

Primary Assistive Technology Funding Sources

California has many primary funders of assistive technology (AT). Based on your circumstances, you might qualify for at least one. A primary funder is required to pay for AT if it is deemed necessary through established processes.

Note: This Tip Sheet provides an overview of primary funding sources. To learn more about specific qualifications and item coverage, contact each funding source directly.

Medi-Cal and Medicare

If you have Medi-Cal, Medicare, or both, you may get needed durable medical equipment (DME) funded if you have a prescription from your doctor. Medi-Cal requires a TAR (Treatment Authorization Request) be submitted before approving most DME requests. If you are denied funding, there is an appeal process.

Private Insurance

Check your insurance plan to learn if and how much DME coverage you have. If you are denied funding for covered items, you can appeal.

Schools

AT can be written into a student's IEP (Individualized Education Plan) or 504 plan, and the school is then required to provide it. The AT usually can be used at home, although it is the school's property and can be taken back during summer break and when the student permanently leaves the school.

Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)

DOR provides AT evaluation and funding to help individuals with disabilities gain employment. An individual must have a disability that limits their functional capacity in terms of employment such as mobility, communication, self-care, self-direction, interpersonal skills, and work tolerance.

Veteran's Administration (VA)

AT funding can be paid for by the VA for veterans of the armed services. This can be for help with daily living activities or for employment. Contact your local VA office to find out more.

Regional Centers

Regional centers provide services to individuals who acquired their Intellectual/Developmental Disability before the age of eighteen, and services continue throughout the individual's lifespan. With an Individualized Program Plan they may purchase AT services and equipment if it cannot be provided through other primary funders.

To find more funding resources or to create your own funding plan, contact your local AT Advocate. Find a list of AT Advocates across California under the services tab of AbilityTools.org or call us toll free at (800) 390-2699.

