



	<b>Program</b>	<b>AccessAbility Supports</b>	
	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Technical Aids and Assistive Devices</b>	<b>Policy #</b> 2.6
<b>Effective Date: March 26, 2019</b>		<b>Authorized by:</b>	
<b>Revised Date:</b>		<b>Deputy Minister Mark Spidel</b>	

**1.0 PURPOSE**

1.1 To allow the provision of technical aids and assistive devices to applicants with a substantial diagnosed disability of the AccessAbility Supports (AAS).

**2.0 DEFINITIONS**

- 2.1 **Health Care Practitioner:** an individual who provides health care services, has an active license to practice, and has the authority to diagnose medical conditions.
- 2.2 **Health Care Professional:** an individual who provides health care services such as an occupational therapist, speech language pathologist, physiotherapist or nurse.
- 2.3 **Technical Aids and Assistive Devices:** assistive aids and devices that are used to replace, compensate, or improve the functional abilities of applicants with a disability. They include a broad range of items such as mobility aids, positioning aids, visual/hearing aids, orthotics/prosthetics and communication devices.
- 2.4 **Capability Assessment:** a systematic process for determining strengths and identifying potential support needs for applicants with a disability.
- 2.5 **Activities of Daily Living (ADLs):** daily self-care activities within an applicant’s place of residence, in outdoor environments, or both.

**3.0 POLICY STATEMENT**

- 3.1 AAS provides technical aids and assistive devices to eligible applicants to improve their ability to perform ADLs.
- 3.2 All applicants must have a capability assessment completed for the purpose of identifying unmet needs that may be supported with technical aids and/or assistive devices. Applicants do not require a capability assessment if they are only requesting support for a hearing aid(s).
- 3.3 AAS will consider an applicant’s requirements for technical aids and assistive devices in a manner that is fiscally responsible and addresses basic requirements related to unmet needs.

#### **4.0 PROCEDURE STATEMENT**

- 4.1 AAS Coordinators will determine an applicant's needs based upon:
- The results of the AAS capability assessment
  - Discussions with the applicant and/or their representative; and
  - Recommendations from a health care professional or practitioner.
- 4.2 The following categories of technical aids and assistive devices will be considered to meet unmet disability related needs:
- a) Bathroom Aids;
  - b) Bedroom Aids;
  - c) Household Aids;
  - d) Ostomy Supplies;
  - e) Communication Devices;
  - f) Feeding Equipment Supplies;
  - g) Hearing Aids;
  - h) Orthotic Devices;
  - i) Prosthetic Devices;
  - j) Visual Aids; and
  - k) Wheelchair, Positioning and Ambulatory Aids
- 4.3 Where applicants are assessed as having the financial means to contribute to their support plan, or where they have private insurance which covers some costs associated with technical aids or assistive devices, applicants will be expected to contribute to the purchase of the technical aid or assistive device.
- 4.4 Applicants of AAS may require the replacement of technical aids and assistive devices. The frequency that AAS is able to assist with these purchases will be based on the life expectancy of the aid or device in accordance with guidance provided by the manufacturer or vendor.
- 4.5 When AAS's contribution to the purchase of a technical aid or assistive device is 75 percent or more of the total cost, the AAS coordinator shall advise the applicant that the technical aid or assistive device must be returned to the program when the need no longer exists.
- 4.6 Recycled technical aids and assistive devices will be considered as a first option when responding to requests from applicants. Two quotes will be required when equipment recycling is unable to meet the identified need. The AAS Coordinator may request additional information from the recommending health care professional or practitioner, if necessary.
- 4.7 Certain technical aids and assistive devices will require a monthly repair cost to maintain the equipment. Such expenses will be included the AAS monthly support plan with the expenses being withheld to be paid directly to the vendor.
- 4.8 All technical aids and assistive devices must be approved by Health Canada and authorized for sale in Canada (for medical devices) or have the related certified

endorsement through a professional designation i.e. customized splints, braces etc. constructed by occupational therapists in hospitals.

- 4.9 Applicants will be eligible for assistance with the cost of hearing aid(s) when their average threshold or decibel level measured at 500 Hz, 1000 Hz, 2000 Hz, and 3000 Hz is 50 dB or greater. AAS will assist with up to \$1500 per hearing aid, minus any insurance or applicant contribution.
- 4.10 Applicants under the age of 21 who require hearing aids shall apply for assistance through the Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority (APSEA).
- 4.11 Applicants requesting assistance with the replacement of hearing aids will have those requests access by the AAS Coordinator. Recommended replacement times for hearing aids are no more frequently than 4 years for CIC styles, no more frequently than 5 years for ITE, Canal, or Mini Canal styles, and no more frequently than 6 years for BTE styles.

## **5.0 ATTACHMENTS:**

Equipment Request Form

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## **HISTORY:**



PO Box 2000, Charlottetown  
 Prince Edward Island  
 Canada C1A 7N8

Family and  
 Human Services

Services à la famille  
 et à la personne



C.P. 2000, Charlottetown  
 Ile-du-Prince-Édouard  
 Canada C1A 7N8

### Equipment Recommendation

<b>Name:</b>		<b>Primary PHN:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>		<b>PHN:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>AAS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>SA</b>	AAS Coordinator Name:	
Assessment Level:		Equipment: <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Replacement	
Equipment request:		Quote 1	Quote 2
Insurance coverage amount			
Current equipment:		Date of purchase:	
Repairs considered:		Cost of repairs:	
Date Recycling Program checked			
Support Coordinator Recommendation:			
Authorization:			
Recommendation			