

# Legal Disclaimer

*The information contained in this document is designed for informational purposes only. While the Government of Manitoba has taken care in preparing and assembling the information contained in this document, please inform yourself or seek professional advice before taking any action that may affect you or your family's interest. The Government of Manitoba assumes no liability for any acts, errors or omissions that may result in any harm or damage to you, or your family as a result of reliance upon the information contained in this document. It is in your best interest, to exercise due diligence in determining the appropriateness of the information for your particular circumstances.*

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# Assistive Technology

## What is assistive technology?

Assistive technology is specialized equipment or devices that can help people with disabilities with their daily activities in:

- communication
- self-care
- mobility
- hearing
- vision
- environmental control

Assistive technology includes items that are purchased, hand-made or customized.



The following chart shows examples of assistive technology:

Type of Assistive Technology	Examples
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Writing instruments</li> <li>● Message boards</li> <li>● Eye gaze technology</li> <li>● Speech devices</li> <li>● ipads and ipods</li> </ul>
Self-care (ex: dressing, bathing, cooking, eating)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Long-handled shoe horns</li> <li>● Shower benches</li> <li>● Adapted utensils</li> <li>● Lowered counters</li> </ul>
Mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Wheelchairs</li> <li>● Lifts</li> <li>● Specialized vehicles</li> <li>● Widened doorway</li> </ul>
Hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hearing aid</li> <li>● Personal FM system</li> <li>● Closed caption television</li> </ul>
Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Screen readers</li> <li>● Audio labelers</li> <li>● Magnifiers</li> </ul>
Environmental Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Voice activated or remote light controls</li> <li>● Locational systems (GPS)</li> </ul>

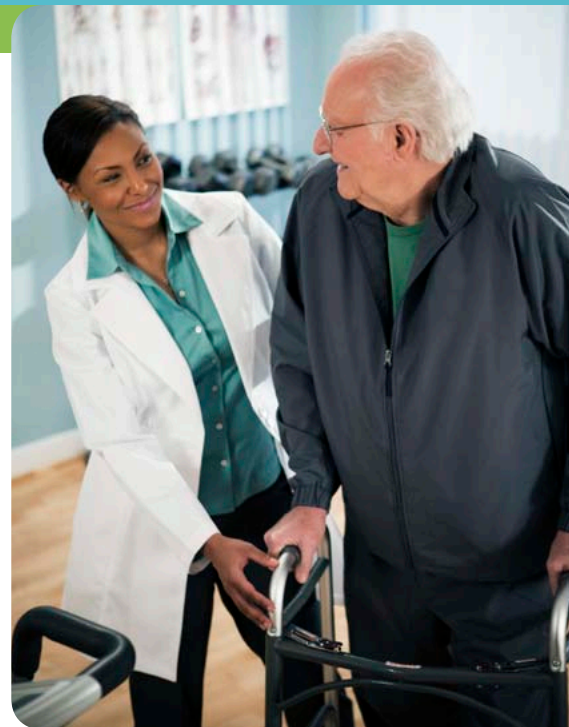


## Where can I get information and access to specialized equipment for people with disabilities?

Therapists will have information about where you can borrow, rent or buy specialized equipment, as well as programs that can help with the equipment. Occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech-language pathologists and audiologists work in clinics, hospitals, community-based agencies and private practice. They can assess you and identify equipment that can help with daily activities.

Agencies and organizations that serve specific disability groups also provide information about equipment. These include, but are not limited to:

- Society for Manitobans with Disabilities (SMD)  
[www.smd.mb.ca/assistive\\_technology\\_support\\_program\\_and\\_funding\\_guide.aspx](http://www.smd.mb.ca/assistive_technology_support_program_and_funding_guide.aspx)
- Open Access Resource Centre  
[www.oarc.ca/](http://www.oarc.ca/)
- Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)  
[www.cnib.ca/en/services/products](http://www.cnib.ca/en/services/products)
- Canadian Paraplegic Association (CPA)  
[www.canparaplegic.org/en/Assistive\\_Equipment\\_90.html](http://www.canparaplegic.org/en/Assistive_Equipment_90.html)
- Assistive Technology Products and Services (ATPS) of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA)  
[www.hsc.mb.ca/re/EMAT.htm](http://www.hsc.mb.ca/re/EMAT.htm) (Health Sciences Centre)  
[www.deerlodge.mb.ca/pdf/ATPSBrochure.pdf](http://www.deerlodge.mb.ca/pdf/ATPSBrochure.pdf) (Deer Lodge Centre)
- Rehabilitation Centre for Children (RCC)  
[www.rccinc.ca/](http://www.rccinc.ca/)



## Who pays for assistive technology?

There are many ways that assistive technology is funded, depending on each person's situation.

- **Provincial programs** – The Manitoba government offers programs that include funding to rent or purchase specialized equipment. If you are eligible, you may receive funding for assistive technology.
  - **Children's disABILITY Services** – Children's disABILITY Services may provide funding for certain equipment to assist with a child's disability-related needs.
  - **marketAbilities Program** – The marketAbilities program offers services to help eligible adults prepare for, obtain and maintain employment. The program may provide funding for technical aids, devices, or adaptive equipment required to assist in removing a disability-related barrier to training and/or employment.
  - **Employment and Income Assistance** – The Employment and Income Assistance Program may provide funding for basic and essential medical equipment and supplies for people who are not covered by the Manitoba Home Care Program or any other plan.
  - **Regional Health Authorities** – The Manitoba Home Care Program offered through the Regional Health Authorities may provide help with equipment for people living in their home. For people living in rural or northern communities, your Regional Health Authority is a good source of information about equipment and programs that can help you.
- **Private insurance** – You may have an insurance plan through your workplace that covers expenses for items such as hearing aids, glasses, orthotics, prosthetics or other supportive items. Since organizations with group insurance negotiate what will be included in the plan, the items that are covered vary across workplaces and over time.
- **Employers** – In some situations, employers may buy assistive technology for a person with special needs so their disability doesn't prevent them from fulfilling a job function. This device would be used in the workplace and owned by the organization. For more information on reasonable accommodations in the workplace, please see [Human Rights and Reasonable Accommodations](#) section.
- **Community and Non-profit organizations** – You can contact community organizations that may provide funding for assistive technology.