

# Assistive Technology Supports, Home Modifications, and Vehicle Modifications

## Service Definitions

Assistive Technology Supports (ATS), Home Modification (HM), and Vehicle Modifications (VM) are services for adults and children on the HCBS Waiver for Aged and Adults and Children with Disabilities (AD) and the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Waiver.

- A. Assistive Technology Supports (ATS) includes specialized equipment and supplies that enable a participant to increase, maintain, or improve their functional capacities.
- B. Home Modifications are appropriate accommodations and modifications within the primary residence occupied by a person with a disability. These modifications enable individuals to function more independently and are necessary to continue to live in their homes.
- C. Vehicle Modifications are physical adaptations of the primary automobile, or van of the participant or participant's family to accommodate the special needs of the participant necessary for transportation.

## Conditions of Provision

- A. The need for Assistive Technology Supports, Home Modifications, or Vehicle Modifications must be identified during participant assessment and included in the person-centered plan (PCP) as necessary to enable the participant to integrate more fully into the community and to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of the participant.
- B. Consultation, assessment, and determination of available options for Assistive Technology Supports and Home and Vehicle Modifications are provided, and costs are covered by an administrative contract with the Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP) within the Nebraska Department of Education.
- C. When the need for service is identified, the Service Coordinator makes a referral to ATP.
- D. Services include:
  - 1. Assessments to identify the type of technology, modifications, or adaptations necessary to aid the participant.
  - 2. Selecting, designing, fitting, customizing, adapting, applying, maintaining, repairing, or replacing the assistive technology device.
  - 3. Evaluation, purchase, and month-to-month rental of assistive technology.
  - 4. Any training or technical assistance needed for the participant and family members, guardians, and other interested parties.
- E. Support or modifications must be a direct medical or physical benefit to the participant.
- F. Funds may be authorized to assist with adaptations of direct medical or remedial benefits (such as ramps, grab bars, widening doorways, or bathroom modifications) for a recently purchased home.
- G. When modifications are needed for a home under construction that requires special adaptation to the plan (such as a roll-in shower), the funds may be used to cover the difference between the standard fixture and the modification required to accommodate the participant's need.

- H. All items and assistive equipment must meet applicable standards of manufacture, design, and installation.
- I. All general contractors must meet all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including maintaining appropriate licenses and certifications.
- J. Home modifications will be provided in accordance with applicable local and state building codes.

## Limitations

- A. The services under HCBS waivers are limited to additional services not otherwise covered under the Medicaid state plan, but consistent with waiver objectives of avoiding institutionalization.
- B. Assistive Technology Supports, Home Modifications, and Vehicle Modifications are not available to providers.
- C. Items excluded from Assistive Technology Supports:
  - 1. Long-term leasing of equipment;
  - 2. Supports not directly benefiting the participant medically or physically; and
  - 3. Durable medical equipment is required to be provided under the Medicaid state plan.
- D. Items excluded from eligibility for Home Modifications:
  - 1. General utility and home repairs;
  - 2. Standard housing obligations;
  - 3. Carpeting;
  - 4. Roof repair;
  - 5. Sidewalks;
  - 6. Storage and organizers;
  - 7. Hot tubs;
  - 8. Whirlpool tubs;
  - 9. Landscaping;
  - 10. General construction costs in a new home or additions to a home purchased after enrollment in the waiver;
  - 11. Adaptations that add to the total square footage of the home except when necessary to complete an adaptation such as, to improve entrance or egress to a residence or to configure a bathroom to accommodate a wheelchair;
  - 12. Improvements exclusively required to meet local building codes;
  - 13. Adaptations to assisted living apartments; and
  - 14. Modifications to facility provider settings.
- E. Items excluded from eligibility for Vehicle Modifications:
  - 1. Adaptations or improvements to the vehicle that are of general utility and are not of direct medical or remedial benefit to the individual.
  - 2. Purchase or lease of a vehicle.
  - 3. Regularly scheduled upkeep and maintenance of a vehicle except upkeep and maintenance of the modifications.
  - 4. Modifications of facility provider vehicles.