

<i>Act/Regulations Supports for Persons with Disabilities Gen. Reg. 10</i>	Program	AccessAbility Supports	
	Subject	Technical Aids and Assistive Devices	Policy # 2.6
Effective Date: March 26, 2019		Authorized by:	
Revised Date: April 15, 2022		Deputy Minister Jamie MacDonald	

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 To provide support to eligible applicants of AccessAbility Supports (AAS) for technical aids or assistive devices to improve their ability to perform activities of daily living (ADLs) and Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs).

2.0 DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 **Activities of Daily Living:** a series of self-care activities necessary for independent living at home or in the community. ADLs are performed daily and must be accomplished every day for an individual to thrive.
- 2.2 **Applicant:** a person with a disability by whom or on whose behalf an application is made for supports or Assured Income (AI).
- 2.3 **Applicant Contribution:** the monetary amount that an applicant is required to contribute towards the costs of supports.
- 2.4 **Capability Assessment:** a systematic process used by the AAS program for applicants requesting on-going supports to determine if the diagnosis causes a substantial impairment, if the effects of the impairment restrict the applicant's ADLs and IADLs and confirm the applicant's eligibility for AAS.
- 2.5 **Health Care Practitioner:** an individual qualified to provide health care services, has an active license to practice, and has the authority to diagnose medical conditions.
- 2.6 **Instrumental Activities of Daily Living:** activities that are related to independent living and require more complex thinking and organizational skills. IADLs also reflect on a person's ability to live independently and thrive but are not necessarily required daily.
- 2.7 **Recipient:** a person with a disability to or for whom supports are provided and includes a person whose supports or AI has been suspended but not cancelled.

2.8 **Supports Coordinator:** a staff member that provides direction and case management support in delivering a range of social benefits and services to applicants eligible for AAS.

2.9 **Technical Aids or Assistive Devices:** an aid or device that is used to support or improve the ability of a person with a disability to function at home, in the community or in a workplace.

3.0 **POLICY STATEMENTS**

3.1 For the purposes of this policy, use of the word applicant is inclusive of recipient.

3.2 The following categories of technical aids or assistive devices may be considered as a support for an applicant based on the recommendation of a health care practitioner:

- bathroom aids;
- bedroom aids;
- communication devices;
- feeding equipment;
- hearing aids;
- household aids;
- orthotic devices;
- ostomy supplies;
- positioning and ambulation aids, including wheelchairs;
- prosthetic devices; and
- visual aids.

3.3 The following categories of technical aids or assistive devices will not be considered as a support for an applicant:

- clothing;
- supplies related to diabetes;
- food, vitamins, and dietary supplements;
- medical equipment and/or supplies;
- prescription medications;
- respiratory equipment and supplies; and
- sports and recreation equipment.

3.4 Recommendations for technical aids and assistive devices from a health care practitioner will be assessed for approval based upon the applicant's support needs assessment, collaborative support plan, clinical assessments, and disability specific needs.

3.5 Applicants with private insurance which covers a portion of, or the total costs associated with a technical aid or assistive device requests are expected to utilize their insurance coverage. Where there is a portion of the cost not covered by insurance, applicants may request a review of the remaining balance to determine if the request meets AAS funding eligibility.

- 3.6 Applicants may be expected to pay an applicant contribution towards the cost of a technical aid or assistive device based on their annual income. Please refer to AAS policy 2.0 – Applicant Contribution for policies and procedures specific to an applicant contribution.
- 3.7 Costs covered by private insurance are not considered an applicant contribution.
- 3.8 Where the Department’s contribution to the purchase of a technical aid or assistive device is 75 percent or more of the total cost, the technical aid or assistive device must be returned to the Department when the need no longer exists.
- 3.9 Where a technical aid or assistance device must be returned, applicants are responsible to notify the Department.
- 3.10 Technical aids or assistive devices must be approved by Health Canada and authorized for sale in Canada or have the related certified endorsements through a professional designation (i.e. customized splints, braces etc.) constructed by occupational therapists in hospitals.
- 3.11 AAS will consider the applicant’s requirements for technical aids or assistive devices in a manner that is fiscally responsible and addresses basic requirements related to unmet needs.
- 3.12 There are limits to the frequency of purchase of technical aids or assistive devices. These limits are based on the expected life of the equipment or device as suggested by the manufacturer and/or vendor.
- 3.13 Where a health care practitioner has deemed the equipment no longer safe, required, or meeting the applicant’s need, the Department will not support the equipment repair or replacement.

4.0 PROCEDURE STATEMENTS

- 4.1 The Supports Coordinator will determine an applicant’s need for a technical aid or assistive device based on:
- the results of the applicant’s clinical assessment;
 - an assessment and/or a recommendation from a health care practitioner; and
 - discussions with the applicant and/or their representative.
- 4.2 A recycled technical aid or assistive device will be considered prior to purchasing new when responding to equipment requests from applicants.
- 4.3 Where equipment recycling is unable to meet the needs of an applicant, the applicant is responsible to submit quotes for the requested technical aid or assistive device to the

Supports Coordinator. Unless otherwise directed, applicants must submit two comparable quotes.

- 4.4 Where the total cost of the technical aid or assistive device is greater than a Supports Coordinator designated authority, the Supports Coordinator will request approval from the program supervisor or manager prior to approving the purchase.
- 4.5 Where warranty coverage or personal insurance is available, applicants are expected to use warranty coverage or personal insurance prior to receiving funding for repairs or replacement purchases.
- 4.6 Where the technical aid or assistive device requires routine maintenance, the Supports Coordinator must include a monthly repair cost to maintain the equipment in the applicant's support plan.
- 4.7 Estimated monthly repair costs will be withheld based upon the equipment purchase price, expected usage, historical repair costs, and standard industry rates. Support Coordinators have the authority to recommend increased withhold amount based on case management. Monthly repair expenses will be withheld to a purchase order from an applicant's monthly entitlement. Invoices received for repairs will be paid by purchase order.
- 4.8 Payments made by the Department for technical aids or assistive devices will be amortized based on the Technical Aid or Assistive Devices Amortization Schedule (attached) to calculate the monthly cost to be factored into an applicant's maximum monthly funding. Where the applicant is receiving monthly supports, technical aids or assistive devices purchases must fall within the maximum monthly funding of the applicant.

5.0 REFERENCES

- 5.1 AAS policy 2.0 – Applicant Contribution

6.0 ATTACHMENTS

- 6.1 Technical Aids or Assistive Devices Amortization Schedule

HISTORY:

April 15, 2022 – Editorial, content, and format updates. Technical Aids or Assistive Devices Amortization Schedule has been added to the policy.

Technical Aid or Assistive Device Amortization Schedule

Cost of Technical Aid or Assistive Device	Amortization Period in Years
< \$2,000	1
\$2,000 - \$2,999	2
\$3,000 - \$3,999	3
\$4,000 - \$4,999	4
> \$4,999	5