easily search for equipment
- Find technology that best fits your need
- Borrow equipment from participating AT Loan Libraries
- Access to items for sale and/or give-away

Find equipment available for loan, for demonstration, for sale or for give-away

www.katsnet.at4all.com



Coordinating and Assisting the Reuse of Assistive Technology

Project CARAT's goal is to improve the health and quality of life of individuals with disabilities in under-served areas Kentucky who may not be able to afford the equipment they need to become independent.

To accomplish it's goal, **Project CARAT** is developing a network of partners who:

1. Identify and collect used assistive technology and durable medical equipment,
2. Refurbish the equipment to make it suitable for use, and
3. Redistribute to those in need.

If your organization, or you as an individual, have used assistive technology that could be utilized by someone in Kentucky to gain independence and improve quality of life for that individual, then we need you.

www.katsnet.org/ProjectCARAT



KENTUCKY ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY LOAN CORPORATION

"Providing Financial Loans for Assistive Technology"

The **Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC)** offers low interest loans for qualified applicants with disabilities who need assistive technology.

Working with its lending partner, Fifth Third Bank, KATLC can provide loans for modified vehicles, hearing aids, adapted computers, mobility devices, augmentative communication devices or any other type of equipment or home modification that will improve the quality of life or increase the independence of Kentuckians with disabilities.

INTEREST RATE OF 4.75%
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katlc.ky.gov - 877-675-0195

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A KATS Network Funding Task Force headed by Dave Matheis, former KATS Network Funding Specialist, principal researcher and writer, developed the original guide in 1991. Other contributors were Jean Isaacs, Bluegrass Technology Center of Lexington, Jo Ann Allen, Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities, Gail Lincoln, Kentucky Disability Coalition, Debbie Sharon, Advocate, and Jerry Wheatley, former KATS Network Information & Referral Specialist.

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The Fourteenth Edition of the "Buck Starts Here" was updated by Jerry Wheatley, Program Specialist for the KATS Network.

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Introduction

One of the leading obstacles in obtaining assistive technology is finding the money to pay for it. There are a wide variety of public and private entities that can assist with the purchase of equipment, but because the field of assistive technology is always changing, policies and procedures for its funding are constantly changing. It is difficult, not only to identify the appropriate resources, but also to find the most direct route to successful funding for these devices.

The Kentucky Assistive Technology Service (KATS) Network was developed to make assistive technology and related services more easily accessible to all Kentuckians with disabilities. The Buck Starts Here was originally produced as part of that effort under the original Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act or the Tech Act of 1988.

This book is designed to be a guide for anyone who needs financial assistance to purchase assistive technology as an aid to independent functioning and improved quality of life. It is intended to be simple to use for identifying possible sources of funding and providing strategies to secure it. Although the information contained in the guide is the most current information available through the latest edition, it is subject to change.

If you have any questions during the process, or know of any information in this guide that needs to be changed or added, please contact us by using the information listed below.

KATS Network Coordinating Center

Phone: (800) 327-5287

Website: katsnet.org

Email: katsnet@iglou.com

Our inventory of Assistive Technology equipment available for demonstration and short term loan is available on the KY AT Locator website at katsnet.at4all.com.

What is Assistive Technology?

Simply put, assistive technology can mean anything from simple, homemade devices to highly sophisticated environmental control systems. It can be adapted toys, computers, powered mobility, augmentative communication devices, special switches, and thousands of commercially available or adapted tools to assist an individual with learning, working, and interacting socially.

As defined by the Assistive Technology Act of 1998. Assistive Technology is divided into two categories, devices and services. An assistive technology device, is any item, piece of equipment or product system, whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities. An assistive technology service is any service that directly assists an individual with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device.

Assistive technology benefits everyone from individual users to employers, teachers, family members, and other community members who interact with users of AT. By increasing access, assistive technology increases opportunities for participation, which benefits us all.

Categories of Assistive Technology

For many funding sources in this guide, we have included a simple overview of what AT devices and services a source will pay for and/or provide, and who is most likely to be eligible for that assistance. The types of assistive technology are divided into the following categories of devices and services as listed below. Refer to the descriptions of these categories when determining what type of AT devices and services applies to your situation.

Assistive Technology Devices

Vision

Includes items such as magnifiers, Braille, speech output devices, and digital talking book readers.

Hearing

Includes items such as hearing aids, amplified phones and CapTel's, and visual alerting systems.

Speech Communication

Products designed to assist with speaking and face-to-face communication.

Learning, Cognition and Developmental

Items that provide access to educational and instructional materials for school or other environments; products that assist with learning and cognition.

Mobility, Seating and Positioning

Products designed to augment or replace the functional limitations of an individual's mobility.

Daily Living

Enhance the capacity to live independently and assist with instrumental activities of daily living, such as dressing, personal hygiene, bathing, home maintenance, cooking, eating, shopping and managing money.

Environmental Adaptations

Environmental and structural adaptations to the built environment that remove or reduce barriers and promote access to and within the built home, employment and community facilities.

Vehicle Modifications

Adaptive driving aids, hand controls, wheelchairs and other lifts, modified vans or other motor vehicles used for personal transportation.

Computers and related

Hardware and software products that enable people with disabilities to access, interact with, and use computers at home, work, or school.

Recreation, Sports and Leisure Equipment

Products that help participation in sport, health, physical education, recreation, leisure, and dance events.

Assistive Technology Services

Evaluation/Assessment

Answers the question "Which technologies and strategies can I use to improve my functioning during a specific activity?" A formal assistive technology assessment is provided by someone who is recognized as a provider of assistive technology services by public and private funding agencies.

Purchasing/Acquisition

Purchasing, leasing, or otherwise providing for the acquisition of assistive technology devices.

Selection/Design

Selecting, designing, fitting, customizing, adapting, applying, maintaining, repairing, or replacing of assistive technology devices.

Coordination

Coordinating and using other therapies, interventions, or services with assistive technology devices, such as those associated with existing education and rehabilitation plans and programs.

Training/Technical Assistance

Training or technical assistance can be provided to individuals, professionals, employers, or other persons who provide services to, employ, or are otherwise substantially involved in the major life functions of individuals with disabilities.

Information/Assistance

Those activities in which the AT program or other agency responds to requests for information and/or puts individuals in contact with other agencies, organizations, or companies that can provide them with needed information on AT products, devices, services, funding sources, or other related disability topics, or provided intensive assistance to individuals on AT products, devices, services, funding sources, or other related disability topics.

Device Demonstration/Loan

Demonstration of a variety of AT devices and/or services by personnel who are familiar with such devices and services and their applications, allowing individuals to make an informed choice. Providing short term loans of AT devices to individuals, employers, public agencies or others seeking to meet the needs of targeted individuals and entities, including others seeking to comply with IDEA, ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Kentucky Assistive Technology Service (KATS) Network

What is the KATS Network?

The KATS Network is one of 56 statewide assistive technology programs federally funded through the Rehabilitation Services Administration, U.S. Department of Education under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended in 2004.

The KATS Network's mission is to make assistive technology (AT) information, devices and services easily obtainable for people of any age and/or disability. AT is any item or piece of equipment (both low-tech and high-tech) used to improve and/or maintain independence in the home, at work, school or play.

The KATS Network provides access to AT through a network of five (5) Regional AT Resource Centers (ATRCs) across the state. The Regional ATRCs operate AT demonstration programs, lending libraries and AT reutilization programs. The KATS Network Coordinating Center and each of the ATRCs work cooperatively to provide outreach, information & referral services, and training on various AT topics. Technical Assistance and collaboration is also provided to state agencies and organizations to enhance the understanding of and access to AT and accessible information technology (IT).

With occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech language pathologists and assistive technology professionals on staff, all highly trained and experienced in AT and with up-to-date AT Labs, the services of the ATRCs include, but are not limited to: Assistive Technology Services for Early Intervention, K-12 and Post-secondary school, Employment, Transition, Independent Living, leisure or recreation; Loan Library of Assistive Devices, adaptive equipment and toys; Demonstrations of assistive technology devices; Funding information, Assistance and Referral; Assessments and Evaluations for AT; Vocational assessments; Consultations on appropriate technologies; Workplace AT; Environmental Controls; Recycled Computers and Assistive Technology Devices; Training and Technical Assistance on and about AT.

Regional Assistive Technology Resource Centers

Bluegrass Technology Center

817 Winchester Road, Suite 200
Lexington, KY 40505
(800) 209-7767
bluegrass-tech.org

Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center

5659 Main Street
Thelma, KY 41260
(606) 788-7080
cdpvtc.ky.gov

enTECH at Spalding University

812 S. Second St.
Louisville, KY 40203
(800) 896-8941
spalding.edu/academics/entech

Redwood Assistive Technology Center

71 Orphanage Road
Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017
(800) 728-9807
redwoodnky.org

Western Kentucky Assistive Technology Center

815 Triplett Street
Owensboro, KY 42302
(800) 209-6202
wkatc.org

Developing a Successful Funding Strategy for Acquiring Assistive Technology

The process of finding funding can be a challenging but necessary experience. As in all experiences no two will be alike, some will be quick and easy, while others may be confusing and frustrating. The process of finding funding for assistive technology will be easier if you are resourceful, flexible, persistent and informed. The following steps describe the process and gives helpful hints.

Step 1: Define the need

Start by being prepared, know what you need and why you need it.

Step 2: Document the need

Prove you need the assistive technology by collecting information from professionals (i.e., speech therapists, physical therapists, rehabilitation engineers, etc.) that document your need. The documentation may include input from a combination of professionals, some or all of who may be willing to provide assistance throughout the request process.

Step 3: Identify the device or service needed

Match your need with a specific device and/or service. Obtain written prescriptions or recommendations from professionals to substantiate the specific request. Find out prices of the device and service, and whom can best provide it. As you look at prices and options be aware of alternative devices and services that you could use. Knowing alternatives can give you options with funding source later. Remember, the right technology is crucial if it is to be used successfully after it is acquired.

Remember that the KATS Network's four Regional AT Centers provide Device Demonstrations and Short Term Loans of AT devices that can help in this process. You can view a listing of available equipment on the KY AT Locator website at: katsnet.at4all.com

Step 4: Determine if no or low cost alternatives are available

Before applying for funding, investigate alternatives and options, For example would an adaptation suffice or could the device be borrowed from a loan closet or library?

Check to see if the same device or service is available at a lower cost. Also, determine if private insurance, Worker's Compensation or another type of insurance will cover the cost.

If there are no alternatives, have the facts well documented to show all options have been explored prior to applying for funding.

It may also be possible to acquire the items at little to no cost through an AT Reuse program, such as Project CARAT (Coordinating and Assisting with the Reuse of Assistive Technology). Items available through Project CARAT are also listed on the KY AT Locator website listed in Step 3.

Step 5: Identify appropriate funding source(s)

This guide will be a resource to you as you search for appropriate funding sources. Know if full or partial funding is needed and match your need to possible funding

Don't limit your options, keep a list of possible funding sources and decide where to start first. Get as much support and guidance as possible to ensure all funding options are identified.

Step 6: Submit a request to the funding source

Make contact with the funding source to determine what you need to do to submit a request. It is important to note there is no one specific method to assure success. Try to get as much information on the process and required paperwork before submitting the request.

It helps to find one person in the agency as a contact during the process. As you collect information and prepare the request, call your contact at the agency with questions and concerns. Making sure you understand now will save time and energy later. Keep a written record of all contacts with the agency.

Complete the application and send in all the needed information with the request, keeping copies of everything that is sent. Do not be surprised if a funding source asks for re-submission with additions and /or changes, particularly on a request for expensive items. Once the request is submitted and has

met all the required criteria, the only thing to do is wait.

If notification or approval or denial of a request is not received within the indicated time frame a courtesy contact to the funding source may be advantageous.

Step 7: Authorization is received

Your request for funding has been approved. Be sure to understand the exact amount of the authorization, along with the terms and processes for obtaining the requested device or service. Know if the funding source will purchase the device or provide the service directly or make arrangement with the vendor for the device or service.

If the full amount of funding is not approved, go to your list of other options to supplement the amount awarded. Other options to supplement the approved funding include the Virginia AT Loan Fund, personal or home equity loans or community philanthropic organizations.

Step 8: Appeal

If your request is denied make contact with the funding source and be sure why it was denied. If the denial was due to a lack of information or a misunderstanding, appeal the decision. Get information on the appeal process, also determine legal options and processes and know when they may be appropriate to use.

Step 9: Go to your next funding option

Don't give up. If you agree with the denial of your request go back to Step 4 and continue with the next funding source on your list. The search for funding is not often quick or easy. Investigate and exhaust all possible options for funding.

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Public Sources of Funding

In This Section:

Public Sources of Funding	Disability	Ages Served
Acquired Brain Injury Waiver	Brain Injury	18 and up
Acquired Brain Injury Long Term Care	Brain Injury	18 and up
Blind Work Expenses	Vision	Employed
Comm. for Children with Special Health Care Needs	General	Under 21
Durable Medical Equipment	General	No limits
Early & Periodic Screening, Diagnosis & Treatment	General	Birth to 21
First Steps - Kentucky's Early Intervention System	Dev. Delayed	Birth to 3
Hart-Supported Living	General	No limits
Home and Community Based Waiver	General	No limits
Homecare Program	General	60 and up
Impairment-Related Work Expenses	General	Employed
Kentucky Children's Health Insurance	General	Birth to 18
Kentucky Deaf-Blind Services	Deaf-Blind	16 and up
Kentucky Talking Book Library	Vision/Reading	No limits
Kentucky Transitions	General	No limits
Medicare	General	No limits
Michelle P. Waiver	General	No limits
Office for the Blind	Vision	16 and up
Office for the Blind – Independent Living	Vision	No limits
Office for Vocational Rehabilitation	General	16 and up
Plan for Achieving Self-Support	General	Employed
Project CARAT	General	No limits
Social Security Disability Insurance	General	No limits
Special Education Programs – LEA	General	In school K-12
Supplemental Security Income	General	No limits
Supports for Community Living Waiver	General	Adult Services
Telecommunication Access	Hearing	5 and up
Ticket to Work	General	16 and up
Traumatic Brain Injury Trust Fund	Brain Injury	No limits
TRICARE (Veterans Insurance)	General	Veteran
Veterans Benefits	General	Veteran
Veterans Affairs - Vocational Rehabilitation	General	Veteran

Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Waiver Program

Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department of Medicaid Services,
Acquired Brain Injury Branch

Overview

The ABI Medicaid Waiver Program is designed to provide intensive services and supports to adults with acquired brain injuries as they work to re-enter community life. Services can only be provided in community settings. It is expected that upon completing the program, people will be transitioned to other existing community resources.

Eligibility Requirements

To qualify for services, an individual must:

- Have an acquired brain injury;
- Be at least 18 years of age;
- Meet nursing facility level of care;
- Be expected to benefit from waiver services; and
- Be financially eligible for Medicaid services.

Services Covered

Fourteen services are funded, including: case management, personal care, companion services, respite care, environmental modifications, behavior programming, counseling and training, structured day program, specialized medical equipment and supplies, pre-vocational services, supported employment, occupational therapy, speech and language services, and community residential services (excluding room and board).

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Vision/Hearing Equipment
- Speech Communication
- Learning, Cognition and Development
- Mobility, Seating and Positioning
- Daily Living
- Environmental Adaptations
- Vehicle Modifications
- Computers and Related
- Recreation, Sports and Leisure

Application Process

Note: There is a general and an emergency waiting list for this waiver.

Application information is available online or by phone. From the website chfs.ky.gov/dms click on Program and Services.

Contact Information

Acquired Brain Injury Branch

Phone: (866) 878-2626 or (502) 564-5198

Website: chfs.ky.gov/dms

Additional information

These services shall not be provided to individuals while they are inpatients of hospitals, nursing facilities or an intermediate care facility for persons with developmental and intellectual disabilities. The website for the Brain Injury Association of Kentucky is biak.us

Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) - Long Term Care Waiver

Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department of Medicaid Services

Acquired Brain Injury Branch

Overview

The Acquired Brain Injury Long Term Care Waiver program provides an alternative to institutional care for individuals that have reached a plateau in their rehabilitation level and require maintenance services to avoid institutionalization and to live safely in the community.

Eligibility Requirements

Persons who:

- Are at least 18 years of age
- Meet nursing facility level of care
- Have a primary diagnosis of an acquired brain injury which necessitates supervision, rehabilitative services and long term supports
- Are Medicaid eligible

Services Covered

Case Management, Community Living Supports, Respite Care, Adult Day Health Care, Adult Day Training, Environmental Modifications, Behavior Programming, Counseling, Group Counseling, Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies, Supported Employment, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Nursing Supports, Family Training, Physical Therapy, Assessment and Reassessment, Supervised Residential Care

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Vision/Hearing Equipment
- Speech Communication
- Learning, Cognition and Development
- Mobility, Seating and Positioning
- Daily Living
- Environmental Adaptations
- Vehicle Modifications

Application Process

Note: There is a general and an emergency waiting list for this waiver.

Application information is available online or by phone. From the website chfs.ky.gov/dms; click on Programs and Services.

Contact Information

Acquired Brain Injury Branch

Phone: (866) 878-2626 or (502) 564-5198

Website: chfs.ky.gov/dms

Additional Information

The website for the Brain Injury Association of Kentucky is: biak.us

Blind Work Expense (BWE)

Social Security Administration

Overview

Blind Work Expense (BWE) is a work incentive for individuals receiving SSI who have a primary diagnosis of blindness and who earn income. The Social Security Administration (SSA) will not count any earned income that you use for expenses to work when they decide your SSI eligibility and payment amount. These work-related expenses do not have to be related to your blindness, but they must be reasonable work-related expenses that you incur. The amount of these expenses must also be below the total countable income formula used by Social Security in determining your SSI payment each month.

Some examples of Blind Work expenses may include: Dog guide expenses, Transportation to and from work, Dues or fees (such as licenses, union dues, etc.), Vehicle modifications, Work-related training, Federal, state, and local income taxes, Social Security taxes, Visual and Sensory aids, Translation of materials into Braille, Medical equipment or supplies that help you work, Attendant Care Services, Meals consumed during work hours and Therapy.

Eligibility Requirements

To qualify for a BWE the individual must be under age 65, or age 65 or older and receive SSI payments due to blindness before reaching age 65.

AT Services Provided/Covered

No AT services are provided/covered

AT Devices Covered

- Vision/Hearing Equipment
- Speech Communication
- Learning, Cognition and Developmental
- Mobility, Seating and Positioning
- Daily Living
- Environmental Adaptations
- Vehicle Modifications

Application Process

The Center for Accessible Living, as well as Independence Place have staff who are WIPA certified (Work incentive planning and assistance). They can assist you with IRWE, PASS and blind work expenses.

Contact Information

Center for Accessible Living

Phone: (888) 813-8497 (Louisville) (888) 813-8652 (TTY)

Phone: (888) 261-6194 (Murray)

Independence Place

Phone: (877) 266-2807 (Lexington) (800) 648-6056 (TTY)

Additional Information

When SSA calculates your new SSI payment, they will apply income exclusions, including a \$20 General Income Exclusion and a \$65 Earned Income Exclusion. After applying these exclusions, they will count half of your remaining earned income in calculating your SSI payment.

If your disability on record with SSA is blindness, they will also exclude any expenses that meet the criteria for Blind Work Expense in calculating your SSI payment. You must track and report these expenses to SSA when you report your earnings each month.

Commission for Children with Special Healthcare Needs

Cabinet for Health & Family Services

Overview

The Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs (CCSHCN) provides diagnosis, medical/rehabilitative care, and care coordination for certain physical conditions that are amenable to treatment and may be congenital or acquired. Acquired conditions may result from nutritional, inflammatory, infectious, or traumatic causes. The Commission contracts for physician services throughout the state so that children may be provided care as close to their home community as possible. There are 12 regional offices with clinics held in numerous sites. In some cases, patients may be seen at the physician's office. A Commission physician must prescribe all services including assistive technology.

Eligibility Requirements

- Be resident of Kentucky;
- Be younger than 21 years old;
- Have a condition that usually responds to medical treatment that is provided within our program;
- Meet financial guidelines.

AT Services Provided/Covered

- Evaluation/Assessment
- Purchasing/Acquisition
- Selection/Design
- Coordination
- Training/Technical Assistance

AT Devices Provided/Covered

Wheelchairs, Hearing aids, and other devices can be paid for if they are part of the treatment plan.

Application Process

Call the regional CCSHCN office serving your county. Additional information including the regional office that serves your county is available on line or by phone.

Contact Information

Phone: (800) 232-1160

Website: chfs.ky.gov/ccshcn

Additional Information

Any assistive technology to be purchased by the Commission must be part of an array of services prescribed by a staff physician. The staff physician, not the family, must make the final determination.

Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Program

Department for Medicaid Services, Policy and Operations Branch

Overview

Many types of assistive technology can be purchased as Durable Medical Equipment (DME) under this program. Durable Medical Equipment is defined as equipment that withstands repeated use and is used primarily to serve a definite medical purpose. It is not generally useful to a person in the absence of an illness or injury. Medicaid covers DME such as wheelchairs, hospital beds, orthodontic appliances (braces), prosthetic devices (artificial limbs) etc., and disposable medical equipment ordered by an accepted prescriber that is medically necessary and suitable for use in the home. Some items require prior authorization by the supplier. In recent years, augmentative communication devices have been added to the list of DME covered by Medicaid.

Eligibility Requirements

Individuals or families with dependent children may be eligible for Medicaid if they meet the following requirements:

- A pregnant woman;
- A dependent child under age 19. (The child does not have to live with a parent or close relative in order to receive Medicaid);
- Parent(s) (one or both) of the dependent child if one parent has left the home, cannot work due to sickness or disability, or has died;
- Parents (both) living with the dependent child, if the parent who earned the most income in the last 24 months is unemployed.

AT Services Provided/Covered

- Evaluation/Assessment

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Daily Living;
- Speech Communication;
- Mobility, Seating and Positioning;
- Vision/Hearing Equipment

Note: Not all devices are allowable for purchasing under Medicaid. There must be a medical need for a piece of assistive equipment and this need must be clearly demonstrated. Equipment must be prior authorized by the Department for Medicaid Services to determine medical necessity.

Application Process

An application for Medicaid may be filed at your local Department for Community Based Services Office. At the time of application, an individual or family will have to provide several documents such as SS number, ID, proof of income etc. For additional information contact Medicaid by phone or visit their website.

Contact Information

Department for Medicaid Services Policy and Operations Branch

Phone: (502) 564-6890

Website: chfs.ky.gov/dms/dme

Additional Information

Medicaid payment is payment in full. Providers may not bill both the individual and Medicaid. Medicaid is the payer of last resort on equipment purchases.

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) Program

Department of Medicaid Services, Division of Program Quality & Outcomes

Overview

This program is for children from birth to age 21 who are eligible for Medicaid. Under the EPSDT program, children are checked for medical problems early. Specific tests and treatments are recommended as children grow older. The areas of health care that are checked include: preventive check-ups; growth and development assessments; vision; hearing; teeth; immunizations; and laboratory tests.

In Kentucky, EPSDT is divided into two separate components: EPSDT Screenings and EPSDT Special Services. The EPSDT Screening Program provides routine physicals or well-child check ups for Medicaid eligible children at certain specified ages. It is considered preventive care. The EPSDT Special Services Program allows coverage for items or services which are medically necessary and which are not covered somewhere else in Medicaid. It is considered treatment. If treatment is needed, this program provides Medicaid coverage for medically necessary special services, but may not otherwise be covered under the Kentucky Medicaid Program. Services may be preventive, diagnostic or treatment, or rehabilitative. All EPSDT special services require prior authorization.

Eligibility Requirements

Must be eligible for Medicaid; Resident of Kentucky; Birth to 21 years of age

AT Services Provided/Covered

- Evaluation/Assessment
- Purchasing/Acquisition
- Selection/Design
- Training/Technical Assistance

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Daily Living
- Speech Communication
- Mobility, Seating and Positioning
- Vision/Hearing Equipment

Note: Not all devices are allowable for purchasing under Medicaid. There must be a medical need for a piece of assistive equipment and this need must be clearly demonstrated. Equipment must be prior authorized by the Department for Medicaid Services to determine medical necessity.

Application Process

EPSDT is part of the Medicaid program. You must have a Medicaid card to be eligible to obtain EPSDT Services. An individual can apply for Medicaid through the local office of the Department for Community Based Services. Additional information on EPSDT is available online or by phone.

Contact Information

Department of Medicaid Services

Division of Program Quality and Outcomes

Phone: (502) 564-9444

Website: chfs.ky.gov/dms/epsdt

Additional Information

Medicaid payment is payment in full. Providers may not bill both the individual and Medicaid.

First Steps

Kentucky Early Intervention System, Cabinet for Health & Family Services

Overview

First Steps is a statewide early intervention system which provides services to children from birth to age three with developmental disabilities and their families. First Steps is Kentucky's response to the federal initiative called the Infant-Toddler Program (ITP). First Steps offers comprehensive services through coordination with a variety of community agencies and service disciplines. First Steps is administered by the Department for Public Health within the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. First Steps provides services in all Kentucky counties. Services may be provided in home, in center-based programs, or in clinical settings depending upon the needs of the child and family and the availability of services in a given area.

Eligibility Requirements

Services are available to any child and family who meet developmental eligibility criteria, regardless of income. Children are determined eligible for services in two ways:

- By developmental delay - Evaluation shows that the child is not developing typically in one of five skill areas: cognition, communication, physical, social and emotional, or self-help.
- Automatic entry by diagnosis of a physical or mental condition which has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay, such as Down Syndrome.

AT Services Provided/Covered

Services include: Evaluation/Assessment; Service Coordination; Transportation; Assistive Technology and other services that help diminish the effects of developmental delays. Services are based on the child's needs and will be identified by the child's Individualized Family Services Plan.

Application Process

Application information is available on line or by phone.

Contact Information

Phone: (877) 417-8377

Website: <http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/firstSteps>

Additional Information

Families are expected to pay a monthly participation fee (Family Share) that is determined by a sliding fee scale based on the family's size and earned income. Families of children who qualify for Medicaid or KCHIP are exempt from paying the Family Share.

Hart-Supported Living Program

Cabinet for Health and Family Services Department of Aging and Independent Living Services

Overview

Kentucky Supported Living was started in 1992 when the Kentucky Supported Living Statute was passed. The statute was amended in 2006 and the program is now called Hart-Supported Living. The Hart-Supported Living program is for Kentuckians with disabilities to request grants for supports so they can live in, contribute to and participate in their communities. The program is administered through the Department of Aging and Independent Living Services, but it is a program for people with all disabilities. You (and your family, friends, and the people who support you) should consider applying for Hart-Supported Living grant if: You want to live in a home of your choice that is typical of the homes where people without disabilities live; You want to participate in your community with all members of the community; You want to decide for yourself what supports and services you need to live in the community; and/or You want to arrange for and manage your own supports.

Eligibility Requirements

Any Kentuckian with a disability recognized under the Americans with Disabilities Act

AT Services Provided/Covered

- Evaluation/Assessment
- Purchasing/Acquisition
- Selection/Design
- Coordination
- Training/ Technical Assistance

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Vision/Hearing Equipment
- Speech Communication
- Learning, Cognition and Developmental
- Mobility, Seating and Positioning
- Daily Living
- Environmental Adaptations
- Vehicle Modifications
- Computers and Related
- Recreation, Sports and Leisure Equipment

Application Process

A copy of the application MUST be received in the office of the Regional Hart-Supported Living Coordinator by the end of business on April 1st. The application is for funding that may be available at the start of the next fiscal year, which begins on July 1st. This is a firm deadline. An application received after April 1 will not be considered for the upcoming fiscal year. Application information as well as contact information for your Regional Hart-Supported Living Coordinator is available on line or by phone.

Contact Information

Hart-Supported Living Program
Phone: (502) 564-6930 (V/TTY)
Website: chfs.ky.gov/dail

Additional Information

The program is designed to be as flexible as possible. Anything a person needs to stay in the community can be provided as long as it cannot be received from another source. As a result, the scope of technology that is potentially available is very great. Because of its flexibility, there are no established financial limits for particular services. The program can serve all severe disabilities. All services must be designed to maintain community placement. This may limit items of a strictly educational or vocational nature. A limited amount of funds is available. Individuals are selected for services based on priorities established by the Supported Living Council.

Home and Community Based (HCB) Waiver Program

Department of Medicaid Services Division of Community Alternative

Overview

The Home and Community Based (HCB) Waiver program provides Medicaid coverage to individuals who are aged, or disabled, and who may, without these services, be admitted to a nursing facility. These individuals must meet nursing facility level of care to be eligible to participate in the HCB Waiver program.

The services offered under the HCB Waiver program are provided by Home Health agencies enrolled in the Medicaid program as HCB Waiver providers. These services are available statewide for individuals who are eligible to receive HCB Waiver services. There is a provision for Medicaid eligibility to be determined under a special income level for individuals who otherwise meet all requirements for receiving HCB Waiver services.

Eligibility Requirements

To apply for services the individual must:

- Obtain a physician's order for services
- Meet the level of care for nursing facility services as determined by the Professional Review Organization (PRO)
- Choose to be at home and receive HCB services
- Obtain a written certification by a physician that if HCB services were not available, nursing facility services would be ordered, and the individual may be admitted to a nursing facility in the immediate future

AT Services Provided/Covered

- Evaluation/Assessment;
- Purchasing/Acquisition;
- Selection/Design

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Other: Home/Worksite Modifications

Application Process

An initial contact to determine if the recipient meets the guidelines for the program should be made with the Home Health Agency providing the HCB service. If approved, an application for Medicaid would be made with the Department for Community Based Services in the County the recipient resides. Please contact either the local Department for Community Based Services in your county or any Home Health Agency for more information. For additional information contact Medicaid by phone or visit their website,

Note: Not all home health agencies participate in this program. Your physician's should be able to refer you to one that does.

Contact Information

Department of Medicaid Services, Division of Community Alternative

Phone: (502) 564-5560

Website: chfs.ky.gov/dms (click Programs and Services)

Additional Information

HCB has a consumer directed option. The Consumer Directed Option (CDO) is an alternative approach for delivery of non-medical, non-residential HCB services. For more information on this option contact Medicaid by phone or visit their website.

Homecare Program

Department for Aging & Independent Living

Overview

The Homecare Program helps adults who are unable to perform some activities of daily living and are at risk of institutional care to remain in their own homes by providing support services and coordinating the help of family, friends and provider agencies. Assessment and case management, home management and personal care, home delivered meals, chore services, home repair, respite for family caregivers and home health aide service are among the assistance provided.

Eligibility Requirements

Participants must be 60 years old or older and

- Unable to perform two activities of daily living or three instrumental activities of daily living
- Be at risk of going to an institution or
- Be in an institution but able to return to a private home environment if needed services were provided

AT Services Provided/Covered

- Evaluation/Assessment
- Purchasing/Acquisition
- Selection/Design
- Coordination
- Training/ Technical Assistance

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Other: Home/Worksite Modifications

Application Process

The program is offered statewide through the Area agencies on aging and independent living. Some areas may have waiting lists and not all services are provided in all areas. Application information is available online or by phone.

Contact Information

Phone: (502) 564-6930 (V/TTY) or (888) 642-1137 (TTY)

Website: chfs.ky.gov/dail

Additional Information

There are no income restrictions; a sliding fee scale is utilized. Only pays for a limited amount of home modification, and it is up to each individual ADD district to determine the amount to be spent on the home modifications if any.

Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWE)

Social Security Administration

Overview

If you need to pay for certain items or services in order to be able to work, you may be able to use the Social Security Employment Support called an Impairment-Related Work Expense (IRWE). The expense must, as its name implies, be related to your impairment and be needed in order to work. It cannot be an expense that any similar worker without a disability would also have (such as purchase of a uniform, or bus fares if the bus is not specifically used for transporting you because of your disability).

If your SSA Claims Representative agrees that your claimed work expenses can be included in an IRWE, you may recover up to 50% of those expenses by having your SSI check increased up to its maximum amount. The IRWE does not provide cash payments. For an SSDI recipient, it simply allows the individual to earn more than the SGA amount without losing the cash benefit.

Eligibility Requirements

Persons must have a disability, Meet all the eligibility requirements for SSI or SSDI with the exception of income and/or resources, If SSI is not received because of excess income or resources, deducting impairment-related work expenses may help an individual to qualify for SSI.

IRWE are deductible for SGA and SSI payment purposes when:

- The expenses are directly related to enabling an individual to work;
- A person needs the item or services in order to work due to a severe physical or mental impairment;
- The cost is paid by the person with a disability and is not reimbursable by another source.

Services Provided/Covered

No AT services are provided or covered

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Daily Living
- Vision/Hearing Equipment
- Speech Communication
- Computer and related
- Learning, Cognition and Developmental
- Environmental Adaptations
- Mobility, Seating and Positioning
- Vehicle Modifications
- Other Home/Worksite Modifications

Application Process

The Center for Accessible Living, as well as Independence Place have staff who are WIPA certified (Work Incentive Planning and Assistance). They can assist you with IRWE, PASS and blind work expenses.

Contact Information

Center for Accessible Living

Phone: (888) 813-8497 (Louisville) or (888) 813-8652 (TTY)

Phone: (888) 261-6194 (Murray)

Independence Place

Phone: (877) 266-2807 (Lexington) or (800) 648-6056 (TTY)

Additional Information

The IRWE is best suited for on-going expenses such as (out of pocket prescriptions drug cost) a lease or monthly payment rather than for large one-time expenses. Many vendors require the full payment at the time of purchase, but it may also be possible to prorate a one-time expense over a twelve month period maximum.

Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program (KCHIP)

Department for Medicaid Services

Overview

The Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program (KCHIP) provides health coverage at little or no cost to uninsured children who qualify. Kentucky implemented the KCHIP program, which provides free or low cost health care in 1998. Children who are enrolled in KCHIP Phase II, receive the same comprehensive benefits as traditional Medicaid. These benefits include: office visits, dental care, immunizations, mental health, pharmacy, vision care, hospital care, behavioral health, Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) (Well Child and Special Services),** hearing care, family planning services pharmacy lab testing and X-rays, Home Health Care Therapies (Physical, Speech and Occupational- in Limited Settings), Durable Medical Equipment, transportation (emergency and non-emergency)** renal dialysis, hospice care, nursing home care, early intervention for infants and toddlers with disabilities, and services provided by school districts for children with disabilities. Some additional specialized services for people with disabilities are also included.

Eligibility Requirements

- Based on age and family income
- Children from birth through age 18 (until their 19th birthday) from low-income families
- A family's income can be up to and including 200% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

AT Services Provided/Covered

- Evaluation/Assessment
- Purchasing/Acquisition
- Training/Technical Assistance

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Daily Living
- Speech Communication
- Mobility, Seating and Positioning
- Vision/ Hearing equipment

Application Process

Applications may be completed at your local Department for Community Based Services office. Application information is also available on line or by phone.

Contact Information

KCHIP

Phone: (877) 524-4718

Website: kidshealth.ky.gov

Dept Community Based Services

Phone: (855) 306-8959

Additional Information

Expands health insurance to families who are above income guidelines for general Medicaid.

Kentucky Deaf-Blind Services

Office for the Blind and Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Overview

Deaf-Blind people may need many different services. Several people may need to work together to provide all those services. Either a Rehabilitation Counselor may provide services for the Deaf (RCD) or a Communication Specialist. If the person is Deaf and uses ASL, they will work with a RCD. If the person is hard of hearing or late deafened, a Communication Specialist can best serve him/her. A Rehabilitation Counselor for the Blind may also work with a person who is deaf-blind. The person may need to work with both a RCD and Counselor for the Blind to get the best services.

Counselors for the Deaf, Communication Specialists, and Counselors for the Blind are all trained to work with people who have both hearing and vision loss. Some people who work at the Charles W. McDowell and Carl D. Perkins Rehabilitation Centers are also trained to work with people who are deaf-blind. OVR Staff interpreters are trained to communicate with people who are deaf-blind and can help when needed.

There are three Deaf-Blind Specialists who help counselors serve someone who is deaf-blind. One works with the Office for the Blind and the other two work with the Office for Vocational Rehabilitation. They work with counselors of both agencies in different parts of the state. They provide information, technical help, and coordinate services for people who are deaf-blind. They also train people who work with other agencies, places, or programs to help people who are deaf-blind. They help family members and consumers too. Through the efforts of OFB and OVR staff working with the consumer, many deaf-blind people are working successfully.

A person who is deaf-blind can receive the following services to help him/her get and keep a job:

- Testing to decide what technology can help both hearing and vision
- Training to learn to use assistive technology
- Guidance & counseling from a rehabilitation counselor trained in hearing and vision loss
- Finding out what can help a person at the job site
- Training to improve communication and deal with problems
- Help to get services from other agencies
- Help to decide what the person's abilities & interests are
- Support services (interpreters, note takers, etc.)

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Vision/Hearing Equipment
- Mobility
- Seating and Positioning
- Daily Living
- Computer and related equipment (This can include hearing aids)

Contact Information

Dorothy Brame, Deaf-Blind Services Coordinator

Phone: (800) 222-1215 or (270) 495-3132 (VP)

Email: Dorothy.Brame@ky.gov

Sherry West, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Phone: (270) 282-2153 (VP/VRS) or (270) 495-3521 P3-VP

Email: SherryA.West@ky.gov

Kentucky Talking Book Library

Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

Overview

The Kentucky Talking Book Library (KTBL) provides free library service to Kentuckians with a visual or physical disability which prevents them from reading standard print. KTBL has a wide variety of Braille and digital audio books available for all ages, both fiction and non-fiction. Books may be sent through the US mail or downloaded from the Internet. The Kentucky Talking Book Library is part of a nationwide network of cooperative libraries headed by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

Eligibility Requirements

Difficulty reading standard print material due to blindness or low vision; Inability to hold a book and turn the pages; The condition may be temporary or permanent; Dyslexia or other reading disabilities may qualify an individual for service as long as the condition is the result of an organic dysfunction and is severe enough to prevent reading conventional printed material. A medical doctor must sign the application to certify these patrons as eligible.

AT Services Provided/Covered

- Audio books on digital cartridge—30-day loan
- Braille books and print/Braille books—30-day loan
- Downloadable audio and Braille books and magazines from BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download)—no due date
- Audio magazine subscriptions on digital cartridges—each issue must be returned to receive future issues
- Braille magazine subscriptions—no due date
- Kentucky-related audio books—30-day loan
- NLS Music Service—Braille, large print, & audio music instruction and music scores

Devices Provided/Covered

Standard or Advanced NLS Digital Talking Book player is provided on loan to active users.

Application Process

To obtain an application, call (800) 372-2968 or download one from:

<http://kdla.ky.gov/librarians/talkingbook/Pages/applyforreetalkingbookservice.aspx>

All applications must be certified by competent authority to verify the applicant is eligible for service. Applications may be mailed, faxed, or emailed to KTBL.

Contact Information

Kentucky Talking Book Library

Phone: (800) 372-2968 or (502) 564-8300 x276

Fax: (502) 564-5773

Website: <http://kdla.ky.gov/librarians/talkingbook/Pages/default.aspx>

Email: KTBL.Mail@ky.gov

Additional Information

NLS digital talking books will play on some 3rd party commercial playback devices designed for those with visual disabilities. (These players are not provided.)

Kentucky Transitions - Money Follows the Person Grants

Overview

Kentucky Transitions is a program developed by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) through a grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The goal of Kentucky Transitions is to provide transition assistance and community supports to any resident of a nursing facility or ICF/MR who chooses to move back to the community.

Eligibility Requirements

Kentucky Transitions is designed to create transition opportunities for three identified population groups who have resided in an institution for 90 consecutive days: the elderly and physically disabled; individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and individuals with acquired brain injuries. Once the individual and/or their legal guardian indicate an interest in the program, the individual must meet the following criteria: Must be in an institution for 90 consecutive days; Must meet existing Medicaid eligibility requirements; Must be receiving services paid by Medicaid for at least the day prior to being transferred to the program.

AT Services Provided/Covered

For the first 365 days after transition, you will receive services through one of the existing waiver programs as well as services that are in additions to and expansions of existing waiver services. On day 366, your services will be provided through one of the appropriate existing waivers: Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Waiver; Home and Community Based Waiver (HCBW); Supports for Community Living Waiver Services

HCBS Demonstration Services – These services are additions to and expansions of existing waiver services and are provided only during the transition period (365 days after transition). These services may include: Independent Assessment/Reassessment; Independent Case Management; Community Provider Supports; Increased access to homemaking, personal care, attendant care, respite, companion care; Adult Day Medical and Social; Community Living Supports; Therapies – Occupational, Speech and Physical; Specialized Consultative Crisis Service; Transportation; Alternative Residential Options; Family Home Provider; Adult Foster Care; Nursing Supports; Assistive Technology; Personal Emergency Response System

MFP Supplemental Services – These are one-time services to assist in your transition to the community: Housing Modifications (up to \$15,000 or 10% of the value of the property) any combination of the following services up to \$2000: Housing Deposits; Utility Deposits; Pest Eradication

Application Process

The Regional Transition Coordinator will work with you throughout the process. The coordinator is a registered nurse, a social worker, or an ICF/MR Specialist and will:

- Provide one-on-one training about Kentucky Transitions to you, your legally appointed guardian (if applicable), family members and other interested parties
- Obtain an informed consent and conducts a screening for eligibility to transition
- Complete an assessment of your clinical and social needs
- Work with you, your legally appointed guardian (if applicable), family members and other interested parties in developing and implementing your transition

Call the Kentucky Transition Branch to have a referral form mailed to you or the information can be taken over the phone. Additional information is also available on line.

Contact Information

KY Department for Medicaid Services

Division of Community Alternatives, KY Transitions Branch

Phone: (877) 564-0330 or (502) 564-0330

Website: chfs.ky.gov/dms (click on Programs and Services)

Medicare

Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services
US Department of Health & Human Services

Overview

Medicare covers certain medical services and items in hospitals and other settings. Some are covered under Medicare Part A, and some are covered under Medicare Part B. As long as you have both Part A and Part B, these services and items are covered whether you have the Original Medicare Plan, or you belong to a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO).

Part A helps cover your inpatient care in hospitals. This includes critical access hospitals and skilled nursing facilities (not custodial or long-term care). It also helps cover hospice care and home health care. You must meet certain conditions to get these benefits.

Part B helps cover medical services like doctors' services, outpatient care, and other medical services that Part A doesn't cover. Part B is optional. Part B helps pay for covered medical services and items when they are medically necessary. Part B also covers some preventive services.

The Original Medicare Plan is one of your health coverage choices as part of the Medicare Program. You will be in the Original Medicare Plan unless you choose to join a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO). Most people get their coverage through the Original Medicare Plan.

Medicare Advantage Plans are health plan options that are approved by Medicare and run by private companies. They are part of the Medicare Program, and sometimes called "Part C." When you join a Medicare Advantage Plan, you are still in Medicare. Some of these plans require referrals to see specialists. In many cases, the premiums or the costs of services (co-pays) can be lower in a Medicare Advantage Plan than they are in the Original Medicare Plan or the Original Medicare Plan with a Medigap policy.

Medicare Advantage Plans provide all of your Part A (hospital) and Part B (medical) coverage and must cover medically-necessary services. They generally offer extra benefits, and many include Part D drug coverage. These plans often have networks, which mean you may have to see doctors who belong to the plan or go to certain hospitals to get covered services. In many cases, your costs for services can be lower than in the Original Medicare Plan.

Medicare offers prescription drug coverage for everyone with Medicare. This is called "Part D."

Eligibility Requirements

People age 65 or older; People under age 65 with certain disabilities; and People of all ages with End-Stage Renal Disease (permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant).

Services Provided/Covered

- Evaluation/Assessment
- Purchasing/Acquisition
- Selection/Design
- Training/Technical Assistance

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Daily Living
- Speech Communication
- Mobility, Seating and Positioning
- Vision/Hearing Equipment
- Other Home/Worksite Modifications

Application Process

Applications for a Medicare health insurance card are taken at your local office for the Social Security Administration. You can also apply on line, according to the Medicare website "It's convenient, quick and easy; Additional information is also available on line or by phone.

Contact Information

Phone: (800) 633-4227 (24 hr 7 day)

Website: medicare.gov

Michelle P. Waiver Program

Department of Medicaid Services, Division of Community Alternatives

Overview

The Michelle P. Waiver (MPW) is a home- and community-based waiver program within the Kentucky Medicaid program developed as an alternative to institutional care for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities. MPW allows individuals to remain in their homes with services and supports.

Eligibility Process

Persons with a developmental or intellectual disability who require a protected environment while learning living skills, educational experiences, awareness of their environment and meet Medicaid financial eligibility requirements.

Services Provided

- Case Management
- Adult Day Training
- Supported Employment
- Community Living Supports
- Behavior Supports
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Respite
- Homemaker Service
- Personal Care
- Attendant Care
- Environmental/Minor Home Adaptation
- Adult Day Health Care

Application Process

Contact your local Community Mental Health Center to schedule a Michelle P. Waiver assessment. Additional information including the location and phone number for your health center is available on line or by phone.

Contact information

Department of Medicaid Services

Division of Community Alternative

Phone: (502) 564-1647

Website: chfs.ky.gov/dms (click on Programs and Services)

Additional Information

MPW has a consumer directed option. The Consumer Directed Option (CDO) is an alternative approach for delivery of non-medical, non-residential MPW services. For more information on this option contact Medicaid by phone or visit their website.

Office for the Blind

Department for Workforce Investment
Education Cabinet

Overview

The Office for the Blind, (OFB) provides services to individuals with visual disabilities so they may improve their opportunities for employment and become more independent and productive in the community and workplace. It is a combination state/federal program. Vocational rehabilitation counselors in offices around the state determine eligibility, provide vocational guidance and counseling, and offer a variety of services such as job placement, assistive technology and the Bioptic Driving program in order to facilitate an individual in obtaining, regaining or maintaining employment.

Eligibility Requirements

- Be resident of Kentucky
- A person must have a visual disability
- Requires vocational rehabilitation services to prepare for, secure, retain or regain employment.

AT Services Provided/Covered

- Evaluation/Assessment
- Training/ Technical Assistance

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Vision/Hearing Equipment
- Mobility, Seating and Positioning
- Daily Living
- Computer and related

Application Process

Contact the counselor in the nearest regional OFB office to apply for services. At a minimum, information provided must include the results of a visual exam provided by an ophthalmologist or an optometrist. Previous medical information may be used to determine eligibility. The Office will pay for any recommended evaluation tests or medical exams as a payer of last resort. For information on the OFB office that serves your county, call the state office or visit their website.

Contact Information

The Office for the Blind

Phone: (800) 321-6668 or (502) 564-4754

Website: blind.ky.gov

Additional Information

If the Office lacks available funds for all eligible individuals who apply for services, then the Office may follow an order of selection in which service priority is given according to a ranking of categories of eligible individuals based on the severity of disability.

Office for the Blind – Independent Living Program

Department for Workforce Investment
Education Cabinet

Overview

The Independent Living Services of the Office for the Blind are those services that primarily assist an individual with a severe visual disability to live independently and function within the family or community. Services offered under the Office for the Blinds Independent Living Program include: Information; Outreach & Referral; Counseling; Community Integration; Use of low-tech adaptive devices in the home, assessment and training in communication skills and activities of daily living, and use of remaining vision. Unlike the regular program of the Office for the Blind, services provided by the Independent Living program are not specifically vocationally related. Instead, the services are intended to improve the ability of the individual to function independently in the community.

Eligibility Requirements

- Be resident of Kentucky
- A person must have a visual disability

AT Services Provided/Covered

- Training/Technical Assistance

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Daily Living

Application Process

Contact the Independent Living counselor at the nearest regional OFB office to apply for services.

For information on the OFB office that serves your county, call the state office or visit their website.

Contact Information

The Office for the Blind

Phone: (800) 321-6668 or (502) 564-4754

Website: blind.ky.gov

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Department for Workforce Investment
Education Cabinet

Overview

The Office for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) provides vocational rehabilitation services to eligible individuals with disabilities to assist with entry into employment and productivity in the workplace and community. Vocational rehabilitation counselors in offices around the state determine eligibility, provide vocational guidance and counseling, and offer a variety of services to prepare individuals for employment. Assistive technology can be included in these services.

Eligibility Requirements

- You must have a physical or mental impairment
- Your impairment must result in a substantial impediment to employment
- You must require vocational rehabilitation services.

If you meet the criteria above, you will be determined eligible unless there is clear and convincing evidence that you cannot benefit from vocational rehabilitation services. If you receive Social Security disability benefits, you are considered to be an individual with a significant disability and are presumed to be eligible for services.

AT Services Provided/Covered

- Evaluation/Assessment
- Purchasing/Acquisition
- Selection/Design
- Coordination
- Training/Technical Assistance

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Vision/Hearing Equipment
- Speech Communication
- Learning, Cognition and Developmental
- Mobility, Seating and Positioning
- Daily Living
- Environmental Adaptations
- Vehicle Modifications
- Computers and Related
- Recreation, Sports and Leisure Equipment

Application Process

Contact a counselor in the nearest VR office to apply for services. For information on the VR office that serves your county, call the state office or visit their website.

Contact Information

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Phone: (800) 372-7172 or (502) 564-4440

Website: ovr.ky.gov

Plan for Achieving Self-Support (PASS)

Social Security Administration

Overview

A Plan for Achieving Self-Support (PASS) lets you spend or save income (other than SSI income) and/or resources for employability investments and work expenses that SSA agrees will help you move toward a goal that will make you financially more self-supporting. (SSA calls such a goal an "occupational goal.")

Any income included in a PASS must come from earned or unearned income sources (including in-kind support and/or deemed income) other than SSI. The amount of income you may include in a PASS can not exceed your non-SSI income.

SSA must agree that your occupational goal is "feasible" for you, and that your plan to achieve that goal is "viable". In other words, you must have both a realistic goal and a good plan to achieve that goal.

Any assistive technology included in your plan must, in some way, enable the person to perform a job or to get to a job.

Eligibility Requirements

Persons must be blind or disabled, Persons must meet all the eligibility requirements for SSI with the exception of income and/or resources; The individual must have either: earnings, unearned income, or resources to set aside in a PASS; If SSI is not received because of excess income or resources, developing a PASS may help an individual to qualify for SSI.

AT Services Provided/Covered

No AT Services are provided or covered

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Daily Living
- Vision/Hearing Equipment
- Speech Communication
- Computer and related
- Learning, Cognition and Developmental
- Environmental Adaptations
- Mobility, Seating and Positioning
- Vehicle Modifications
- Other: Home/Worksite Modifications

Application Process

A PASS must contain the following to be approved by SSA:

The plan must have a designated and feasible work goal; The plan must be in writing; The plan must be designed for the individual's needs, goals, abilities, and circumstances; The plan must include a specific financial plan; The plan must include a specific and limited time frame for achieving work goals (no longer than 48 months).

The plan must describe how the funds to be set aside must be clearly identifiable and used specifically just for the PASS. (A separate savings account for the PASS is required.) Persons with disabilities have a fundamental role in developing their own plan. They can write their own plan or select persons to assist them such as parents, educators, vocational counselors, job coaches, social workers, or employers. The Social Security Administration MUST approve the PASS before it can go into effect.

The Center for Accessible Living, as well as Independence Place have staff who are WIPA certified (Work Incentive Planning and Assistance). They can assist you with IRWE, PASS and blind work expenses.

Contact Information

Center for Accessible Living

(888) 813-8497 (Louisville)

(888) 261-6194 (Murray)

(888) 813-8652 (TTY)

Independence Place

(877) 266-2807 (Lexington)

(800) 648-6056 (TTY)

Project CARAT

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Overview

Project CARAT enables underserved individuals with disabilities in the state of Kentucky by collecting, refurbishing and redistributing assistive technology (AT) and durable medical equipment (DME) through a collaborative network of partners. The goal of Project CARAT is to make Assistive Technology and Durable Medical Equipment more accessible to those who need it in Kentucky.

Eligibility Requirements

- Resident of Kentucky
- Have a disability that affects a major life activity, or
- A family member/caregiver of an individual with a disability.

AT Services Provided/Covered

- Assistive Technology Refurbishment and redistribution

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Vision/Hearing
- Speech Communication
- Learning, Cognition and Developmental
- Mobility, Seating and Positioning
- Daily Living
- Environmental Adaptations
- Vehicle Modifications
- Computers and Related
- Recreation, Sports and Leisure

Application Process

Contact the statewide coordinating center by calling (800) 327-5287 or visit the KY AT Locator website at katsnet.at4all.com to see a listing of all items currently available for redistribution.

CARAT Site Locations:

Project CARAT – Louisville

812 S. Second St.
Louisville, KY 40203
Phone: (502) 992-2448

Project CARAT - Thelma

5659 Main Street
Thelma, KY 41260
Phone: (606) 788-7080

Project CARAT - Hazard

Center for Excellence in Rural Health
750 Morton Road
Hazard, KY 41701
Phone: (606) 439-3557

Project CARAT - Paducah

911 Joe Clifton Dr.
Paducah, KY 42001
Phone: (270) 538-6844

Note: Items currently available for redistribution can be viewed online at: katsnet.at4all.com

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

Social Security Administration

Overview

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) is administered both nationally and locally by the Social Security Administration (SSA). SSDI is a social insurance program for individuals who are blind or disabled, who are unable to work as a direct result of the disability, and who have paid into the Social Security program for approximately one-half the number of years since age 21 and who are under 65 years of age. A wage earner and his or her dependents can receive benefits if the individual is determined to be disabled based on a specific list of criteria.

Eligibility Requirements

- The SSDI payment amount is based on a worker's lifetime average earnings covered by Social Security. The payment amount may be reduced by workers compensation payments and /or public disability benefits. It is not affected by other income or resources.
- Persons must have a severe mental or physical impairment (including blindness) that is verified by a physician based on lab tests, examinations, or other objective medical procedures.
- The disability must have lasted or is expected to last a minimum of twelve (12) consecutive months or result in death.
- The disability must prevent the person from doing his or her work or other gainful activity.
- The spouse and dependent children of fully insured workers, including adult children with disabilities whose disability began prior to age 22, also are eligible for benefits upon the retirement, disability or death of a primary beneficiary.

AT Services Provided/Covered

No AT services are provided or covered. However, after receiving disability benefits for two years, the individual will be automatically enrolled in and able to access AT services available through Medicare.

AT Devices Provided/Covered

No AT devices are provided or covered. However, after getting disability benefits for two years, the individual will be automatically enrolled in and able to access AT devices available through Medicare.

Application Process

Apply in person or by phone at your local Social Security office, or call (800) 772-1213 for an appointment with a Social Security representative who will help with the application. You can also apply online at ssa.gov/apply for disability. Social Security information/publications as well as address and phone number for your local SS office are also available on line or by phone.

Contact information

Phone: (800) 772-1213 or (800) 325-0778 (TDD)

Website: ssa.gov

Special Education Programs – Local Education Agency (LEA)

Kentucky Department of Education
Division of Learning Services

Overview

Since 1975, the federal government has mandated a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) for all children with disabilities, including those children whose disabilities are multiple and severe. Kentucky's public schools are responsible for ensuring that each student, regardless of disability, receives an appropriate educational program that meets his or her individual needs. The Division of Learning Services of the Kentucky Department of Education exists to help local school systems provide special education and related services so that all students with disabilities can develop into productive and successful citizens. Under federal special education law and state rules, students with disabilities who require AT devices or services in order to receive a FAPE are eligible for those devices and/or services as specified in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). The Division of Learning Services provides technical assistance to local school systems concerning the provision of AT devices and services to students with disabilities, primarily through the Kentucky Special Education Cooperative Network.

Eligibility Requirements

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA-PL 108-446) stipulate that all students with disabilities must be considered for assistive technology, as is determined necessary in order to implement the IEP.

AT Services Provided/Covered

- Evaluation/Assessment
- Purchasing/Acquisition
- Selection/Design
- Coordination
- Training/ Technical Assistance

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Daily Living
- Speech Communication
- Computer and Related
- Environmental Adaptations
- Vision/Hearing Equipment

Application Process

The need for Assistive Technology is determined in the program planning stage of the IEP process. If it is determined that AT is needed to successfully meet the goals of the IEP, then the school must obtain the AT. For more information, contact the Special Education Coordinator of your local school district. The Kentucky Department of Education, Division of Learning Services also has Exceptional Children consultants that are available to answer parent's questions. Call (502) 564-4970 and ask for a consultant.

Contact Information

Phone: (502) 564-4970
Website: <http://education.ky.gov/>

Additional Information

If the school district purchases assistive technology with Part-B funds, the equipment remains the property of the federal government and the school district is responsible for it and may not want it taken home. Assistive technology purchased by the school can be used at home as long as it is written into the IEP that the home use is necessary for educational purposes. Once a school district agrees on the need for assistive technology and incorporates it into the IEP, the district CANNOT use a lack of available funds as a reason for denying or delaying provision of the assistive technology.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Social Security Administration

Overview

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is administered both nationally and locally by the Social Security Administration (SSA). The purpose of the SSI program is to assure a minimum level of income to persons who are elderly or have a disability and have limited income and resources. Specific eligibility criteria must be met. Individuals must meet the SSA's definition of "disabled" or "blind," but do not need any social security work credits to obtain SSI payments. There is no disability waiting period for SSI. People may be eligible for SSI even if they have never worked, and they may also receive social security payments IF they are eligible for both. Children and adults with disabilities may qualify for SSI payments.

Eligibility Requirements

- Persons 65 or older who have limited income and resources
- Persons who are blind (child or adult) or have a disability (child or adult) who have limited income and resources;
- Persons must be a U.S. citizen or be in the U.S. legally.

AT Services Provided/Covered

No AT services are provided or covered. However, SSI recipients are usually able to get Medicaid and thus access AT services.

AT Devices Provided/Covered

No AT devices are provided or covered. However, SSI recipients are usually able to get Medicaid and thus access AT devices.

Application Process

Apply in person or by phone at your local Social Security office, or call (800) 772-1213 for an appointment with a Social Security representative who will help with the application. Social Security information/publications as well as address and phone number for your local SS office are available on line or by phone.

Contact Information

Phone: (800) 772-1213 or (800) 325-0778 (TDD)

Website: ssa.gov

Supports for Community Living (SCL) Waiver Program

Department of Behavioral Health

Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities

Overview

The SCL waiver program is a home- and community-based program funded by the Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services and administered by the DDID. The SCL waiver program was developed for Kentucky citizens as an alternative to institutionalization. The focus of SCL is to allow a person to remain in or return to the community.

Supports for Community Living offers the supports and services that are based on the individual's goals, choices and priorities as identified through an individual support plan. Services can include: Adult Day Training, Case Management, Community Living Supports, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Psychological Services, Residential Supports, and Supported Employment, among others.

Eligibility Requirements

Persons with developmental or intellectual disabilities, who meet the requirements for residence in an Intermediate Care Facility for persons with intellectual disabilities and meet other Medicaid requirements.

AT Services Provided/Covered

- Evaluation/Assessment
- Purchasing/Acquisition
- Selection/Design

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Mobility, Seating and Positioning
- Vision/Hearing Equipment
- Other Home/Worksite Modifications

Application Process

Note: There is a waiting list and a emergency application. An individual needs to be on the waiting list before applying for emergency services. Scl providers include community mental health centers and public and private agencies across the state Application information including a list of SCL providers is available by phone or online.

Contact Information

Supports for Community Living Waiver Branch

Phone: (502) 564-7702 or (502) 564-5777 (TTY)

Website: dbhidid.ky.gov/ddid/scl.aspx

Additional Information

CSL also has a consumer directed option (CDO). Information on this option is available online or by phone.

Telecommunication Access Program (TAP)

Administered by the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH)

Overview

In 1994, KCDHH worked closely with the General Assembly to pass legislation that would provide specialized telecommunications equipment at no charge to deaf, hard of hearing, speech impaired or deaf-blind Kentucky residents, becoming the 24th state to implement such a program. The TAP is administered by KCDHH and is funded by a small surcharge on all (landline and wireless) telecommunication access lines throughout the state. The equipment provided allows communication on the telephone to be accessible to applicants.

If you know of an individual who is living with a hearing loss and who struggles on the phone, please request an application <http://www.kcdhh.ky.gov/forms/#> to see if they are eligible for equipment at no cost to them. TAP and the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) together provide equal access to the telephone for all citizens.

Eligibility Requirements

You are eligible to receive equipment from TAP if you meet the following criteria:

- You must be a legal resident of the Commonwealth of Kentucky for at least one year. Identification must be provided by the applicant, with a matching address as listed on the application, to established residency;
- You must be at least five (5) years of age to apply. If you are under 18 years of age, your parent/guardian must sign the application and assume full responsibility for the equipment. You must be thirteen (13) years of age or older to apply for a wireless device;
- You must be deaf, hard of hearing, speech impaired or deaf-blind to the extent that you cannot use the telephone for communication without the use of adaptive equipment. You must provide, at your own expenses, professional verification of your hearing loss. Additional verification is required to verify vision loss for some equipment; and
- You must verify telephone or internet service as requested. The bill must show the same name, and address as the applicant or additional verification is required.

AT Services Provided/Covered

- Purchasing/Acquisition
- Training/Technical Assistance

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Communications Equipment for those with a hearing loss

Application Process

Applications are available on line or by phone.

Contact Information

KCDHH

632 Versailles Rd

Frankfort, KY 40601

Phone: (800) 372-2907 or (502) 573-2604

Fax: (502) 573-3594

VP: (502) 416-0607

Ticket to Work Program

Social Security Administration

Overview

The Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program is an employment program for people with disabilities who are interested in going to work. The Ticket Program is part of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 – legislation designed to remove many of the barriers that previously influenced people’s decisions about going to work because of the concerns over losing health care coverage. The goal of the Ticket Program is to increase opportunities and choices for Social Security disability beneficiaries to obtain employment, vocational rehabilitation (VR), and other support services from public and private providers, employers, and other organizations.

Under the Ticket Program, the Social Security Administration provides disability beneficiaries with a Ticket they may use to obtain the services and jobs they need from a new universe of organizations called Employment Networks (ENs).

Eligibility Requirements

The Social Security Administration notifies those beneficiaries who are eligible to participate in the Ticket Program by issuing them a Ticket.

AT Services Provided/Covered

- Evaluation/Assessment
- Purchasing/Acquisition
- Selection/Design
- Coordination
- Training/ Technical Assistance

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Vision/Hearing Equipment
- Speech Communication
- Learning, Cognition and Developmental
- Mobility, Seating and Positioning
- Daily Living
- Environmental Adaptations
- Vehicle Modifications
- Computers and Related
- Recreation, Sports and Leisure Equipment

Application Process

The Ticket Program is flexible and voluntary – Social Security Administration beneficiaries are not mandated to participate and in most cases, ENs can choose which services they want to provide, where, and to whom. Beneficiaries receiving Tickets can contact one or more ENs to discuss services and once an agreement between the beneficiary and EN is reached, the two work together to develop a work plan to assist the beneficiary in reaching his or her employment goal.

Contact Information

Ticket to Work Help Line

Phone: (866) 968-7842 or (866) 833-2967 (TTY)

Website: chooseworkttw.net

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Trust Fund

Cabinet for Health and Family Services

Department of Aging and Independent Living

Overview

The TBI Trust Fund was established to provide flexible funding and support to those with brain injuries. The fund supports supplemental community-based efforts to meet the special needs of each individual with a brain injury.

Benefits are limited to \$15,000 per person per year, with a lifetime maximum of \$60,000. The program is not designed to provide intensive treatment or long-term support. However, the cost for case management services does not count against the person's annual or lifetime benefit cap.

Eligibility Requirements

People with a partial or total disability caused by injury to the brain are eligible to receive support from the TBI Trust Fund. Eligible individuals have impaired cognitive abilities or impaired brain function. Injuries to the brain may be a result of physical trauma, damage resulting from a lack of oxygen, allergic conditions, toxic substances and other medical incidents, including damage caused by drug overdoses or alcohol poisoning.

People with brain injury and without viable funding sources for needed services are eligible to receive support from the TBI Trust Fund. There are no caps for family income levels used to screen for services. Lack of adequate funding may be a result of the exhaustion of current benefits or benefit exclusion.

Services Available Through the TBI Trust Fund Include

Case management, Community residential services, Structured day programs, Psychological services, Prevocational services, Supported employment services, Companion services, Respite care, Occupational therapy, Speech/language services and wraparound services

Services Not Covered by the TBI Trust Fund Include

Institutionalization, Hospitalization, Medication, Attorney fees, Court cost, Fines assessed as a result of a criminal conviction, Cost of incarceration and other court-ordered monetary payment

Devices Covered

Home modifications and assistive devices may be covered in some situations.

Application Process

Application information is available on line or by phone.

Contact Information

Traumatic Brain Injury Trust Fund

Phone: (855) 816-9577 or (502) 564-6930

Website: chfs.ky.gov/dail

Additional Information

DAIL also administers The Traumatic Brain Injury Behavioral Program. The Traumatic Brain Injury Behavioral Program - establishes identification of those affected by traumatic brain injury who are in need of behavioral services. The TBI Behavioral Program will provide services through crisis intervention, residential, targeted case management and wrap-around services. Contact DAIL using the phone number and website above for more information on this program.

TRICARE

United States Department of Defense

Overview

The mission of TRICARE is to provide quality health care for members of the Armed Forces, military families, and others entrusted to the Department of Defense's care. TRICARE offers several different health plan options to meet your needs. Plan availability depends on who you are and where you live.

Eligibility Requirements

TRICARE is available to active duty service members and retirees of the seven uniformed services, their family members, survivors and others who are registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). TRICARE is also available to National Guard/Reserve members and their families. Benefits will vary depending on the sponsor's military status.

AT Services Provided/Covered

- Evaluation/Assessment
- Purchase/Acquisition
- Coordination
- Information/Assistance

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Vision/Hearing Equipment
- Speech Communication
- Mobility, Seating and Positioning
- Environmental Adaptations

Application Process

In order to use TRICARE, you must be listed in the Defense Department's Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) computerized data base as being eligible for military health care benefits. This includes newborns, which must be enrolled in DEERS before claims for their care as TRICARE eligible patients can be processed. Generally, it is the sponsor's responsibility to make sure that his or her family members are enrolled in DEERS through the nearest military personnel office. All military sponsors should ensure that the status of their families (marriage, divorce, new child, etc.) is current in the DEERS files so TRICARE claims can be processed quickly and accurately.

Additional information is available on line or by phone.

Contact Information

TRICARE Regional Office – North

Phone: (877) 874-2273

Website: Tricare.mil and hnfs.com

Additional Information

Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) is a supplemental benefit program that provides services and supplies beyond the basic TRICARE military health care program. ECHO is available to active duty family members (ADFMs) who meet the qualifications of a specific physical, developmental and/or mental disability. The program provides beneficiaries with coordinated ECHO services and supplies to reduce the disabling effects of the qualifying condition or disorder.

Veterans Benefits

Department of Veterans Affairs

Overview

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) is a federal agency that oversees the various benefit programs available for honorably discharged veterans. The DVA is the largest single medical care system in the country and the largest purchaser of AT devices and equipment for persons with disabilities. In addition, the DVA operates a vocational rehabilitation program for eligible veterans. Thus, assistive technology can be provided to support a veteran in the vocational rehabilitation program to meet vocational goals and pursue gainful employment.

Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility for veterans' benefits is complex. Not all veterans are eligible for all benefits. Generally, if a veteran is eligible for admission to a VA Medical Center (VAMC), then any disabilities he or she has will be treated and/or covered. Entitlement to services varies and is based on the veteran's disability rating. Those rated at disabilities of 50% or more are provided services regardless of whether the treatment is for a service-connected disability or not. The VAMC determines eligibility and entitlement by conducting a needs assessment. After establishing eligibility, services are provided on a space available basis and according to an assigned category of either mandatory or discretionary. Veterans in the mandatory category receive free services, while veterans in the discretionary category may be required to contribute to the cost of care they receive.

AT Services Provided/Covered

- Evaluation/Assessment
- Purchasing/Acquisition
- Selection/Design
- Coordination
- Training/Technical Assistance

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Vision/Hearing Equipment
- Speech Communication
- Learning, Cognition and Developmental
- Mobility, Seating and Positioning
- Daily Living
- Environmental Adaptations
- Vehicle Modifications
- Computers and Related
- Recreation, Sports and Leisure Equipment

Application Process

For information on VA benefits, you should contact an accredited Veterans Service Organization.

These organizations not only give information on VA benefits, services and eligibility, they can also act as your representative through the VA system. The KY department of Veterans Affairs is an accredited Veterans Service Organization and can assist veterans statewide call (502) 595-4447 or visit their web site at veterans.ky.gov.

Contact Information

VA Regional Office

321 West Main Street, Suite 390

Louisville, KY 40202

Phone: (800) 827-1000 (National DVA telephone assistance service)

Phone: (502) 287-4000 (Louisville VA hospital)

Website: va.gov

Other Accredited Veterans Service Organizations

Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) (502) 566-4428

Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) (502) 566-4430

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) (502) 566-4422

Veterans Affairs - Vocational Rehabilitation and Education Program

Department of Veterans Affairs

Overview

The Veterans Administration (VA) operates a vocational rehabilitation and Education program for eligible veterans. Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment is an employment-oriented program that assists veterans with service-connected disabilities by offering services and assistance to help them prepare for, find and keep suitable employment. Suitable employment is work that is within the veterans' physical, mental and emotional capabilities and matches their patterns of skills, abilities and interests. For veterans whose disabilities make employment unlikely, VA helps them attain as much daily living independence as possible. Under vocational rehabilitation, a veteran can take part in one of the following programs: College or university education; Trade, business, or technical school education; Apprenticeship or other on-the-job training; On-farm training; Employment services and assistance; Under special circumstances, training in a rehabilitation facility, a sheltered workshop, or in your own home; Self-employment. Individuals can also receive personal and vocational counseling, tutorial assistance, medical and dental treatment, assistive technology and assistance necessary to achieve maximum independence in daily living.

Eligibility Requirements

A veteran with a VA-established service-connected disability of at least 10 percent with a serious employment handicap; or 20 percent with an employment handicap and is discharged or released from military service under other than dishonorable conditions. A service member pending medical separation from active duty may apply, but the disability rating must be at least 20 percent.

AT Services Provided/Covered

- Evaluation/Assessment
- Purchasing/Acquisition
- Selection/Design
- Coordination
- Training/Technical Assistance

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Vision/Hearing Equipment
- Speech Communication
- Learning, Cognition and Developmental
- Mobility, Seating and Positioning
- Daily Living
- Environmental Adaptations
- Vehicle Modifications
- Computers and Related
- Recreation, Sports and Leisure Equipment

Application Process

For information on vocational rehabilitation services contact the VR office in Louisville at (502) 566-4453. You may also contact an accredited Veterans Service Organization. These organizations not only give information on VR services and eligibility they can also act as your representative through the VA system. The KY Department of Veterans Affairs is an accredited Veterans Service Organization and can assist veterans statewide call (502) 595-4447 or visit their web site at veterans.ky.gov.

Contact Information

VA Vocational Rehabilitation Regional Office

321 West Main Street, Suite 390

Louisville, KY 40202

Phone: (502) 566-4453

Website: va.gov

Other Accredited Veterans Service Organizations

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) (502) 566-4482

AMVETS (502) 566-4426

American Legion (AL) (502) 566-4478

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Private Sources of Funding

In This Section:

Private Sources of Funding – Local

Appalachia Service Project
 Assisting Better Living Everywhere (ABLE)
 Beth Joanna Habbert Memorial Fund
 Civitan Clubs
 George Weeks Foundation
 Habitat for Humanity
 Holloran Trust Fund
 Kiwanis Club
 Lexington Lions Club Hearing Aid Distribution
 Lions and Lioness Clubs
 May We Help
 Modern Woodmen
 People Working Cooperatively
 Rampbuilders Program (Jefferson County)
 Rampbuilders Program (Calloway County)
 Repair Affair
 Scott Rose Foundation
 United Way

Private Sources of Funding – Statewide

American Cancer Society
 Dream Factory
 I Can Connect
 Kentucky School for the Blind Charitable Foundation
 Linda Nevell Trust Fund
 Make a Wish Foundation of Kentucky
 Muscular Dystrophy Association
 Shriners
 Woodmen of the World

Private Sources of Funding – National

AGB - Parent-Infant Financial Aid
 AGB – Preschool-Age Financial Aid
 AGB – School-age Financial Aid
 ABC – Technology Grants For Blind Persons
 Barr United Amputee Assistance Fund
 Children’s Charity Fund
 A Child’s Wish Association of America
 Children’s Wish Foundation International
 Computers for the Blind
 Darrell Gwynn Foundation
 First Hand Foundation
 Hear Now Foundation
 Help America Hear
 Hike Fund
 Kids Wish Network
 Limbs for Life Foundation – Prosthesis Fund
 Miracle Ear Foundation – Gift of Sound Foundation
 MS Foundation - A Brighter Tomorrow Grant
 MS Foundation - Assistive Technology
 MS Foundation - Computer Grant
 MS Foundation – Cooling
 Push America (accessible environments)
 Special Wish Foundation
 Sunshine Foundation – Grants/Gifts
 Teddy’s Star – A Foundation for Hope
 TPA Scholarship Trust for the Deaf and Near Deaf
 Travis Roy Foundation

Disability

General
 General
 General
 Dev. Delayed
 Vision
 General
 Vision
 General
 Hearing
 Vision/Hearing
 General
 General
 General
 General
 General
 General
 General
 General
 General

Disability

Cancer
 General
 Hearing
 Vision
 Vision
 General
 MD
 General
 General
Disability
 Hearing
 Hearing
 Hearing
 Vision
 Amputee
 General
 General
 General
 Vision
 Spinal Cord/Paralysis
 General
 Hearing
 Hearing
 Hearing
 General
 Amputee
 Hearing
 MS
 MS
 MS
 MS
 MS
 General
 General
 General
 General
 Hearing
 Spinal Cord

Ages Served

No Limits
 Under 18
 No Limits
 No Limits
 No Limits
 No Limits
 No Limits
 21 and up
 No Limits
 No Limits
 No Limits
 No Limits
 No Limits
 No Limits
 No Limits
 18 and under
 No Limits
Ages Served
 No Limits
 3 to 18
 No Limits
 No Limits
 No Limits
 Under 18
 11 and up
 Under 18
 No Limits
Ages Served
 Birth to 3
 4 to 6
 1st to 12th grade
 No Limits
 No Limits
 Under 18
 4 to 17
 Birth to 18
 No Limits
 2 years and up
 Birth to 18
 No Limits
 No Limits
 No Limits
 Birth to 20
 3 to 18
 No Limits
 No Limits
 No Limits
 No Limits
 No Limits
 No Limits
 Birth to 21
 3 to 18
 No Limits
 No Limits
 No Limits

Private Sources of Funding - Overview

A person who needs funding for assistive technology may turn to a private charitable organization, trust or foundation for assistance. There are a variety of such sources in the state, but they have restrictions on what they will provide, have widely varying eligibility requirements, and the resources available to them are limited. It is impossible to generalize concerning them. Each must be approached individually and you may have to contact many to decide which, if any, will best be able to help you. Many such organizations, like the Lions Club, have no central state offices, but must be contacted at the local chapter. These local chapters differ greatly in the resources available to them and thus in the amount of gifts they can provide. Assistive technology for people with disabilities may be only one of many things that an organization will fund. As a result, depending upon the organization, you may be competing for limited dollars.

Some may accept applications concerning assistive technology for persons with disabilities, but give priority to other areas such as education. Many groups will have financial need requirements and many may limit their giving to specific geographical areas. Even if a person meets all eligibility requirements, there is certainly no guarantee of having a request accepted for funding. Resources are always limited and because there are many people competing for the same money, requests are decided on an individual basis. What is funded for one person may not be funded for the next. You will have to check with each source on their particular eligibility requirements.

There are many organizations that exist at particular locales and restrict their funding to the immediate geographic vicinity. A few examples are offered here, but it is very possible that such an organization exists in your locality that is not listed. Here are some ideas for seeking out these community groups: You may look in the yellow pages under social service agencies, clubs, associations, and civic and/or fraternal organizations; Look in the white pages; Call the Welcome Wagon and ask if they have a list.

One local source of funding can be your church. If you are a member of a religious congregation, it may be of great assistance to you in providing funding for a device or in assisting you in finding funding. You can also try the: United Commercial Travelers, Jaycees, Rotary Clubs, Moose Lodges, Sororities & Fraternities, Zonta, Pilot Clubs, Telephone Pioneers, Hospital Auxiliary, Am. Assoc. of University Women, Salvation Army, Unions, American Business Clubs (AMBUC), Catholic Charities, Lutheran Social Services, March of Dimes, Easter Seals, United Cerebral Palsy and many more...

Foundations are nonprofit organizations that support charitable activities to serve the common good. Individuals, families or corporations create them with endowments. They make grants with the income they earn from investing the endowments. You can learn more about foundations by visiting your local libraries. There may be local trusts in your community. A trust officer at a bank usually operates them. Call and ask for the trust department to find out what trusts exist in your community. Scan the local paper on a regular basis to look for publicity about organizations and/or individuals that provided funding for an individual.

Another possible local source of assistance, particularly for individuals who work for large employers, is Employee Assistance Programs. Some large employers have been known to provide assistive technology to employees or their family members through these programs. If your company has such a program, it would be a possibility worth investigating.

The next several pages contain contact information on some charitable organizations and foundations that may provide funding for assistive technology. This list is not intended to be exclusive. There may be other sources available in your community that is not included.

Private Sources of Funding - Local

Appalachia Service Project

Phone: (800) 289-4254

Website: asphome.org

Overview

Appalachia Service Project (ASP) provides life-changing short-term Christian mission trip opportunities --bringing youth, adult, and college volunteers into rural Central Appalachia to make homes warmer, safer, and drier for families in need. This program does a wide variety of home repair including ramps and home modifications.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Live in Appalachia (covers South east Kentucky); Be an individual/family in need. Applications are available on line or by phone.

Assisting Better Living Everywhere (ABLE)

ABLE, Inc

3175 Custer Drive #103

Lexington, KY 40517-4023

Phone: 859-271-4718

Sarah Hicks (859) 608-6307

Email: sarahhhicks@aol.com

Website: Ablemission.org

Overview:

ABLE is a charitable corporation that focuses on improving living and learning conditions around the world including international missions, regional efforts, and local projects.

Kentucky ABLE (local project) assists needy seniors and disabled persons with home renovations, repairs, landscape cleanup while addressing safety concerns. This can include home modification such as hand rails and ramps. Serves Lexington and surrounding counties: Call or email for an application

Beth Joanna Habbert Memorial Fund

Greater Cincinnati Foundation

200 West Fourth Street

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Phone: (513) 241-2880

Website: Gcfdn.org

Overview

The Habbert family established this fund as a memorial to their daughter. The Fund, which concentrates it's giving in the greater Cincinnati area, primarily provides assistance to families with children with disabilities to enable the children to remain in the home. Assistive devices and equipment can be part of the assistance and awards typically range from \$500 to \$5,000. This program is a funding source of last resort.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

The Fund is restricted to families with children with disabilities. Efforts are concentrated in the greater Cincinnati area, which includes several counties in northern Kentucky, although there is no defined geographical restriction on where gifts can go. Applicants must demonstrate that they have made efforts to obtain funding elsewhere. There are no stated financial requirements, but need is taken into consideration when awards are allotted. Actual applications are only accepted from local non-profit organizations such as the ARC. An individual must work through such an organization. Awards are made once a year. The application deadline is in the spring. Application information is available on line or by phone.

Additional Information

Serves children of all disabilities in the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky area.

Civitan Club

Website: civitan.org

Overview

To build good citizenship by providing a volunteer organization of clubs dedicated to serving individual and community needs with an emphasis on helping people with developmental disabilities. This can include the purchase of Assistive Technology. To obtain the address and telephone number of the nearest Civitan Club, either visit their website or contact: Cedar Lake Lodge at (502) 222-7157

George Weeks Foundation

J. P. Morgan Chase
2200 Ross Avenue 5th Floor
Dallas, TX 75201
Contact: Bryan Griffin (214) 965-2904
Email: bryan.griffin@jpmorgan.com

Overview

George Weeks created a perpetual charitable Trust Foundation under his will in the 1930s, which provides assistance to persons who are blind or who have visual impairments and who live in Bourbon and Fayette Counties. This assistance can include the purchase of assistive devices.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Applicants must be blind or have a visual impairment and reside in Fayette or Bourbon Counties. In addition, applicants must demonstrate an economic need for assistance. An application for assistance can be obtained from the address/phone/email above.

Additional Information

Serves blind/visually impaired individuals of all ages in Bourbon and Fayette Counties in Kentucky.

Habitat for Humanity

Phone: (800) 422-4828
Website: habitat.org

Overview

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian ministry founded on the conviction that every man, woman and child should have a decent, safe and affordable place to live. There are hundreds of habitat affiliates across the country and they do more than just new construction homes. Some do home modifications such as wheelchair ramps and a variety of other modifications in the home to help make it accessible.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Contact your local habitat for additional information. Contact information for a habitat affiliate that may be in your area is available on line or by phone.

Holloran Trust Fund

c/o Kentucky Lions Eye Foundation
301 East Muhammad Ali Blvd
Louisville, KY 40202
Phone: (800) 232-5308 or (502) 583-0564

Overview

The Holloran Trust Fund, established in 1967, provides assistance to persons who are legally blind in both eyes and who live in Jefferson, Oldham, Shelby and Hardin Counties in Kentucky and Floyd and Clark County Indiana. The Fund pays for such things as medical bills, rent, clothing, house repairs, household appliances, but may also assist in purchasing assistive devices.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Applicants must be legally blind and reside in Jefferson, Oldham, Shelby and Hardin Counties in Kentucky and Floyd and Clark County Indiana. A verification of financial need and legal blindness must be provided with the application. Requests for help are considered by a committee of Lions Club members selected to manage the fund under the direction of the Kentucky Lions Eye Foundation. Request an application by phone or mail.

Additional Information

Serves blind/visually impaired individuals of all ages in Jefferson and Surrounding counties in Kentucky.

Kiwanis Clubs

Website: kiwanis.org

Overview

Kiwanis clubs, located in 80 nations, help their communities in countless ways. Each community's needs are different—so each Kiwanis club is different. By working together, members achieve what one person cannot accomplish alone. Service is at the heart of every Kiwanis club, no matter where in the world it's located.

The Kiwanis Clubs do not generally provide assistance for the purchase of assistive technology, but it is not excluded as a possibility. Local clubs can be convinced to help. To obtain the address and telephone number of the nearest Kiwanis Club, contact your local chamber of commerce or visit their website.

Lexington Lions Club Hearing Aid Distribution Program

Karen Kallio, Au.D.
Bluegrass ENT
3080 Harrodsburg Road
Lexington, KY 40505
(859) 277-3725

Janice K. Friend
858 Ridgeview Drive
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 848-0634
jkfriend575@aol.com

Overview

The Lexington Lions Club works with the Hear Now Program administered by the Starkey Foundation, to provide 2 high-quality hearing aids to eligible individuals. There is a \$125. application fee per hearing aid. If the individual is able to pay any or all of the fee, he/she will be expected to do so. If they cannot, the Lexington Lions Club will pick up the cost of the fee. If the individual cannot qualify for assistance from the Hear Now Program, he/she may still qualify for a hearing aid through the Lexington Lions Club Distribution Program. Individuals going through this program will only be able to obtain one hearing aid. Both programs require that an audiologist do the fitting for the hearing aid(s). Dr. Kallio volunteers these services.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Applicants must be a resident of Fayette County and meet the financial guidelines.

Individuals aged 21 and older may apply for a hearing aid. Individuals of working age (18-65) should be referred to the closest Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. Individuals in this age group can only apply if they are not eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation Services. A copy of a hearing test done within the past 6 mos. must accompany the application. If an audiogram is not enclosed, the application cannot be processed. If they do not have a copy or have not had a hearing test, they may contact Dr. Kallio to arrange a hearing test that should be paid for by the individual's insurance/Medicare/Medicaid.

The Hear Now application is available by phone at (800) 648-4327 or on-line at www.starkeyhearingfoundation.org/programs/hear-now

For additional information contact: Dr. Kallio or Janis Friend at the contact info listed above.

Lions and Lioness Clubs

Website: kylions.net

Overview

The Lions and Lioness Clubs traditionally provide a lot of support to individuals with visual and hearing impairments. This can include the purchase of Assistive Technology. To obtain the address and telephone number of the nearest Lions or

Lioness Club, contact either your local chamber of commerce or visit their website.

May WE help

7525 Wooster Pike
Cincinnati, OH 45227
Phone: (513) 334-0522
Website: maywehelp.org

Overview

We connect individuals with specific needs to skilled volunteers who can invent, modify or adapt devices that can free that individual to pursue their passions and improve their quality of life. May We Help exists to love those living with a disability with whatever we have, and we have the ability to create whatever they need. "We are handymen, artists, electrical engineers, mechanical engineers, programmers, techies, motorheads, students, snow birds, ..friends."

We are here to fulfill the needs for individually tailored assistive devices that are not being met commercially. Because people are more unique than what's available.

Here are some things that you can expect from us if you request a device:

We do not simply offer custom assistance devices, we offer relationship. All of us volunteers are involved to love those living with a disability using whatever we have, and we have the ability to create whatever you need. Once your Device Request form is filled out, you should be contacted within the week by the Project Initiator volunteer. They will research any pre-existing solutions to see if something already out there will be of help. If current existing products or services do not fit your needs, the request will be presented at a monthly volunteer meeting. These meetings are only once a month, so depending on when we receive your request, it may be a few weeks before it is presented. Your project will be assigned to a team of volunteers. They will need to meet with you to better understand your situation. The volunteers will need to take picture/video recording for their own records to help with the fabrication process. You will be contacted weekly by your volunteer team and/or our volunteer Project Driver to keep up-to-date on project progress. The people you will work with are volunteers, and they are developing our client's products on their free time. Depending on the complexity of the project it may take multiple weeks or months to fully complete a project. This is product development, which means that a normal project takes several revisions and test visits. The first prototype will probably not be the final. Upon project completion, you can expect to have a fully customized and operational device to fit your needs

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

A resident of the greater Cincinnati area, this includes some of northern KY.

Application information is available online or by phone.

Modern Woodmen of America

Website: modern-woodmen.org

Overview

Modern Woodmen of America is a member-owned fraternal financial services organization. We secure futures with financial guidance and products. We touch lives with fraternalism. Since 1883, Modern Woodmen has brought people together, supported families and strengthened communities nationwide.

Modern Woodmen have a program called The Good Neighbor Project in which a chapter may do home modifications. To find a local chapter in Kentucky, call their Regional office at (270) 842-0692.

People Working Cooperatively

Modifications for Mobility Program

Phone: (859) 331-1991
Website: Pwchomerepairs.org

Overview

Modifications for Mobility is a critical program for PWC, targeting complicated home modification projects that are typically too expensive for its low-income, disabled clients. Depending on your location and your specific needs, some of the services you could receive include: Handicapped-accessible ramps, Bathroom modifications, Chair / stair lift, Grab bars.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Must be a homeowner to qualify. Income qualifications based on 50% of area media. Kentucky resident must live in Campbell, Kenton or Boone to qualify. Application information is available on line or by phone.

Rampbuilders Program (Jefferson County)

Center for Accessible Living
305 W Broadway, Ste. 200
Louisville, KY 40202
Local: (502) 589-6620
Phone: (888) 813-8497
Website: calky.org
Email: Info@calky.org

Overview

The Rampbuilders Program has been providing custom-designed home access ramps and railings to persons with disabilities since the incorporation of the Center for Accessible Living in 1981. Whenever possible, ramps are provided at no cost to the recipient. Individuals with mobility impairments can safely enter and exit their homes, providing independence and opportunities for education, employment, and recreation. A ramp provides a very basic level of freedom so that persons with disabilities can make their own choices.

Our program has provided ramps to hundreds of individuals thanks to funding from sources that include or have included Louisville Metro Government, Louisville Metro Council, Medicaid, and private donations.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Anyone living in the Louisville Metro area that has permanent mobility impairment is eligible to apply. Eligibility may vary due to rules set by funding sources. Application information is available online or by phone.

Rampbuilders Program (Calloway County)

Center for Accessible Living - Murray
Phone: (270) 753-7676
Website: calky.org

Overview

The Center for Accessible Living's satellite office in Murray has Ramps funds available for low-income individuals in Calloway County. Funds are provided by the Calloway County Salvation Army through their annual kettle drive. Individuals generously volunteer their time to build these ramps according to ADA requirements. For more information about the program and to be placed on the waiting list please contact Carrissa Johnson (270) 753-7676

Additional Information

Portable ramps are available for loan in 10 ft, 8 ft, and 5 ft lengths.

Repair Affair

Phone: (502) 589-2272
Website: ndhc.org

Overview

Repair Affair is part of the New Directions Housing Corporation, a 25-year-old non-profit agency that provides affordable housing, modifications and repairs to the elderly and individuals with disabilities. Efforts are concentrated in Jefferson County and Southern Indiana. The focus of Repair Affair is on home safety, security, weatherizing, and neighborhood stability.

Repairs Include

- Wheelchair ramp
- Handrails and grab bars
- Flooring
- Steps
- Locks

- Door and window repair
- Minor electrical and plumbing repairs
- Roof repair
- Interior and exterior painting
- Yard work and clean-up

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Repair Affair Recipients Must:

- Own and reside in the home
- Be at least 60 years old or certified as disabled
- Be of low income (50% of area median income or less)
- Live in Louisville, Kentucky or Floyd or Clark County Indiana
- Applications are accepted January 1 through March 30 each year.

Application information is available on line or by phone.

The Scott Rose Foundation, Inc

PO. Box 926
London, KY 40745-0926

Overview

This foundation is named for a young man who died in an automobile accident in 1983. It assists disadvantaged youth and youth with disabilities in obtaining medical services, treatment or financial assistance. Assistive technology can be part of the services that qualify.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Individuals with disabilities who have not been able to secure funding from "agencies or institutions intended or designed to help those in need" and who themselves cannot pay for the services; treatment or equipment they need may qualify for assistance. The foundation serves only the eastern half of the state. Individuals seeking assistance can obtain an application by writing to the address above.

Additional Information

Serves individuals of all disabilities from birth to 18 years of age, from the Eastern half of the state in KY.

United Way

Phone: (703) 519-0092
Website: unitedway.org

Overview

United Way Worldwide is the leadership and support organization for the network of nearly 1,800 community-based United Ways in 45 countries and territories. We envision a world where all individuals and families achieve their human potential through education, income stability and healthy lives. To obtain the address and phone number of the nearest united way affiliate call or visit their Website.

Private Sources of Funding – Statewide

American Cancer Society

701 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd.
Louisville, KY 40203
Phone: (800) 227-2345 or (502) 584-6782
Website: cancer.org

Overview

The American Cancer Society provides information, education services and rehabilitation to cancer patients and their families in an effort to eliminate cancer as a major health problem. Upon request, Durable Medical Equipment may be provided.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

The applicant must have cancer and be a resident of the state of Kentucky. Patients with Medicare, Medicaid or insurance will be billed according to their carrier's guidelines. Patients with no coverage will not be denied equipment.

Additional Information

Serves cancer patients, all ages, statewide.

The Dream Factory

Bowling Green – (270) 793-1022
Hopkinsville – (270) 881-4774
Lexington – (859) 254-9474
Louisville – (502) 561-3001
Paducah – (270) 442-9393
Website: dreamfactoryinc.com

Overview

The Dream Factory is an organization that fulfills the dreams of chronic or critically ill children. In many cases, this may involve financing a dream vacation or arranging a contact with a child's idol. In some cases, this organization may purchase assistive technology such as adapted computers or special wheelchairs, if it is truly the wish of the child.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Individuals can apply with the nearest local chapter. There are five chapters in Kentucky. Their telephone numbers are listed above. An applicant must be: A child with a critical or chronic illness which must be verified on the application by the child's primary physician; Has not received a dream from another wish-granting organization; between the ages of 3 and 18 years of age and The dream must be the child's dream and not that of a parent, guardian or other concerned party. The child must be able to communicate the dream to a Dream Factory representative.

Additional Information

Serves critically ill children, ages 3-18, statewide.

I Can Connect - The National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program

Website: www.icanconnect.org

Contact Information for Kentucky

Dorothy Brame (Office for the Blind)
Phone: (800) 222-1215 or (270) 495-3132 (VP)
Email: Dorothy.Brame@ky.gov

Sherry West (Office of Vocational Rehabilitation)
Phone: (270) 282-2153 (VP/VRS) or (270) 495-3521 P3-VP
Email: SherryA.West@ky.gov

Overview

I Can Connect promotes the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP), a federally funded program, made possible by the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010.

The goal is to get technology into the hands of Americans with combined hearing and vision loss so they can connect with family, friends, and community. For those who qualify, technology equipment used for distance communication is provided free. Installation, training and technical support are also available at no charge.

Types of Equipment Available

Braille devices, Phones, Computers, Signallers, Mobile devices, CCTV's

Eligibility Requirements

- Have combined hearing and vision loss verified by a doctor or professional service provider
- Be able to be trained to use adaptive technology that makes it possible to use telephone, computer or other communication equipment
- Meet the program's income guidelines

Must meet at least one of these hearing guidelines:

- Chronic hearing disabilities so severe that most speech cannot be understood with optimum amplification
- Progressive hearing loss having a prognosis leading to above condition

Must meet at least one of these sight guidelines:

- Visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with corrective lenses
- A field defect such that the peripheral diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees
- Progressive visual loss with a prognosis leading to one or both of above conditions

For an application or additional information, contact Dorothy Brame or Sherry West.

Kentucky School for the Blind Charitable Foundation

214 Haldeman Ave.
Louisville, KY 40206
Contact: Ricky Ricks at (502) 897-3990
Email: rricks@ksbcf.org
Fax number (502) 897-3194

Overview

The purpose of the non-profit Kentucky School for the Blind Charitable Foundation (KSBCF) organization is to offer some financial support for blind and visually impaired individuals primarily in the areas of employment and education. The Foundation provides Braille Writers at no cost to an eligible applicant and it also considers grants for other types of assistive technology. These devices are considered a loan, and must be returned if no longer needed or if the individual is moving out of state. The Foundation meets quarterly to consider grants for assistive technology.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Applicants must be residents of Kentucky who are legally blind. Applications for Braille Writers or other Grants can be obtained from the address/phone/email above.

Additional Information

Serves blind/visually impaired individuals of all ages, statewide.

Linda Nevell Trust Fund

J. P. Morgan Chase
2200 Ross Ave 5th Floor
Dallas, TX 75201
Contact Bryan Griffin (214) 965-2904

Email: bryan.griffin@jpmorgan.com

Overview

The Linda Nevell Trust Fund gives assistance to persons who are blind or visually impaired and reside in Kentucky. It provides for the care, maintenance, support, education and the medical, hospital and nursing care cost associated with the visually impaired individual. This assistance can include the purchase of assistive devices.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Note: Applications are reviewed once a year during the month of November.

Applicants must be blind or visually impaired and reside in Kentucky. In addition, applicants must demonstrate an economic need for assistance. Recipients are selected based on applications submitted from medical organizations and societies that assist the blind. Note: An individual cannot apply directly. The request must be made by an organization for the individual. This organization needs to be either medical or one that assist the blind. There is no formal application. The request should include the individual's residence, proof of their blindness, economic need, the device/service. Submit the request or questions using the contact information listed above.

Additional Information

Serves blind/visually impaired individuals of all ages, statewide.

Make-a-Wish Foundation of Kentucky

1230 Liberty Bank Lane, Ste. 300
Louisville, KY 40222
Phone: (866) 487-9474 or (502) 327-0705
Website: oki.wish.org

Overview

Founded in 1983, this Foundation grants special wishes to children under the age of 18 who have terminal illnesses or life-threatening medical conditions. Although most wishes involve things such as special vacations and trips or meeting celebrities, assistive technology can be provided if it is the sincere wish of the child.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

To qualify for assistance, an individual must have a terminal or life-threatening illness and must be less than eighteen years of age. Local "wish teams" are brought together to work out the details of each wish. Make-a-Wish has never turned down a wish for a child who is eligible.

Application information is available on line or by phone.

Additional Information

Special emphasis on physical disabilities, birth to 18 years of age, statewide.

Muscular Dystrophy Association

909 Lily Creek Road Ste. 201
Louisville, KY 40243
Phone: (502) 456-1440
Website: mdausa.org
Email: louisville@mdausa.org

The Louisville office serves most of Kentucky and Southern Indiana.

The Nashville office serves 10 counties in South Central KY including: Bowling Green and Glasgow. You can contact the Nashville office at (615) 832-5005 or by Email nashville@mdausa.org

Overview

The Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) is a non-profit organization that cares for individuals with any one of the 43 different types of neuromuscular diseases. The MDA provides an array of services to individuals with particular neuromuscular diseases while also funding research studies throughout the world. These services can include wheelchair and leg braces, loan closets for durable medical equipment (DME) and other aids.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

An applicant must have one of several neuromuscular diseases covered by MDA to qualify for services. Medical prescriptions from a local MDA clinic are required for all durable medical equipment and other aids for daily living. The equipment must be prescribed in relation to the neuromuscular disease. In order for powered wheelchairs to be purchased, they must be essential to the pursuit of an educational or vocational goal, the applicant must be at least eleven years of age and have a written statement for such a wheelchair from a school official, employer, or prospective employer. A maximum amount of what MDA will pay towards a powered wheelchair is established annually. The applicant must make up any difference. Application information is available on line or by phone.

Shrine Temple

812 S. Second St.
Louisville, KY
Phone: (502) 585-5412
Website: kosair.com

Overview

Shriners Hospitals for Children is a network of pediatric specialty hospitals, founded by the Shrine, where children under the age of 18 receive excellent medical care absolutely free of charge. The Shriners provide assistance to children with specific health problems and disabilities. They provide a variety of services that could include the provision of assistive devices such as wheelchairs as part of their treatment plan and their services are centered on a series of hospitals they sponsor nationally.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Most children that receive services from the Shriners are patients in their hospitals. A child must be under 18 years of age and have one of the following disabilities or health difficulties: orthopedic problems, spinal problems, or severe burns.

Call for more information.

Additional Information

Serves children from birth to 18 years of age with specific physical disabilities, statewide.

Woodmen of the World

Kentucky West

Phone: (270) 753-4382
Website: woodmen.org
Email: Kentucky_West@woodmen.com

Kentucky East

Phone: (606) 759-1409
Website: woodmen.org
Email: Kentucky_East@woodmen.com

Overview

The Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society is a national fraternal organization. In Kentucky, the Society has two regional offices and nine local chapters. The local chapters can provide wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, or canes to individuals. These devices are actually loaned and meant to fill temporary needs so as to prevent person the expense of an unnecessary purchase. The devices must be returned to the organization when they are no longer needed.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Individuals with mobility problems are eligible for assistance from the Woodmen of the World and can apply with the local chapters for the temporary loan of mobility equipment. Application information is available on line or by phone.

Additional Information

Serves individuals with mobility impairments of all ages, statewide.

Private Sources of Funding – National

Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Preschool-Age Financial Aid Program

Parent-Infant Financial Aid Program

School-age Financial Aid Program

Phone: (202) 337-5220

Website: listeningandspokenlanguage.org

Email: financialaid@agbell.org

Preschool-Age Financial Aid Program

Overview

The Preschool-Age Financial Aid program is for families of pre-school age children (age 4 until they begin first grade) who have been diagnosed with a bilateral hearing loss in the moderately-severe to profound range and who are in pursuit of a listening and spoken language education for their child. Awards are made to assist with expenses such as auditory support services, speech-language therapy, pre-school tuition, etc. Families who apply should be committed to a listening and spoken language approach for the education of their child's listening, speech and cognitive skills

This program usually opens in June and with a deadline usually in late July. Program details and an application packet are available on the agbell website during that time. listeningandspokenlanguage.org

Parent-Infant Financial Aid Program

Overview

The Parent-Infant Financial Aid Program is for families of infants and toddlers ages 0 to 3 who have been diagnosed with a bilateral hearing loss in the moderately-severe to profound range and who are in pursuit of spoken language education for their child. Awards are made to assist with expenses such as auditory support services, speech-language therapy, preschool tuition, etc. Families should be committed to a listening and spoken language approach for the education of their child's listening, speech and cognitive skills.

This program usually opens in August and with a deadline usually in late early October. Program details and an application packet are available on the agbell website during that time. listeningandspokenlanguage.org

School-age Financial Aid Program

***Note:** will pay for services but not A-T.

Overview

The School-Age Financial Aid program is for students with a pre-lingual bilateral hearing loss in the moderately-severe to profound range who use listening and spoken language and who are in first through twelfth grades and attending a parochial, independent or private mainstream school. Awards are intended to assist with educational costs such as tuition, books, equipment, room and board, auditory and speech language support services, academic tutoring, transportation, and other school-related expenses. Please Note: Public school, oral school, OPTION school, home school & post-secondary students do not meet this criterion.

This program generally opens in April with a deadline usually in late May. Program details and an application packet are available on the AG Bell website during this time. listeningandspokenlanguage.org

Association of Blind Citizens – Assistive Technology Fund

Phone: (781) 961-1023

Website: blindcitizens.org

Email: atf@blindcitizens.org

Overview

The Association of Blind Citizens operates the Assistive Technology Fund. The Assistive Technology Fund (ATF) will provide funds to cover 50% of the retail price of adaptive devices or software. The ABC board of directors believes that this program will allow blind and visually impaired individual's access to technology products that will have a significant impact on improving employment opportunities, increase the level of independence and enhance their overall quality of life.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

The products covered by this program must retail for a minimum of \$200 with a maximum retail price of \$6,000. Persons eligible to apply for assistance must have a family income of less than \$50,000 and cash assets of less than \$20,000. Applications will be reviewed by the Assistive Technology Committee (ATC) and recommendations will be submitted for board approval. If applicants are selected to receive a technology grant, applicants will be asked to provide documents such as tax returns, bank statements and any other documents that the ABC board or its designee would deem necessary to assess financial need for the grant.

Applicants must be legally blind and a resident of the United States to qualify for this program. Applications must be submitted by June 30th and December 31st for each grant period (two per year). Applicants will be notified if their request for a grant is approved. Applicants may submit one request per calendar year. All applications must be submitted via e-mail. You will be notified by ABC within 45 days after the application deadline. The grantee will have 30 days after notification to purchase the product. If the purchase cannot be made within 30 days ABC reserves the right to withdraw the award and assign it to another applicant. All decisions are final.

The application form is on the website at blindcitizens.org (From the home page click the Assistive Technology Fund link)

Additional Information

Serves blind/visually impaired individuals of all ages, Nationwide.

Barr Foundation Amputee Assistance Fund (BFAAF)

Phone: (561) 391-7601

Website: wgbarrfoundation.org

Email: t-barr@t-barr.com

Overview

The purpose of the fund is to purchase prosthetic limbs for amputees who cannot otherwise afford them. The creation of the fund was made possible by a generous donation from the Barr Foundation. William G. Barr, co-author of the book "Whole Again", tells of his and his son's struggles to find a proper fitting prosthesis and overcome their disabilities.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

The Barr Foundation Amputee Assistance Fund (BFAAF) is administered by the Barr Foundation in Boca Raton, Florida, and coordinated by local and foreign prosthetists. The Fund will pay for materials and fitting of a new prosthesis after financial need has been established by the prosthetists. To establish that need, the amputee and prosthetist would need to show there are no other sources of funding available. To apply for the funding the prosthetist and amputee will complete application forms which will then be reviewed and verified by a committee of professionals. In most cases, the amputee should have an answer within two weeks.

Application information is available on line or by phone.

Additional Information

Serves individuals with loss of limb of all ages, Nationwide.

Children's Charity Fund

Phone: (800) 643-5787

Website: childrenscharityfund.org/

Email: CCF21c@aol.com

Overview

The Children's Charity Fund is a national organization dedicated to serving the needs of children with disabilities and their

parents. The fund will assist any child regardless of age, race, color, sex or national origin. The fund can provide for the purchase of medical equipment and other aids including wheelchairs, walkers, braces, and hearing aids.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Decisions on funding are based upon criteria such as medical need and income level. Documentation must include a letter from the child's Physician stating his/her disability, a prescription from the child's Physician for the requested equipment, and denial from an insurance company, Medicaid or Medicare, your most recent tax information, the child's photo and the request form notarized. Application information is available on line or by phone.

Additional Information

Serves children with all disabilities, Nationwide.

A Child's Wish Association of America

Phone: (800) 643-5787

Website: childrenscharityfund.org

Email: CCF21c@aol.com

Overview

A Child's Wish Association of America (a project of the Children's Charity Fund) was founded to ease the pain and suffering of children afflicted with a life threatening or terminal illness. For these unfortunate children, A Child's Wish provides an experience of a lifetime in the form of a special wish.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

A Child's Wish Association of America will consider the wish of any child with a life threatening or terminal illness and who has attained the age of 4 and have not reached their 18th birthday. The wish child must not have received a special wish from any other wish granting organization. There are no restrictions as to the child's residence or where the child is being treated. The basic criteria are that the child's illness must be medically confirmed as life threatening or terminal, the child must be able to participate in the special wish and the special wish must be the child's very own. Children are referred to us from doctors, nurses, teachers, and people just like you. Assistive technology will be considered if it is truly the wish of the child. Application information is available on line or by phone.

Children's Wish Foundation

Phone: (800) 323-9474

Website: Childrenswish.org

Overview

The Children's Wish Foundation International, Inc, was founded on the premise that terminally ill children, regardless of race, color, religion, or economic status, are denied the basic right to grow into adulthood. For these unfortunate children, Children's Wish Foundation provides an experience of a lifetime in the form of a favorite wish.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Children's Wish Foundation will fulfill the favorite wish for any child not expected to live until the age of 18. Each wish, truly the child's own wish must be completed while the child is healthy enough to fully enjoy it. The immediate family is included in the wish fulfillment, so that the child and family will share in the experience. Assistive technology will be considered if it is truly the wish of the child. Application information is available on line or by phone.

Additional Information

Serves terminally ill children, birth to 18 years of age, Nationwide.

Computers for the Blind (CFTB)

Phone: (214) 340-6328

Website: computersfortheblind.net

Overview

Computers for the Blind is a non-profit 501(c) 3 volunteer organization located in Richardson, TX. We provide accessible

computers to persons who are blind and visually impaired. We collect donated laptop and desktop computers from businesses and individuals. Skilled volunteer computer technicians wipe them clean and install screen reader software (NVDA). Upon request we provide larger monitors and/or a trial version of Zoomtext. The full version is available for \$200. E-mail and word processor software are part of the software library along with simple accessible tutorials on how to operate the accessible software. We currently ship about 70 computers a month throughout the country and have already shipped over 6,000 computers. We ship a minimum Dual Core 1.8 GHz, with 1.5 GB memory and 80 GB hard drive. Occasionally we are able to ship Pentium 4 3.0 GHz systems.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Anyone with a visual impairment who is serious about using it and is willing to commit to the learning process. The cost to the consumer is \$100 for a desktop, \$150 for a laptop. For general inquiries or to request a computer call or visit our website.

Darrell Gwynn Foundation-custom designed wheelchair donation program

Phone: (954) 792-7223

Website: darrellgwynnfoundation.org

Overview

Foundation donates brand new, highly customized manual and power wheelchairs to children and adults facing medical and financial hardships. Preference will be given to first time program applicants. Application information is available on line or by phone.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Applicant must have sustained an injury or be diagnosed with a form of paralysis that leaves the applicant a permanent wheelchair user; must be living with injury or paralysis for at least one (1) year; must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident of the U.S. for at least six (6) months; must be a minimum of two (2) years of age; must have an active role within the community or be able to demonstrate the ability and desire to re-enter the community. For additional information and complete eligibility criteria, please visit the website at the address listed above.

First Hand Foundation

Phone: (816) 201-1569

Website: cerner.com/firsthand/

Email: firsthandfoundation@cerner.com

Overview

First Hand is a non-profit, 501 (c)(3) organization supported by the generosity of Cerner Corporation, its associates, its business partners, and friends. The Foundation assists individual children who have clinical, health-related needs and no financial safety net to cover these expenses. By focusing on the individual child, First Hand reaches children and their families who would otherwise fall through the cracks of insurance coverage and state aid. The Foundation strives to provide assistance that creates independence, rather than dependence for its recipients.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

First Hand encourages Cerner associates, business partners and clients, as well as the public, to refer cases to the Foundation. Applications are processed and evaluated by First Hand's Clinical Decision Committee composed of healthcare professionals and associates from Cerner Corporation. In order to be considered for funding, the following criteria must be fulfilled: 1) The child must be under the care of a pediatrician; 2) The case must involve a specific child with a specific need; 3) The grant request must be clinically relevant to the health of the child; 4) There must be no existing financial net (such as Medicaid or private insurance) to cover the requested expenses; 5) The case must be in a proactive stage. An application for debt reduction for expenses already incurred will not be considered for First Hand Foundation funding; 6) Because First Hand believes in empowering the families it helps, the families must do their own legwork in seeking medical advice and treatment for their children. First Hand provides its support by funding the procedures and equipment recommended by experts. First Hand partners with other organizations to help the same child, to maximize the impact of its funding; and 7) The child must be 18 years of age or younger (a child 18-21 can be considered if under the care of a pediatrician and in a child-like state) Applications are available on line or by phone.

Additional Information

Serves individuals of all disabilities, birth to 21 years of age, Nationwide.

Hear Now Foundation

Phone: (800) 648-4327

Website: sotheworldmayhear.org/hearnow/

Overview

Hear Now is a national non-profit program committed to assisting deaf and hard-of-hearing persons with limited financial resources who permanently reside within the United States. The work of Hear Now is supported through the contributions of many benefactors. We receive no government funding. All donations – money, time, hearing aids – allow the program to survive and give the gift of hearing domestically. Eligible devices and services include hearing aids and fittings.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

In determining eligibility, HEAR NOW considers the following: household size; monthly or annual income from all in the household who have income; and assets. Applications are available on line or by phone.

Additional Information

Serves individuals with hearing loss, all ages, Nationwide.

Help America Hear

Phone: (631) 366-3461

Email: info@foundationforsightandsound.org

Website: foundationforsightandsound.org/projects.html

Overview

The Foundation for Sight and Sound through its Help America Hear Program (HAH) provides hearing aids for men, women, and children with limited financial resources.

The Help America Hear Program gives people the “Gift of Sound” by working in partnership with manufacturers and providers.

With this program, each person receives: two hearing aids, custom ear molds and one year limited service. After an application fee the only expenses are the cost of the hearing evaluation and batteries.

WE ARE A LAST RESORT - Help America Hear is sponsored by the generosity of hearing health care providers, corporate and private donors, and manufacturers. Application information as well as locations of participating hearing health care providers is available on line or by phone.

Hike Fund

Website: thehikefund.org/

Overview

The HIKE Fund, Inc. is a not for profit charity incorporated under the laws of the State of Nebraska and registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt charity. The Fund is the continuing philanthropic project of Job's Daughters International.

The purpose of the Fund is to provide hearing devices for children with hearing losses between the ages of newborn and twenty years whose parents are unable to meet this special need financially. Estimates of 100 children are provided with hearing devices each year. Examples of eligible hearing devices include hearing aids, enclosed caption converters for television, tactile units, FM units (into which a hearing aid is plugged for amplification), computers to assist deaf children in communicating, as well as other technical devices may be prescribed.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Children are eligible to receive a grant providing the need is verified by a prescription from an audiologist or physician. The following list of items must be included in the application packet to be considered for funding:

- a letter from parent(s) or guardian(s) explaining the financial need
- statement of income and expenses
- a copy of the previous year's income tax return and the most recent pay stub(s) from each wage earner
- a recent (within the past 12 months) audiogram AND quote from a licensed and/or certified audiologist and/or physician
- an itemized cost quotation from the supplier which should include cost of hearing aid(s) or device(s), cost of ear mold(s), and professional fees.

Applications can be downloaded from the website listed above.

Additional Information

Serves individuals with moderate to profound hearing loss, birth to 20 years of age, Nationwide.

Kids Wish Network

Phone: (888) 918-9004

Website: kidswishnetwork.com/

Overview

Kids Wish Network is a federally recognized 501(c) 3 nonprofit charitable organization whose sole mission is to grant wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses. Kids Wish Network actively seeks out children who have "slipped through the cracks" of society; that is, children without parents or other advocates. Although, our primary mission is to grant first wishes, under extraordinary circumstances, our Board of Directors may approve a second wish for a child who has already had a wish granted. Some examples of wishes include: computers with assistive technology, theme park visits, shopping sprees, meeting celebrities and traveling are all popular choices. We have also fulfilled many requests for special commodity wishes such as accessible playground sets. The wish cannot accommodate pets, travel outside the US, hunting trips, motorized vehicles, hospital equipment, land/housing or medical treatments.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

To qualify for assistance, an individual must have a terminal or life-threatening illness and must be between 3 and 18 years of age. Application information is available on line or by phone.

Limbs for Life Foundation

Phone: (888) 235-5462

Website: limbsforlife.org

Email: admin@limbsforlife.org

Overview

Limbs for Life awards prosthetic care to clients both in the US and developing countries. Prosthetic limbs range from \$15,000 to over \$100,000 each.

A qualified applicant is provided with partial or complete funding for an advanced prosthesis, fitted by a certified prosthetist.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Once the amputee receives our application, they are to fill out the forms thoroughly, having a prosthetist of their choice review, fill out, and sign the prosthetist pages. (This includes the Proposed Fee Schedule and Current Prosthetist). Once both the amputee and prosthetist sections are completed, entire packet should be mailed back to Limbs for Life.

At this point, a criminal background check is processed for each applicant. This step is taken in order to verify that the amputee fits these criteria: 1) must be a legal resident of the United States; and 2) must not have a felony in their criminal history. If the applicant fails to meet either one of these criterion, they will be notified by letter.

Finally, if the applicant passes the background check, their application will go before the board of directors for confirmation. If selected, we will send a letter to the amputee and their prosthetist informing them that the applicant has been approved for financial assistance. Application information is available on line or by phone.

Additional Information

Individual with loss of limb, all ages, Nationwide.

Miracle-Ear Foundation Gift of Sound Program

Phone: (800) 234-5422

Website: miraclearfoundation.org

Overview

The Miracle-Ear Foundation serves and support children and adults who have a hearing loss. Our Gift of Sound program provides at no-cost hearing aids and hearing support services to families or individuals who have income that are significantly limited, who are unable to afford the high cost of quality hearing instruments, and who exhausted all possible resources for their hearing health. Hearing challenges are unique, every application for service and support are considered on an individual bases. Applications fee for adults, age of 19 years and older, requesting services from the Miracle-Ear Foundation is \$150. This is a non-refundable fee, please make sure you fit eligibility criteria before applying. Application information is available online or by phone.

Multiple Sclerosis Foundation

Assistive Technology Program

Computer Grant Program

Brighter Tomorrow Program

Cooling Program

Phone: (888) 673-6287

Website: msfocus.org

Email: support@msfocus.org

Assistive Technology Program

Overview

The MSF Assistive Technology (AT) Program strives to educate and assist individuals with MS across the country about the myriad of AT options available and how to access these options. The MSF AT Program may provide an AT product, help locate a product, or help with funding for a wide range of devices that allow individuals with MS to function more independently in activities of daily living, as well as recreational, educational, and vocational activities.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Questions will be asked regarding symptoms, level of disability, income, family support, and assistance requirements. This information helps the AT coordinator to assess the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive needs of the patient. Financial status also plays a role in determining eligibility for the MSF Assistive Technology Program. Upon review, the AT coordinator will determine what AT will be provided through the MSF or if a referral to another resource is needed. All equipment is ordered from a licensed medical equipment supplier. Applications are available online or via postal mail.

Brighter Tomorrow Grant

Overview

Each year the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation makes dreams come true for individuals with multiple sclerosis across the country through the Brighter Tomorrow grant. The goal of the grant is provide individuals with MS with goods or services (valued at up to \$1000.00 per recipient) to improve their quality of life by enhancing safety, self-sufficiency, comfort, or well-being. Recipients of the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation's Brighter Tomorrow grant have received appliances, televisions, furniture, hobby supplies, retreats, and various home modifications.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

To qualify, a person must be 18 years of age or older and diagnosed with MS, or the parent of a minor child diagnosed with MS, and be a permanent U.S. resident. They must not have any other means of fulfilling the need they express.

Applicants are asked to provide basic personal and financial information, and to write a brief essay of 100 words or less to describe how the grant would help them have A Brighter Tomorrow. Applications are available online or via postal mail using the information above. Applications are accepted from June 1 to September 1 of each year.

Computer Grant Program

Overview

Computer Grant Program provides refurbished desktop computers for individuals with MS on limited or fixed incomes. For those who do not know how to use a computer, training may be provided. The application process requires verification of a diagnosis of MS and a brief essay from the applicant explaining how a computer will enhance their quality of life. A computer, monitor, keyboard and mouse will be granted. Internet access and technical support will be the responsibility of the grant recipient. Applications are accepted from June 1 to September 1 of each year. Applications are available online or via postal mail using the information above.

Cooling Program

Overview

More often than not, heat and MS don't mix. As the body temperature rises, weakness, fatigue, visual disturbances, and other symptoms can become aggravated and temporarily worsen. While heat does not actually make MS worse, it does alter the passage of nerve impulses, causing a feeling of weakness, especially in the limbs.

But keeping the body cool can help a person with MS to reclaim those sun-splashed days of summer and the countless activities associated with the season, like gardening, fishing, walking, biking, family outings, barbeques, and baseball games. The MSF Cooling Program offers a variety of items, free of charge, including: Cooling vests, neckties, wristbands, bandanas, work collars, skull-pads, baseball hats

Application Process

Our program cycle begins on February 1st and continues through June 1st. All applications are confidential and will be reviewed by the grant committee. Applications are available online or via postal mail using the information above.

Additional Information

The 4 programs serves individuals with Multiple Sclerosis of all ages, Nationwide.

Push America – The National Outreach Project of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity

Phone: (704) 504-2400

Website: pushamerica.org/

Email: pushamerica@pushamerica.org

Overview

Pi Kappa Phi is heavily involved in the construction of accessible environments nationwide on campuses, in communities, at camps for people with disabilities, and even at individuals' homes. Members of Pi Kappa Phi work year round, providing funds and man power, to help create a barrier free society for people with disabilities.

Push America's construction programs play a vital role in the development of camps and organizations in the United States supporting people with disabilities. We support camp development through grant funding and supplying volunteers to complete all accessible construction.

Access Ability

ACCESS ability is Pi Kappa Phi's ramp building program for individuals.

Application Process

Disability related programs and organizations can contact the Push America National Outreach Project using the information listed above.

A ramp request form (Access Ability) can be requested by phone or downloaded from the website at pushamerica.org (From the home page click events and next click regional construction).

Special Wish Foundation

Phone: (800) 486-9474

Website: spwish.org/

Overview

A Special Wish Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to granting the wishes of children under the age of 21 and diagnosed as having a life-threatening disorder. A Special Wish Foundation is the only major wish-granting organization in the United States that grants wishes to qualifying infants, children, and adolescents from birth through and including the age of 20 years.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

The Special-Wish-Foundation has two criteria that must be met before a wish is considered:

- A child must be diagnosed as having a life-threatening disorder
- A child must be under the age of 21.

The foundation grants wishes across the US. Assistive technology will be considered if it is truly the wish of the child.

Application information is available on line or by phone.

Additional Information

Serves children with Chronic or Terminal Illness, birth to 21 years of age, Nationwide.

Sunshine Foundation – Grants/Gifts

Phone: (215) 396-4770

Website: sunshinefoundation.com

Email: philly@sunshinefoundation.org

Overview

Sunshine answers the dreams of seriously ill, physically challenged and abused children, ages 3-18 from all over the country. Although the most frequently filled "wish" is a trip to Disney World or Disneyland, another common dream that the foundation fills is the purchase of a computer or other assistive technology.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

In order to receive a dream through Sunshine Foundation, a child must meet the following requirements:

- They must be between the ages of 3-18
- The child must be seriously ill, physically challenged or abused
- The parent's/guardian's annual income may not exceed \$75,000; and
- The child may not have had a dream granted through any other wish-granting organizations.

Application information is available online or by phone.

Additional Information

Serves seriously ill, physically challenged and/or abused children, between the ages of 3-18, Nationwide.

Teddy's Star Foundation

Phone: (256) 832-8778

Website: teddysstar.org/

Email: pr@teddysstar.org

Overview

Teddy's Star provides Assistive Technology to quadriplegics and other severely disabled persons who have the will and the determination to become more self-reliant, more independent, and more productive, but who do not possess the financial means with which to do so.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Individuals with spinal cord injuries who do not possess the financial requirements to purchase the assistive technology are eligible for this program. Application information is available online or by phone.

TPA Scholarship Trust for the Deaf and Near Deaf

Phone: (314) 371-0533

Website: tpahq.org

Overview

The Travelers Protective Association of America established the TPA Scholarship Trust for the Deaf and Near Deaf in 1975 to provide financial aid to children and adults who suffer deafness or hearing impairment and who need assistance in obtaining mechanical devices, medical or specialized treatment or specialized education as well as speech classes, note takers, interpreters, etc. and in other areas of need that are directly related to hearing impairment.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Persons who suffer deafness or hearing impairment may obtain an application for aid from the Trust at The Travelers Protective Association. Completed application must be returned to the Trust by March 1st each year. Trustees review all applications on file in April; notify recipients in May and scholarship checks are mailed after August 1st. Recipients may receive additional aid and must complete a new application for aid each time they seek additional aid. Selection of recipients and amount of the scholarship awarded shall be decided upon by the majority of the Trustees meeting in April to review the applications. Applicants demonstrating the greatest financial need are given preference regardless of race, creed, age or sex. Distributions are made from the interest earned by Trust investments. Completed applications are due by March 1st, annually. Application information is available on line or by phone.

Additional Information

Serves individuals with hearing impairments, all ages, Nationwide.

Travis Roy Foundation Grants

Phone: (617) 619-8257

Website: travisroyfoundation.org/

Email info@travisroyfoundation.org

Overview

Applicants must request specific modifications or equipment to apply for a Travis Roy Foundation grant; requests for "anything you can give" will not be considered. Examples of eligible items include upgrade and maintenance of wheelchairs, vehicle modifications (i.e., hand controls or lifts), and home modifications including ramp and elevator installation, and other adaptive equipment. Grants are disbursed directly to suppliers of the desired equipment or modifications. Individuals making the grant application are required to submit estimates from potential suppliers. Please complete all sections of the application; incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications are accepted year-round and are considered at quarterly Trustee meetings. Grants typically range from \$4,000 to \$7,500; there is no minimum award.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Assistance is awarded to paraplegics or quadriplegics paralyzed due to a spinal cord injury (Please Note: paralysis must be due to a spinal cord injury; paralysis due to other causes, such as MS or Spina bifida, is not eligible). Applicants must demonstrate financial need and may be required to provide documentation. There is no age requirement. Applicants must reside in the United States. Due to the volume of grant applications, we respectfully request no phone calls or emails inquiring about the status of applications. Grant recipients will be notified by phone or mail upon approval. Applications are available online or by phone.

Additional Information

Serves individuals with Spinal Cord injuries, all ages, Nationwide

Alternative Financing Programs



Alternative Financing Program(s) (AFP) - Overview

Another method of funding assistive technology including home modifications is obtaining a personal loan. Conventional bank loans are many times not available, but there have been Alternative Financing Programs developed specifically for this purpose. Alternative Financing Programs offer low interest and/or guaranty bank loans that provide individuals with disabilities or those that have a dependent with a disability the opportunity to borrow money for the purchase of needed assistive technology or home modifications. Some of the sources offer grants or loan grant combinations.

Sources included in this section are:

- Appalachian Foothills Housing Agency
- Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation
- Kentucky Housing Corporation
- HouseWorks Program
- Section 504 Loan and Grant program

Alternative Financing Program(s) (AFP)

Appalachian Foothills Housing Agency

Overview

This agency provides a revolving loan for home modification and housing for individuals with disabilities.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Kentucky residents who are low income, elderly and disabled and own their own home in the counties of Carter, Elliot, and Greenup are eligible for this program. Application information is available by phone.

Contact Information

Phone: (800) 404-4584 or (606) 836-0911

Additional Information

This is a revolving loan program so money is not always available.

HouseWorks Program - USDA Rural Development and Kentucky Housing

Overview

The HouseWorks Program helps Kentucky homeowners living in rural communities pay for common household projects by providing funding resources to nonprofits and units of local government working to address the repair and improvement needs of these low-income homeowners across the state. This program offers funding on a non-competitive, first-come, first-served basis until funds are depleted. HouseWorks is the result of a partnership between Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development. Funding comes from both KHC and USDA.

Nearly any critical improvement that makes a home more livable is eligible. Some of the items that may be financed include indoor plumbing, pumping systems, wells, windows, doors, roofing, insulation, heating, handicap accessibility, and weatherization. KHC provides up to \$10,000 for the needed repairs or improvements. KHC funds come from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, which was created by the 1992 Kentucky General Assembly to serve Kentuckians with critical housing needs, and are provided to the homeowner through partner agencies.

Applicant agencies are required to match at least 50 percent of the amount requested of HouseWorks funds. For example, if your organization is requesting \$10,000 in HouseWorks Program funding, you would be required to also provide at least \$5,000 in matching resources.

The following is a list of resources that an applicant may propose to meet their program match requirement

- Cash;
- Donated materials;
- Volunteer labor (valued at \$10 per hour);
- In-kind administrative or support services

Eligibility and Application Process

Any homeowner who meets the income guidelines and lives in a rural area of the state, as determined by USDA, may apply to the agencies which receive funds. The amount received is based on income level, need, and, in some cases, age. HouseWorks applications are available from local USDA Rural Development offices and are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis as long as funds are available. A list of local offices is found at the Rural Development website You can also call the USDA rural Development state office in Lexington for contact information on your local office or ask for a single family housing specialist who can answer questions on all of their programs.

Contact Information

USDA Rural Development

Phone: (859) 224-7322 (state office in Lexington)

Website: Rurdev.usda.gov/kyhome.html

Kentucky Housing:

Phone: (800) 633-8896

Website: kyhousing.org

Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC)

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Commonwealth of Kentucky

Overview

The Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation provides low interest loans for the purchase of assistive technology equipment and services for Kentuckians with disabilities to pursue education obtain/maintain employment and improve their quality of life. Working with Fifth Third Bank of Kentucky, the Corporation provides loans from \$500 to \$25,000 to individuals at a low fixed rate. The current KATLC rate is at 5.5% compared to the current prime lending rate of 8.25%. The program is primarily intended for individuals who may not qualify for traditional loan programs

Eligibility Requirements

- Resident of Kentucky for at least six consecutive months
- Have a disability that affects a major life activity
- or A family member/caregiver of an individual with a disability.

AT Services Provided/Covered

- Evaluation/Assessment
- Selection/Design
- Equipment

AT Devices Provided/Covered

- Vision/Hearing
- Speech Communication
- Learning, Cognition and Developmental
- Mobility, Seating and Positioning
- Daily Living
- Environmental Adaptations
- Vehicle Modifications
- Computers and Related
- Recreation, Sports and Leisure

Application Process

Submit a completed application to KATLC at the address listed below. Applications can be obtained from the KATLC website or by calling the number listed below. Verification of disability, an itemized price quote, and proof of income must be provided with the completed application. The applicant may also supply other documentation, such as an assistive technology assessment, that will support the need for assistive technology. KATLC will determine eligibility based on disability and the nature of the assistive technology being requested. Fifth Third Bank will determine financial eligibility.

Contact Information

KY Assistive Technology Loan Program

Contact: Sarah Richardson

Phone: (877) 675-0195

Fax: (502) 564-6745

Website: katlc.ky.gov/

Email: EDU.katlc@ky.gov

Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC)

Finance & Administration Cabinet, Commonwealth of Kentucky

Overview

The Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC), the state housing finance agency, is a self-supporting, public corporation that was established in 1972 to serve very low and moderate-income families. KHC offers lower than market rate home mortgages, multifamily housing financing, homeownership education and counseling and a variety of rental assistance and housing rehabilitation and repair programs. KHC also has financing programs to assist developers in the production of affordable rental housing and single-family homes, as well as programs that help provide transitional housing, supportive services, emergency housing assistance, shared housing assistance and permanent housing for the disabled homeless.

Eligibility Requirements

Individuals must meet certain income requirements while agencies must agree to provide housing activities targeted to persons within specific incomes. For more information, contact the Kentucky Housing Corporation.

Contact Information

Kentucky Housing Corporation
1231 Louisville Road
Frankfort, KY 40601
Phone: (800) 633-8896
(502) 564-7630
Website: kyhousing.org

Section 504 Direct Loan and Grant

USDA Rural Development

Overview

Direct loans and grants are loans funded directly by the government. These loans are available to very low-income rural residents who own and occupy a dwelling in need of repair. Funds are available for repair to improve or modernize a home, or to remove health and safety hazards. This can include accessibility issues such as ramps and bathrooms. Loans of up to 20 thousand and grants up to \$7,500 are available. Loans are up to 20 years at 1% interest. A real estate mortgage and full title services are required for loans of \$7,500 or more. Grants may be recaptured if the property is sold in less than 3 years. A grant/loan combination is made if the applicant can repay part of the cost. Loans and grants can be combined for up to \$27,500 in assistance.

Eligibility and Application Process

To obtain a loan, homeowner-occupants must be unable to obtain affordable credit elsewhere and must have very low income, defined as below 50% of the area median income. There must be a need to make repairs and improvements to make the dwelling safe and sanitary or to remove health and safety hazards. Grants are only available to home owners who are 62 years or older and cannot repay a section 504 loan. Applications are available from local USDA Rural Development offices. A list of local offices is found at the Rural Development website. You can also call the USDA rural Development state office in Lexington for contact information on your local office or ask for a single family housing specialist who can answer questions on all of their programs.

Contact Information

Phone: (859) 224-7322 Rural Development state office in Lexington
Website: Rurdev.usda.gov/kyhome.html

Additional Information

There are also section 502 direct and mortgage loans available. Use the contact information above for more information on these loans.

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Accessible Books (Digital, Large Print, Braille)



Accessible Books – braille, large print, and digital

Included in this section:

- American Printing House - Accessible Media Producers Database
- American Printing House - Louis Database
- American Printing House - Tactile Graphic Image Library
- Bookshare
- Kentucky Accessible Materials Database (KAMD)
- Kentucky Instructional Materials Resource Center (KIMRC)
- Learning Ally (formally RFB&D)
- National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC)

See also: KY Talking Book Library – page 22

Accessible Books (Digital, Large Print, Braille)

APH - Accessible Media Producers Database

Phone: (800) 223-1839, ext. 705

Website: Louis.aph.org (click on AMP database)

E-mail: resource@aph.org

Overview

In addition to Louis, APH offers the Accessible Media Producers Database (AMP). AMP is a directory for locating accessible media producers of formats such as braille, tactile graphics, large print, e-files and audio. Producers provide information describing their certifications, expertise and contact information, and users can browse listings by options including state, format and language. Additional information is available on line or by phone.

APH - LOUIS Database

Phone: (800) 223-1839, ext. 705

Website: Louis.aph.org

E-mail: resource@aph.org

Overview

The American Printing House for the Blind (APH) maintains the Louis Database of Accessible Materials for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired. Named in honor of Louis Braille, the database assists educators, administrators and those who are visually impaired in locating accessible books and materials in an efficient manner.

Louis contains information on the availability of accessible formats produced and sold by over 160 organizations throughout the United States. More than 397,000 titles are listed in Louis, with an emphasis on K-12 educational materials. These materials include books in braille, large print, audio, and electronic file format. Louis also lists products developed by APH, such as accessible educational aids.

The APH File Repository is part of the Louis database and includes over 7,700 textbooks files that are available for download in a variety of formats, including braille-ready files, text files for braille production, and large print files suitable for use on a tablet.

Louis also has a search option called Louis Plus that enables the user to search Louis, the NIMAC database and Bookshare with one search. From within the search results, the user can go to the full Louis record to see all available formats, go to the NIMAC record to download the file or assign it to an accessible media producer, or go to the Bookshare record to download the file.

If you have problems or questions, APH Resource Services is happy to walk you through the search process and answer questions.

APH - Tactile Graphic Image Library

Phone: (800) 223-1839, ext. 705

Website: Louis.aph.org (click on TGIL)

Or imagelibrary.aph.org/aphb

E-mail: resource@aph.org

Overview

APH's Tactile Graphic Image Library (TGIL) contains a pool of well-designed templates to aid with the creation of tactile graphics. All you need to do is register to begin using the free Image Library to find tactile graphic templates that can be enhanced for your needs. The database will continue to be populated with new images regularly.

The images are presented in .pdf format that can be edited using a commercial drawing program such as CorelDraw or Adobe Illustrator. The .pdf files cannot be edited in the "Draw" features of programs such as Word, Paint or PowerPoint. They may need to be converted to another file format if you plan to send them to an embosser. Additional information is available on line or by phone.

Bookshare – Online Library of Digital Books

Phone: (650) 352-0198

Website: bookshare.org

Overview

The goal of Bookshare is to make the world of print accessible to people with disabilities. Their mission is to ensure that all individuals with print disabilities have equal and timely access to print materials.

Bookshare provides the world's largest online library of accessible reading materials for people with print disabilities. Individuals can sign up for membership and access the library on their own. Organizations that serve individuals with print disabilities (schools, libraries, community centers, etc.) can sign up and provide access to their students or clients.

A Bookshare membership offers unlimited access to accessible books, textbooks, newspapers and magazines. Additionally, free access technology makes it easy to read books with a computer.

Through an award from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), Bookshare offers free memberships to U.S. schools and qualifying U.S. students.

Bookshare Download Formats

- DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System)
- BRF (Braille Refreshable Format)

Bookshare Members download books, textbooks and newspapers in a compressed, encrypted file. They then read the material using adaptive technology, typically software that reads the book aloud (text-to-speech) and/or displays the text of the book on a computer screen, or Braille access devices, such as refreshable Braille displays, in addition you can read books in your web browser. If you do not already have software for reading DAISY books, you can download one of the free versions available with your Bookshare membership.

Bookshare adds books to the digital library in a variety of ways:

- Volunteers upload books they have scanned.
- Publishers and authors grant Bookshare rights to their digital files.
- In-house staff and partners scan and upload books.
- Universities and schools contribute their scanned books.
- Educators assign books to Bookshare from the NIMAC repository.

Bookshare has successfully reduced the time required to provide a book in an accessible format from months or years to days.

There are 3 types of membership options: individual, organizational and gift. Individual membership is free to qualifying U. S. students: K-12, home schooled, post-secondary, and adult education. All other individuals will need to pay \$75.00 for the first year and \$50.00 annually. Organizations that serve people with print disabilities may become Bookshare members. Bookshare memberships for U. S. educational institutions are free because it is funded by OSEP (U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs). Other organizations will pay by the number of books downloaded. A gift membership is when a Bookshare membership is purchased for someone with a qualifying disability. You can also order a Braille book as a gift.

Eligibility and Application Process

Bookshare membership is available to people who provide proof of their print disability, such as blindness or low vision, a learning disability or a physical disability that makes it difficult or impossible to read standard print. This certification may come from a doctor, rehabilitation counselor or other authorized professional. To apply for a Bookshare membership or if you want additional information, visit their website.

KAMD - KY Accessible Materials Database

Phone: (502) 564-4970 (KDE – ask for a exceptional children consultant)

Website: louisville.edu/education/abri/kamd

Email: kdekamd@louisville.edu (database operators Marlene Parish)

Overview

In July 2006, Kentucky's vision of increasing "the availability and timely delivery of print instructional materials in accessible formats to blind or other persons with print disabilities in elementary and secondary schools" was realized when the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS) was published in the Federal Register at the Library of Congress by the U. S. Office of Special Education (OSEP). With this official posting of the NIMAS, accessible instructional materials have become part of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA).

With this federal regulation in place, Kentucky can now require that any publisher of a textbook adopted for use in K-12 public schools provide those textbooks in an accessible electronic format in order to assist schools in meeting their obligation to provide equal access to the general curriculum for students with disabilities. As a way to facilitate the timely delivery of these accessible digital textbooks to schools, the Kentucky Accessible Materials Database (KAMD) was established. The KAMD is managed by the University of Louisville's Department of Special Education.

The Mission of the KAMD Includes:

- To serve as a state repository for accessible materials
- To disseminate accessible materials to authorized users
- To develop and implement effective tracking systems to maximize copyright protection
- To provide training and technical assistance to member agency staff on accessible technology tools and use of accessible content
- To prepare and provide of NIMAS files to student-ready format
- To assist with awareness efforts and development of materials to increase consumer understanding and use of Accessible Instructional Materials (AIMS)

The primary function of the Kentucky Accessible Materials Database (KAMD) is to provide K-12 Kentucky public schools a way to discover what instructional materials are available in digital format, and to provide a method for schools to acquire these digital materials for use by qualified students with disabilities while at the same time protecting the publishers' intellectual property rights (i.e., copyright).

KAMD downloads text books from the National Instructional Materials Access Center's website and then converts the files to an accessible format such as Microsoft Word or ePUB. There needs to be a request for a specific book by an eligible student before KAMD can download the book.

Eligibility and Application Process

In order to receive KAMD books the student must include the need for digital books in their IEP and also fit into a specific disability category.

Blind or visually impaired; Reading disability; Physical disability that prohibits the student from accessing standard printed material

Each School in the state of Kentucky can appoint a digital rights manager. The DRM submits the book request to KAMD. The DRM is also responsible for making sure the request comes from a qualified student and that copyright rules are explained to the student. Additional information is available online or by phone.

KIMRC - KY Instructional Materials Resource Center

A Statewide Resource for Blindness/Visual Impairments

Phone: (502) 897-1583 ext 7117

Email: paula.penrod@ksb.kyschools.us

Website: ksb.kyschools.us

Overview

The Kentucky Instructional Materials Resource Center (KIMRC) provides textbooks in braille and large print and other educational materials needed by students who are blind and visually impaired for use in local school programs. The resource center also conducts an annual registration of students who are blind and visually impaired in Kentucky.

Two programs are administered by KIMRC. The state textbook program for children with impaired vision who are attending public school (grades K-12) provides funding for textbooks. The federal quota program provides supplies, textbooks, and other material for students (preschool through less than college level) who are legally blind attending a public or private, nonprofit school. Blind infants are eligible from birth if enrolled in an early intervention program. All orders for materials must be sent to the KIMRC. Additional information is available online or by phone.

Learning Ally

Phone: (800) 221-4792

Website: Learningally.org

Overview

Learning Ally provides textbooks professionally recorded, over 75,000 titles are currently available; other titles maybe recorded upon request. All textbooks from kindergarten to college are included in Learning Ally's collection. Books can be downloaded or cd copies can be mailed. There is an annual membership fee of \$119. You may request a fee waiver form this could reduce or wave the membership fee.

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

Individuals who are blind/visually impaired, learning disabled, or physically disabled to the extent that they are unable to effectively use standard printed material are eligible. The application does include a disability verification section.

For schools and other institutions that serve individuals with print disabilities, simply complete Learning Ally's Annual Institutional Membership application and return it with the appropriate fees for the level of service needed. Membership information is available on line or by phone.

Additional Information

There are apps available for the iPhone and Android. Serves individuals who are blind/visually impaired, learning disabled, or physically disabled, Nationwide.

NIMAC – National Instructional Materials Access Center

Phone: (502) 899-2230 or (877) 526-4622

Website: www.nimac.us

Email: nimac@aph.org

Overview

The NIMAC is a federally-funded, national file repository that makes NIMAS (National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard) files available to states for the production of accessible formats for students with print disabilities. Created by IDEA 2004, NIMAS and the NIMAC help ensure that accessible K-12 instructional materials can be produced and distributed to students as quickly as possible, by providing a national standard source file format (NIMAS), and a central digital file repository (NIMAC).

The NIMAC currently receives NIMAS files from over one hundred K-12 textbook publishers. These files are available for download to Authorized Users in the United States and its territories through an online database. Once downloaded, files are used to create a variety of specialized formats, such as braille, audio, or digital text, on behalf of qualifying K-12 students who are blind, visually impaired, or print disabled. (The NIMAC is not able to serve students in higher education.)

The NIMAC now has over 35,000 files available.

NIMAS is the only format the NIMAC receives, and it is an XML-based source file format. "Source file" means that files are not student-ready and are not intended for distribution directly to students for use in the classroom. In most all cases, some type of conversion process is required before NIMAS can be used by the student.

Because NIMAS files are not student-ready, direct access to the NIMAC is provided to a small number of Authorized Users in each state who are responsible for converting and/or distributing the accessible versions to eligible students. These Authorized Users can also assign files for direct download by Accessible Media Producers who are registered with the NIMAC.

Most teachers, parents or students seeking student-ready formats will obtain these by working directly with agencies and organizations that provide those formats, such as Learning Ally, Bookshare, APH, and state instructional resource centers.

In Kentucky, NIMAC-sourced books can be obtained through The Kentucky Accessible Materials Database (KAMD). For more information on KAMD visit their website at louisville.edu/education/abri/kamd or call the KY department of Education Division of learning Services at (502) 564-4970. Additional information on NIMAC is available online or by phone.

Vehicle Modification Rebate Programs



Vehicle Modification Rebate Programs

These programs offer a cash reimbursement for newly purchased vehicles to help offset the cost of installing adaptive driver or passenger equipment. Leased vehicles may be included in some situations.

Adaptive equipment is defined as equipment required by persons with a permanent disability to drive, enter, exit and/or be transported safely in a motor vehicle. Factory optional equipment does not qualify for reimbursement. Programs differ from company to company so call for more information.

Chrysler Automobility Program

(800) 255-9877

Website: chryslerautomobility.com

Ford Mobility Motoring Program

(800) 952-2248

Website: fordmobilitymotoring.com

G M Mobility Reimbursement Program

(800) 323-9935

(800) 833-9935 (TTY)

Website: gmmobility.com

Lexus Mobility Program

(800) 255-3987

Website: Lexus.com/pdf/models/lexusmobilityform.pdf

Mobility by Volvo Program Reimbursement

(800) 803-5222

Website: volvocars.com/us/mobility

Toyota Mobility Program

(800) 331-4331

(800) 443-4999 (TTY)

Website: toyotamobility.com

National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association (NMEDA)

(866) 948-8341

NMEDA is a non-profit trade association of mobility equipment dealers, manufacturers, driver rehabilitation specialists and other professionals dedicated to expanding opportunities for people with disabilities to drive or be transported in vehicles modified with mobility equipment. All members work together to improve transportation options of people with disabilities.

For a list of Vehicle Modification Rebate Programs that may be more up to date visit their website at nmeda.org.

Note: from the home page, click How To Buy, then click Rebates.

Housing Programs for Disabled Veterans



Housing Programs for Disabled Veterans

Home for our Troops - New Home Program

We are a national non-profit organization founded in 2004 who are strongly committed to helping those who have selflessly given to our country and have returned home with serious disabilities and injuries since September 11, 2001. We assist severely injured Veterans and their families by raising money, building materials and professional labor, and by coordinating the process of building a home that provides maximum freedom of movement and the ability to live more independently. The homes provided by Homes for Our Troops are given at NO COST to the Veterans we serve.

Note: An eligible Veteran or service member may receive a Veterans Administration Specially Adapted Housing Grant up to a maximum amount of \$64, 960. Homes for Our Troops' assistance covers all costs over and above this grant to ensure that the home is provided at no cost to the recipient. Most of the projects we undertake are the building of new homes. In rare cases, especially in areas with very high land costs, it is more cost effective to buy an existing home and renovate it with all the special modifications needed as dictated by the particular disabilities and injuries of the veteran.

Phone: (866) 787-6677 or (508) 823-3300

Website: hfotusa.org

Home for our Troops - Home Award Program

The Home Award Program in partnership with national financial institutions, HFOT is donating bank owned properties to medically retired Veterans and Gold Star spouses that meet certain criteria. We provide assistance to the most severely injured service members who have been injured in combat operations since September 11, 2001.

Phone: (866) 787-6677 or (508) 823-3300

Website: hfotusa.org

Building for America's Bravest (Tunnels to Towers)

Build Smart Homes, that are custom designed on a case-by-case basis, addressing the needs of providing energy efficiency, ease of accessibility and automation to ultimately provide the most severely injured military personnel with the capability to live more independent lives.

Phone: (718) 987-1931

Website: buildingforamericasbravest.org

Building Homes for Heroes

Build homes from the ground up or modify existing homes to meet the needs of the brave men and women who have selflessly served our country. These mortgage-free homes not only help to remove the family's financial burden, they help to restore the individual's freedom, and enable the veteran to lead a more independent and productive civilian life.

Phone: (516) 684-9220

Website: buildinghomesforheroes.org/

Operation Finally Home

Operation FINALLY HOME provides custom made mortgage free homes to wounded and disabled veterans and the widows of the fallen in an effort to get their lives back on track and become productive members of their communities.

Website: operationfinallyhome.org/

Helping a Hero

Provides specially adapted homes for qualifying service members as well as engaging the community to provide services and resources for our wounded heroes and their families. (\$50,000 mortgage paid by Veteran).

Phone: (888) 786-9531

Website: helpingahero.org/

Purple Heart Homes

Purple Heart Homes, Inc. is dedicated to providing personalized housing solutions for Service Connected Disabled Veterans and their families that are substantial in function, design and quality provided at little or no cost to the veteran a "quality of life solution" that creates an injury specific, barrier free-living environment. These solutions can range from

remodeling an existing home already owned by the veteran, to creating an entire living space from the ground up. (Lately mostly renovations).

Phone: (855) 787-7539

Website: purplehearthomesusa.org/

Operation Second Chance

Our mission: to aid in the recovery and rehabilitation of wounded service men and women, to assist in the modification of housing to accommodate disabled veterans, to assist the families of wounded service men and women, to facilitate the transition of wounded service men and women back into civilian society.

Website: operationsecondchance.org

Salute, Inc. (Builders of Hope)

Salute, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing awareness and support of issues facing active military personnel, veterans and their families and to provide financial support through advocacy and fundraising. Builders of Hope is a collaborative effort with builders/contractors/local businesses offering specially adapted home renovation opportunities to severely disabled military members and their families. (project basis)

Phone: (847) 359-8811

Website: saluteinc.org

Jared Allen's Homes for Wounded Warriors

Jared Allen's Homes for Wounded Warriors is a non-profit organization created for the sole purpose of raising money to build or modify the homes of America's injured Military Veterans. H4WW helps to build or modify homes so they are handicap accessible and comfortable for our wounded vets.

Website: jaredallen69inc.com/h4ww/mission.html

The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes

The mission is to help the disabled American veterans of the War on Terror overcome obstacles and resume a productive and fulfilling life through programs targeted to their specific needs. One of their programs: Homes for Wounded Heroes provides disability-adapted homes that are nearly cost-free for wheelchair-bound and blind veterans.

Website: saluteheroes.org

Operation Forever Free

Operation Forever Free will review the needs of injured service men and women, as they are brought to the attention of the organization. Operation Forever Free will then evaluate and assess the organization's ability to meet such needs. More often, these men and women have endured life-changing injuries; which require modifications and adaptations in their living environments. The goal is to improve the quality of life through various means. These include assistance with transportation needs, modifying/re-modeling homes, and in some cases, providing a new home at no cost to these families. The organization's efforts include these items, but are not limited to these items. Each situation will be reviewed individually, on a case by case basis

Phone: (214) 542-6975

Website: operationforeverfree.org

Operation Homefront

Operation Homefront's eligibility criteria are broader and include those who have been honorably discharged. But the group's first priority is helping wounded warriors living in Operation Homefront transitional housing, said spokesman Aaron Taylor. The charity, which started its Homes on the Homefront program this year, has helped put 22 families in donated homes.

Phone: (800) 722-6098

Website: operationhomefront.net/

Homes 4 Wounded Heroes: Military Warriors Support Foundation

Military Warriors Support Foundation awards mortgage-free homes to wounded heroes injured during combat in Iraq and

Afghanistan. The homes are for families who have severe and/or unique circumstances due to their injuries received while serving our country. In addition to the home, the families will receive 3 years of family and financial mentoring.

Phone: (210) 615-8973

Website: militarywarriors.org/openhomes

Private Health Insurance



Private Health Insurance

All private health insurance companies pay for some types of assistive technology (AT) devices and services. The guidelines for purchasing such equipment vary significantly from one company to another and even one policy to another within a given insurance company. Many insurance companies do not cover some “pre-existing conditions” so, for a person with a disability, medical expenses (including AT devices and services) related to the disability may not be covered. This is a core issue of the health care reform debate.

In most cases, assistive technology must be proven to be “medically necessary” or to have an effect on limiting further loss to the insurer. A physician’s determination of need is given great weight in making a decision concerning equipment.

In general, private health insurance companies are more likely to pay for specific AT devices and/or services that:

- Are medically needed,
- Can significantly improve a person’s condition and/or prevent further injury or complications so that maintenance and health costs are reduced, or
- Enables an adult to return to the workplace.

Private insurance companies more readily purchase or rent/lease an AT device, if it is needed temporarily due to conditions caused by accidents or illnesses that will eventually improve.

To determine if AT devices and/or services are covered by your specific policy, answer the following questions:

1. What is the specific wording of the policy? Look for terms such as “durable medical equipment” and “prosthetic devices” used in describing services or expenses covered and read these sections carefully. If these terms exist, your policy covers AT devices and services. However, they may or may not cover the specific AT device and/or service needed.
2. How does the insurance company make decisions and determine payment for its obligations based on that policy? Read the section of your policy that describes how to file a claim and how claims are reviewed to authorize payment. Remember, you can appeal a decision.

Appeals Process

If the claim or paperwork has been filled out inadequately or incorrectly, you may not be notified by the insurance company. They will automatically deny the claim and/ or request additional information directly from the health care provider (i.e., physician), assuming all the paperwork was correct and complete, but your claim was denied. You can request an administrative review by a staff physician or nurse. However, keep in mind that a general physician employed by an insurance company may not necessarily be knowledgeable about these devices and how they can assist you in staying healthy or employed. Do not be afraid to ask that the claim be reviewed by a specialist in rehabilitation medicine. Review the information concerning “Documentation of Need” in Section I (page 5), of this manual for suggestions on what types of support information to include when filing your claim.

Remember, there is always a chance for full or partial funding if the policy coverage does not specifically exclude an AT device or piece of equipment. It is not uncommon for the claimant to eventually learn that he or she is better informed than the personnel with the group health plan.

If, after an administrative review, you are still having problems getting the group health plan to assist with funding, then you can seek assistance from the state insurance commissioner whose office investigates consumer complaints. Should you have a specific problem with either an insurance agent or an insurance company, contact the Kentucky Office of Insurance, Consumer Protection and Education Division.

Kentucky Department of Insurance

Consumer Protection Division

Phone: (800) 595-6053 or (502) 564-6034

Website: insurance.ky.gov

Note: To learn more about Health Insurance Appeals, the KY Office of Insurance has a how-to guide called “Appealing a Denial from Your Health Benefit Plan - A How-To Guide.” You can download this document, along with several others at: insurance.ky.gov

Workers' Compensation



Workers' Compensation

All employers and employees (unless exempt under KRS 342.650) are subject to the act and must carry workers' compensation insurance or be self-insured. There is no minimum number of employees required and part-time as well as full-time employees are covered. Benefits are paid for income loss and medical expenses caused by the work-related injury or disease. Medical expenses are paid "during disability" which in most cases is for life, without any deductions or copay by the employee. Assistive devices and durable medical equipment can be provided if deemed reasonable and necessary and necessitated as a result of the work-related injury or disease. There is a fee schedule in use for costs for such equipment. The employee must give notice of the work injury or disease to the employer as soon as practicable. Private insurance companies issue coverage for employers but employers, if qualifying, can be self-insured individually or as part of self-insured groups.

If a person is injured on the job, she or he is entitled to have all expenses paid that are deemed reasonable and necessary due to the work-related injury. This could include any device, equipment, or modification that is determined is needed as a result of the work-related injury. The insurance company may attempt to question if a device or medical treatment is needed because of the injury or if it is needed because of some other reason unrelated to the injury.

When there is a permanent disability involved, workers' compensation carriers generally want to settle the claim as soon as possible. However, it is advisable not to be too hasty in settling the claim. Allow sufficient time to know the full extent of the disability, its impact on daily functioning and what types of assistive devices or equipment are needed and for how long. Let the insurance personnel know that you will not settle the claim or sign any waivers or release forms until there is ample medical evidence that the disability is permanent and unchanging. If there is an attorney involved, make sure he or she understands why the client may need certain AT devices and services. Be sure you know how the workers' compensation benefits are structured.

Appeals Process

The injured worker can submit any requests for devices to the insurance carrier for purchase. If the carrier feels that the request is for an item that is needed by the individual because of the work-related injury, they will voluntarily purchase it. In many cases, however, the carrier may dispute the claim as not being a necessary item or as not being necessary as a result of the work-related injury.

Once the Administrative Law Judge issues an award, an order or decision, either party may appeal to the Workers' Compensation Board. The deadline for filing an appeal is 30 days after the judge files the final decision. However, no additional evidence may be introduced and the Board shall not substitute its judgment for that of the judge. **Note:** the time for appeal may be delayed if a petition for reconsideration is filed (can be filed up to 14 days post opinion

The Board's review is limited to determining whether or not:

1. The administrative judge acted without or in excess of his/her powers;
2. The award, order or decision was procured by fraud;
3. The award, order or decision does not conform to the workers' compensation law;
4. The award, order or decision is clearly wrong on the basis of the reliable material evidence contained in the whole record, or
5. The award, order or decision is arbitrary and/or shows an abuse of discretion

If the Administrative Law Judge was presented with conflicting evidence, the Workers' Compensation Board will uphold the decision as long as any portion of the evidence supports the judge's decision.

The Workers' Compensation Board shall rule on an appeal of a decision of an Administrative Law Judge no later than 60 days following the date on which the last appeal brief was filed. The Board shall enter its decision affirming, modifying or setting aside the award, order or decision or return it to the Administrative Law Judge for further proceedings to conform to the direction of the Board. Appealing a decision made by the Workers' Compensation Board will take the claim into the Kentucky appellate courts. These courts grant deference to Board decisions and will affirm the decisions made by the Workers' Compensation Board unless it has made a significant misinterpretation of the law.

Workers compensation can be complicated, for more information on benefits, procedures, or appeals contact: The Department of Workers' Claims and ask for a workers claims specialist. Additional information is available on line or by phone.

Department of Workers' Claims

Phone: (502) 564-5550

Website: labor.ky.gov/workersclaims

Sources of Advocacy/Legal Assistance



Sources of Advocacy/Legal Assistance

When working with state and federal agencies there are a couple of programs that may help you if you are having problems. Your eligibility for help from these programs depends upon your disability and/or what agency you are applying for assistance. These programs cannot provide financial assistance, but can help you in appeals and advocate for your rights.

Sources included in this section are:

- Client Assistance Program (CAP)
- Protection & Advocacy (P&A)

Client Assistance Program (CAP)

Education Cabinet, Commonwealth of Kentucky

Overview

The Client Assistance Program is a state agency established by federal law (the Rehabilitation Act of 1973) that provides advice, assistance and information regarding benefits available from federal-mandated rehabilitation programs to persons with disabilities. A person should contact CAP when they:

Are experiencing undue delay in the processing of their vocational rehabilitation application or services requested; Have been determined to be ineligible for VR services and do not agree with that determination; Have been denied VR services to which you believe you are entitled; Have problems with the VR services that you have not been able to work out with your counselor or have questions regarding the services and benefits available from the VR program; Are having trouble understanding how the system works; Are having problems with other agencies or training facilities that are preventing you from achieving your vocational goal as stated in your Individual Plan for Employment (IPE); Need help to prepare and provide for adequate representation in any appeals process or hearing.

In the matter of assistive technology, if you are a client of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation or the Office for the Blind and you feel that you need assistive technology as a part of your service plan, but your counselor disagrees and you have been unable to reconcile the matter through Office channels, you may seek assistance from CAP. CAP will act as your advocate with these Offices and will attempt to resolve the problem.

Eligibility Requirements

Any person who receives services from or wishes to receive services from the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation or the Office for the Blind or any other federally mandated rehabilitation program under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or a person with a disability who is not satisfied with the services they are receiving, or been denied eligibility for services and who have attempted unsuccessfully to resolve their conflict using the program's appeal procedures is eligible for services from the Client Assistance Program.

Contact Information

Client Assistance Program

Gerry Gordon-Brown, Director
275 East Main St. second floor
Mail Stop 2EJ

Frankfort, KY 40601

Phone: (800) 633-6283 or (502) 564-8035

Website: kycap.ky.gov

Additional Information

CAP can help you to understand services available from OVR or OFB, advise you on other benefits available from State and Federal agencies, help you to pursue appropriate remedies to ensure the protection of your rights, and help to resolve any dissatisfaction that you may have with OVR or OFB regarding the provision or denial of services.

Protection & Advocacy (P&A)

Commonwealth of Kentucky

Overview

If you are having difficulty with a state agency and/or service provider and have exhausted all avenues of reconciling it, you can request assistance from Protection and Advocacy. The Protection and Advocacy (P & A) Division protects and advocates for human and legal rights of Kentuckians with disabilities. It attempts to resolve client complaints through negotiation and other informal means, but has the federal and state authority to pursue resolutions administratively or through the courts. P & A provides the following advocacy services:

A review of complaints to determine if rights have been violated and an explanation of the findings; Client-directed representation by an advocate; Information about rights, benefits, service agencies and referrals when appropriate; Training to increase self-advocacy skills and awareness of laws and regulations that affect the rights of persons with disabilities.

The mission on P&A is to protect and promote the rights of Kentuckians with disabilities through legally based individual and systemic advocacy, and education.

Eligibility Requirements

P & A has the authority to serve residents of Kentucky with disabilities provided their complaints relate to their disability and they are not otherwise represented. With the input of consumers, P&A develops priorities each year. The priorities determine what cases P&A can accept. If you feel that you qualify for services contact P&A.

Contact Information

Protection & Advocacy

5 Mill Creek Park

Frankfort, KY 40601

Phone: (800) 372-2988 or (502) 564-2967

Website: kypa.net

Quick References (Phone Numbers and Links)



Public Funding – Kentucky

Acquired Brain Injury	(866) 878-2626	chfs.ky.gov/dms
Commission for Children	(800) 232-1160	chfs.ky.gov/ccshcn
Durable Medical Equipment	(502) 564-6890	chfs.ky.gov/dms/dme
EPSDT	(502) 564-9444	chfs.ky.gov/dms/epsdt
First Steps	(877) 417 8377	chfs.ky.gov/dph/firstSteps
Hart-Supported Living	(502) 564-6930	chfs.ky.gov/dail
Home & Com Based Waiver	(502) 564-5560	chfs.ky.gov/dms
Homecare Program	(502) 564-6930	chfs.ky.gov/dail
KY Children’s Health Insurance	(877) 524-4718	kidshealth.ky.gov
Kentucky Talking Book Library	(800) 372-2968	
Kentucky Transitions	(877) 564-0330	chfs.ky.gov/dms
Medicare	(800) 633-4227	medicare.gov
Michelle P. Waiver	(502) 564-1647	chfs.ky.gov/dms
Office for the Blind	(800) 321-6668	blind.ky.gov
OFB Independent Living	(800) 321-6668	blind.ky.gov
Office of Vocational Rehab	(800) 372-7172	ovr.ky.gov
Project CARAT Central	(800) 209-7767	
Project CARAT Eastern	(606) 788-7080	
Project CARAT Southeast	(606) 439-3557	
Social Security	(800) 772-1213	ssa.gov
Special Education	(502) 564-4970	education.ky.gov
Supports for Community Living	(502) 564-7702	dbhdid.ky.gov/ddid/scl.aspx
Telecommunication Access	(800) 372-2907	
Ticket to Work	(866) 968-7842	chooseworkttw.net
Traumatic Brain Injury	(855) 816-9577	chfs.ky.gov/dail
VA Vocational Rehabilitation	(502) 566-4453	va.gov
Veterans Affairs KY	(502) 595-4447	veterans.ky.gov
Veterans Affairs Federal	(800) 827-1000	va.gov

Private Funding – Kentucky

American Cancer Society	(800) 227-2345	cancer.org
Appalachian Foothills Housing	(800) 404-4584	
Appalachia Service Project	(800) 289-4254	asphome.org
Beth Joanna Habbert	(513) 241-2880	gcfdn.org
Civitan Clubs		civitan.org
Dream Factory		dreamfactoryinc.com
George Weeks Foundation	(214) 965-2904	
Habitat for Humanity	(800) 422-4828	habitat.org
HouseWorks Program	(859) 224-7322	
Hearing Aid Distribution	(502) 848-0634	
Holloran Trust Fund	(800) 232-5308	
Kentucky Housing	(800) 633-8896	kyhousing.org
Kiwanis Club kiwanis.org		
KSB Charitable Foundation	(502) 897-3990	
KY Assistive Technology Loan	(877) 675-0195	katlc.ky.gov
Linda Nevell Trust	(214) 965-2904	
Lions and Lioness Clubs		kylions.net
Make-a-Wish KY	(866) 487 9474	oki.wish.org
May We help	(513) 334-0522	maywehelp.org
Muscular Dystrophy Assn	(502) 456-1440	mdausa.org
Modern Woodmen	(270) 842-0692	
Ramp builders (Jefferson Co)	(502) 589-6620	calky.org
Ramp Builders (Calloway Co)	(270) 753-7676	calky.org
Scott Rose Foundation	Address Only	
Shrine Temple	(502) 585-5412	kosair.com
United Way	(703) 519-0092	unitedway.org
Woodmen of the World	(270) 753-4382	woodmen.org
504 Direct Loan and Grant	(859) 224-7322	rurdev.usda.gov/kyhome.html

Private Funding – National

Alexander Graham Bell	(202) 337-5220	listeningandspokenlanguage.org
Association of Blind Citizens	(781) 961-1023	blindcitizens.org
Barr Foundation	(561) 391-7601	wgbarrfoundation.org
Children’s Charity Fund	(800) 643-5787	childrenscharityfund.org
Children’s Wish Foundation	(800) 323-9474	childrenswish.org
Chrysler Automobility	(800) 255-9877	www.chryslerautomobility.com
Computers for the Blind	(214) 340-6328	computersfortheblind.net
Disabled Children’s Relief Fund		dcrf.com
First Hand Foundation	(816) 201-1569	cerner.com/firsthand
Ford Mobility Motoring	(800) 952-2248	fordmobilitymotoring.com
G M Mobility Reimbursement	(800) 323-9935	gmmobility.com
Hear Now	(800) 648-4327	sotheworldmayhear.org/hearnow
Hike Fund		thehikefund.org
Kids Wish Network	(888) 918-9004	kidswishnetwork.com
Learning Ally	(800) 221-4792	Learningally.org
Lexus Mobility	(800) 255-3987	
Limbs for Life Foundation	(888) 235-5462	limbsforlife.org
Miracle-Ear Foundation	(800) 234-5422	miraclearfoundation.org
Mobility by Volvo	(800) 803-5222	volvocars.com
Multiple Sclerosis Foundation	(888) 673-6287	msfocus.org
Push America	(704) 504-2400	pushamerica.org
Special Wish Foundation	(800) 486-9474	spwish.org
Sunshine Foundation	(215) 396-4770	sunshinefoundation.com
Teddy’s Star Foundation	(256) 832-87	teddysstar.org
Toyota Mobility	(800) 331-4331	toyotamobility.com
TPA Scholarship	(314) 371-0533	tpahq.org
Travis Roy Foundation	(617) 619-8257	travisroyfoundation.org

State Services for Kentuckians with Disabilities

All Listings/ Kentucky Information Operator	(502) 564-3130
ADA Coordinator for Kentucky	(502) 564-3850
Client Assistance Program (CAP)	(800) 633-6283
Child and Family Health Improvement	(502) 564-3756
Commission for Children	(800) 232-1160
Commission for the Deaf & HH	(800) 372-2907
Dept. for Aging and Independent Living (DAIL)	(502) 564-6930
Department for Medicaid Services	(800) 635-2570
Dept. for Behavioral Health	(502) 564-5777
KY Dept. of Education Division Learning Services	(502) 564-4970
Early Childhood Mental Health	(502) 564-4456
Early Hearing Detection and Intervention	(877) 757-4327
First Steps	(877) 417-8377
KY Assistive Technology Loan Corp (KATLC)	(877) 675-0195
KY Autism Training Center	(502) 852-4631
KATS Network	(800) 327-5287
Kentucky Birth Surveillance Registry	(800) 462-6122
KY Children's Health Insurance	(877) 524-4718
Commonwealth Council on DD	(877) 367-5332
Kentucky Housing Corporation	(800) 633-8896
Kentucky's Newborn Screening Program	(800) 462-6122, ext. 2
KY Office for the Blind	(800) 321-6668
KY Office for the Blind Deaf Blind Services	(800) 222-1215
KY Office of Vocational Rehabilitation	(800) 372-7172
KY Office of Autism	(859) 252-3170, ext. 3003
Kentucky Relay Service	Dial 711
Kentucky School for the Blind	(502) 897-1583
Kentucky School for the Deaf	(859) 239-7017
Kentucky Talking Book Library	(800) 372-2968
Office of the Ombudsman	(800) 372-2991
Protection and Advocacy	(800) 372-2988
Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)	(800) 372-7172
KY Department of Veterans Affairs	(800) 572-6245

Kentucky Centers for Independent Living

CAL – Louisville	(888) 813-8497	calky.org
CAL - Murray	(888) 261-6194	
CAL - Covington	(859) 940-3843	
Independence Place – Ashland	(606) 585-5846	
Independence Place – Cumberlands	(606) 785-0547	
Independence Place – Lexington	(877) 266-2807	independenceplaceky.org
Disability Res Init - Bowling Green	(877) 437-5045	dri-ky.org
Office f/t Blind/Independent Living	(800) 222-1215	blind.ky.gov
Statewide Independent Living Council	(859) 977-4050 x232	silc.ovr.ky.gov
Resources for Independence		resources4independence.org

Resources for Independence

Resources for Independence is a nonprofit, consumer-driven, non-residential, online Center for Independent Living, serving people with disabilities of all ages. The mission of Resources for Independence is to assist people with disabilities to achieve their potential for community inclusion through improving access and equal opportunity. Our immediate coverage area is the state of Kentucky, but we welcome inquiries from all areas

On-line Services Include:

- Information and Referral
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Peer Counseling
- Individual and Systems Advocacy

For more information or to access services, visit our website at resources4independence.org.

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KATS Network Locations

KATS Network Coordinating Center

8412 Westport Road
Louisville, KY 40242
(800) 327-5287
www.katsnet.org

Regional AT Resource Centers

The KATS Network partners with the following locations to provide AT Information, Awareness, Training, Demonstration, Lending Library and Reutilization services throughout the state.

Our inventory of equipment available for demonstration and loan is available online at katsnet.at4all.com.

Bluegrass Technology Center

817 Winchester Road
Lexington, KY 40505
Toll Free - (800) 209-7767
bluegrass-tech.org

Enabling Technologies of Kentuckiana

812 S. Second St.
Louisville, KY 40203
(800) 896-8941
spalding.edu/academics/entech

Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center

5659 Main Street
Thelma, KY 41260
(606) 788-7080
cdpvtc.ky.gov

Redwood Assistive Technology Center

71 Orphanage Road
Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017
(800) 728-9807
redwoodnky.org

Western Kentucky Assistive Technology Center (WKATC)

815 Triplett Street
Owensboro, KY 42302
(800) 209-6202
wkatc.org

Alternative Financing Program and Protection & Advocacy for Assistive Technology

In Kentucky, the AFP program is operated through the Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC). KATLC provides low-interest loans for qualified applicants with disabilities for the purchase of modified vehicles, hearing aids, adapted computers, mobility devices, augmentative communication devices or any other type of equipment or home modification that will improve the quality of life or increase the independence of Kentuckians with disabilities.

Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation

275 East Main Street
Mail Stop 2 E-K
Frankfort, KY 40621
(877) 675-0195
(502) 564-6745 (Fax)
katlc.ky.gov

Protection & Advocacy for Assistive Technology is provided through Kentucky Protection & Advocacy (P&A), an independent state agency designated by the Governor as the Protection & Advocacy agency for the state. P&A's staff includes professional advocates and attorneys working together with people who have disabilities to promote and protect their legal rights.

Kentucky Protection & Advocacy

5 Mill Creek Park
Frankfort, KY 40601
(800)-372-2988
kypa.net

