

Accessibility

Durable Medical Equipment Funding



Accessibility refers to the design of environments, products, devices, or services that makes it possible for people to approach, enter, or use them.

Children and young adults with special health care needs often require various forms of durable medical equipment (DME) items or services to improve or maintain their ability to function in everyday life.

Medicaid, known in Massachusetts as MassHealth and private health insurance companies may pay all or some of the cost for durable medical equipment if it is determined to be a medical necessity. Talk to your medical providers and ask them to write a letter of medical necessity for your insurer.

If your health insurance company denies coverage for DME, the cost to privately pay can be expensive.

There are several types of funding sources available to help families. Community and state programs may offer full or partial funding. Some programs may offer grants, low cost loans or reimbursement for equipment. In addition, there are programs that offer refurbished equipment for free or low cost.

Family TIES of Massachusetts provides information, referral, and parent to parent support for families of children with special health needs or disability and their professional partners. We also provide information about Early Intervention (EI) and maintain a complete list of EI Programs in Massachusetts.

The information provided on the back page of this sheet is not a complete list of the resources that may be available. For information about community based programs, resources and local support groups, please call your Regional Coordinator or our toll-free line 800-905-TIES (8437).

We publish an annual *Directory of Resources for Families of Children and Youth with Special Needs*. The Directory is always listed as the first place to look for resources on our Topic Sheets!

Call us if you would like a copy of the directory mailed to you. A pdf version of the directory is available to download on our website www.massfamilyties.org. You can also find the phone number for the Family TIES Regional Coordinator for your area on our website.



Information and Resources

Family TIES Resource Directory:

- Under *Accessibility, Assistive Technology and Adaptive Equipment, and State Agencies*

Massachusetts Department of Public Health Programs:

- Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund
<https://www.mass.gov/catastrophic-illness-in-children-relief-fund-cicrf>

Other Massachusetts State Agency Programs:

- Department of Developmental Services of MA, Flexible Funding Supports
<https://www.mass.gov/lists/dds-family-support-services-information>
- MA Commission for the Blind
<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-commission-for-the-blind>
- Home Modification Loan Program
<https://www.mass.gov/home-modification-loan-program-hmlp>

Statewide:

- Easter Seals Assistive Technology Loan
<https://www.easterseals.com/ma/our-programs/assistive-technology/loan-programs.html>
- Help A Little One (HALO)
<https://www.halo.org/>
- REquipment & Get AT Stuff (MRC/MassMatch) (800) 261-9841
<https://dmerequipment.org/>
- Pass It On
<http://www.passitonforkids.org/>
- SmileMass
<https://www.smilemass.org/>

National:

- UnitedHealth Children's Foundation <https://www.uhccf.org/>
- Firsthand Foundation <https://www.firsthandfoundation.org/>
- Oley Foundation <https://oley.org/>
- Sam's Children
<https://www.samschildreninc.org/AboutUs.html>