

AT Funding Sources

From private pay options to advocacy groups and federal and state government programs, there are a variety of ways to receive funding for the assistive technology you need. Here are some of the main sources you may want to consider.

Private Insurance Plans. Even if your policy does not include information about the exact technology and services it covers, it might cover all or part of the device or service you need. It is important to contact your private insurance company first; you may need a rejection from them to secure other funding sources.

Medicaid. For people with low income, whose private insurance doesn't cover the cost of your medical service or assistive device, this joint federal/state program may be a good option. AT devices must respond to a medical problem and be prescribed by a physician to be covered by Medicaid. A prior authorization from a Medicaid provider will also be required before purchasing a device or receiving a service.

Medicare. This is available to those over age 65 and people with disabilities under age 65 who have been entitled to receive Social Security disability benefits for 24 months. The scope of coverage for devices is limited; durable medical equipment and services must be used at home, be medically necessary and prescribed by a doctor.

School Districts. Some school districts may purchase technology devices for your child, which will be owned by the district. Notify your Special Education Coordinator if your child is eligible for Medicaid. Contact your school district or the SC Department of Education for more information.

Children's Rehabilitative Services (CRS). This division of the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control provides evaluation, treatment and services (which may include medical assistive devices) for clients up to age 21. CRS Coordinators are located in 13 regional offices throughout the state. Apply at any county health department.

BabyNet. For children receiving BabyNet services, it is possible that some assistive technology devices or materials meet the criteria for BabyNet/ IDEA Part C funds to help purchase the item(s). The child's Service Coordinator performs an Assistive Technology Screening and Assessment to determine if the device or adaptation meets the federal definition of assistive technology under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

State Agencies. Agencies including the SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department (SCVRD), the SC Commission for the Blind and the SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs may offer services and pay for devices; call their offices to see if you are eligible. The Disability Action Center provides assistive technology services including counseling and information on equipment and funding sources, independent living skills training, advocacy and more. Contact us at SCATP to learn more.

Appeals. Do not give up if your request is denied. Find out why and make an appeal. It is critical to have a record of all correspondence and phone conversations and meet each deadline in the appeals process. For help making your appeal, call Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities at (800) 922-5225. To appeal decisions made by the SC Department of Vocational Rehabilitation or the SC Commission for the Blind, contact the Client Assistance Program (CAP) at (800) 868-0040.