

Funding Assistive Technology

John, a Medicaid-eligible student, attends a school that is a Medicaid provider. By combining Medicaid and school funds, John acquired a communication device and the training he needed to use it.

Discovering
your family's
options is
one of the
first steps
toward fund-
ing your
child's AT
needs.

Funding assistive technology (AT)
Funding AT depends on a child's age and the kinds of support services for which he or she is eligible. Parents can become the expert on their child's AT needs and possible funding sources. Other parents, professionals and organizations can help you learn about and obtain AT funding.

Funding AT through Medicaid
If assistive technology is medically necessary, children from birth to age 21 may be able to obtain AT through Medicaid/Dr. Dynosaur. The Medicaid program may call AT devices durable medical equipment, prosthetic devices or equipment related to rehabilitative therapy, such as speech-language or physical therapy.

Medicaid can also pay for assistive technology services, including an evaluation to determine what type of AT is needed or a consultation and training in the proper use and maintenance of the equipment.

Since Medicaid is a complicated system, it may be helpful to talk with another parent or professional about the application process.

If Medicaid rejects a request for AT, parents have the right to appeal. For more information about the Medicaid appeal process, contact your local Disability Law Project.

Funding AT through special education
Children ages 3 to 22 with disabilities may have assistive technology written into their IEP (Individual Education Program) or, for children birth to age 3, into their IFSP (Individualized Family Service Plan).

For assistive technology to be part of a child's education plan, the team must decide that an AT device or service is necessary to help a child

- meet goals or objectives
- benefit from their special education program
- be in the regular classroom.



To order copies of this fact sheet, or to learn more about VFN's materials and services, contact the Vermont Family Network
600 Blair Park,
Suite 240,
Williston, VT 05495

1-800-800-4005

You can also contact us via e-mail at info@vtfn.org.

And don't forget to visit our website at www.vtfn.org.

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When AT is included in the IEP, it is provided at no cost to parents unless other arrangements are made. With parents' permission, AT costs can be billed to Medicaid or private insurance. Under an IFSP, parents may be asked to pay for some or all AT costs.

Funding AT through Section 504

For children with disabilities who are not eligible for special education and who need assistive technology, funding may be provided under Section 504. Through a 504 plan, children can receive AT devices and/or services to help them participate in preschool or school-based activities at no cost to parents.

Funding AT through Vocational Rehabilitation

Vocational Rehabilitation can pay for assistive technology for students or adults with disabilities when the technology is related to reaching employment goals. The AT must be included in the IWRP (Individual Written Rehabilitation Plan). Starting as early as age 14, parents can explore Vocational Rehabilitation as a source of AT funding.

Other possible sources of AT funding

Other possible funding sources include private insurance, community service groups, foundations and organizations dedicated to specific disabilities.

More information about funding AT can be found at the following resources.

Resources

Vermont Family Network
help for families advocating for AT
(802) 658-5315 • 1-800-800-4005
info@vtfn.org • www.vtfn.org

Disability Law Project

legal support for getting AT
(800) 747-5022 Burlington/Champlain Valley

(800) 789-4195 Central Vermont
(800) 747-5022 Rutland Area
(800) 747-5022 Northeast Kingdom
(800) 747-5022 Southern Vermont
All phones (V/TTY).

Vermont Assistive Technology Project

"How Do I Pay For It? A Guide to Funding Assistive Technology Equipment" gives a complete overview of AT funding sources.
(802) 241-2620 (V/TTY)

Vermont Adaptive Equipment Loan Fund

Vermont Development Credit Union AT funding
(802) 865-3404

Children with Special Health Needs

information on AT devices and funding
(800) 660-4427

Vermont Center for Independent Living

information on AT devices and funding
(800) 639-1522

Titles in VFN's Assistive Technology (AT) Series

Facts About AT • AT Evaluations • AT & the IEP • AT & the IFSP • AT & Section 504 • Funding AT • Funding AT Through Medicaid • Funding AT Through Private Insurance