Tangible Services

Using Assistive Technology, PERS, and Home and Vehicle Modifications.

**WILL DDD PAY FOR A DEVICE I CAN USE TO INCREASE MY INDEPENDENCE?**

Yes! A device that can increase your independence so you do not need as much assistance from others is assistive technology. DDD can pay for certain types of assistive technology, including personal emergency response systems (PERS). Talk to your DD coordinator and have them document your needs in your service plan. Funding to pay for your assistive technology must come from your approved annual budget. You must first check if the device can be purchased through Medicaid or Economic Assistance.

**ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY**

Assistive Technology is equipment or a device that may help you maintain your health, welfare, and safety, and live in your community more independently. The use of assistive technology increases your abilities, so you do not need as much assistance from others. Assistive technology includes things such as communication devices, special beds, and freestanding Hoyer lifts.

You may purchase or lease a device that meets applicable standards of manufacturing, design, and installation. Assistive Technology includes selecting, customizing, maintaining, repairing, or replacing a device. Service includes training and technical assistance for you and someone who will help you use your device. You must use any therapies that accompany your device.

You can use a maximum of $2,500 from your annual budget for assistive technology per year. Funds are reimbursed per item directly to the vendor or provider of services. For items over $500, insurance or an extended warranty is required. Damaged, stolen, or lost items not covered by insurance or warranty may be replaced once every two years.

**PERSONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEM (PERS)**

PERS is an electronic device that gets you help in an emergency. The system is connected to your telephone. When you press a button, a call goes to the company that provides the PERS. That company then notifies a person you chose that you need help. You may wear a portable PERS button to allow for mobility. Services are provided 24-hours per day, 7-days per week.

PERS is available when you live alone or are alone for significant parts of the day and do not have a regular unpaid caregiver or provider for extended periods of time. This service includes instruction on how to use the device, and ongoing assistance to evaluate and adjust the device or provide system performance checks.

PERS is billed as a monthly rental fee or as a one-time installation fee. The amount of services is based on the need documented in your service plan and availability of funds in your approved annual budget.

**WILL DDD PAY FOR MODIFICATIONS TO MY HOME OR VEHICLE?**

Yes! DDD can pay for physical modifications to your private residence or your family’s home if you live with your family. Vehicle modifications are available for a private vehicle that is your primary source of transportation. The amount of prior authorized funding is based on the need documented in your service plan, and availability of funds in your approved annual budget. You must first check if modifications can be paid through Medicaid or Economic Assistance.

Modifications must be specific to your needs and not for the general benefit of those with whom you share your home or vehicle. Modifications must meet the applicable standards of manufacture, design, and installation. Appropriately licensed or certified persons must make or oversee work.
HOME MODIFICATIONS

Home modifications are changes to your home to make it easier and safer for you to get around. Examples include ramps, widening doorways, bathroom modifications, and electrical or plumbing upgrades to support medical equipment. Modifications must help you function with greater independence in your own home.

You or your family must own or rent the home. Modifications will not be approved at a residence that is operated or controlled by a DD provider. Proof of renter’s or homeowner’s insurance may be requested. Evidence of application to government-subsidized housing or other Economic Assistance programs may be requested.

Adaptations that add to the total square footage of your home are excluded except when necessary to complete an adaptation, such as improving the entrance or to configure a bathroom for a wheelchair. Your home must not present a health and safety risk to you other than that corrected by the approved home adaptations.

You can use a maximum of $10,000 from your annual budget every five years. A critical health or safety request that exceeds the cap is subject to available waiver funding and approval by DDD.

VEHICLE MODIFICATIONS

Vehicle modifications are changes to a car or van that is your primary source of transportation. These modifications must be necessary to allow you to get safely where you want to go in the community. Modifications are specified in your service plan to allow you greater community access and to ensure your health, welfare, and safety.

You or your family must own or lease the vehicle. Proof of vehicle insurance may be requested. When leased, the modification must be transferrable to the next vehicle. Modifications will not be approved for a vehicle owned or leased by a DD provider. Funds cannot be used to purchase or lease a vehicle, for existing adaptations or those in process, or for regularly scheduled general maintenance.

You can use a maximum of $10,000 from your annual budget every five years. A critical health or safety service request that exceeds the cap is subject to available waiver funding and approval by DDD.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I WOULD BENEFIT FROM THESE SERVICES?

Assistive technology or environmental modifications can be recommended by your physician, therapist, or someone who works with you. DDD may require an assessment to determine the necessity of the recommendation. This is completed by an appropriate Medicaid-enrolled provider. DDD may use a third party to assess the need to ensure cost effectiveness and quality of product. This assessment is funded by the Environmental Modification Assessment service and is reimbursed separately.

ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION ASSESSMENT

This assessment is required before any home or vehicle modifications can be approved. An Environmental Modification Assessment is a functional evaluation to ensure your health, welfare, and safety. It will determine how to enable you increased independence and community access. A professional will help you decide on changes to your home, vehicle, or assistive technology devices to help you live as independently as possible.

The onsite assessment of the environmental concern includes an evaluation of functional necessity, the determination of the provision of appropriate assistive technology, home modifications, or vehicle modifications, and the need for the modification. The assessment will ensure cost effectiveness.

This service is billed per assessment. Your annual budget cap for Environmental Modification Assessments is $1,000. If you have a critical health or safety service request that exceeds the annual cap, it is subject to available waiver funding and approval by DDD. The provider must ensure that assistive equipment or modifications recommended meet the applicable standards of manufacture, design, and installation. There must be, at a minimum, three bids or cost proposals to ensure cost effectiveness.