

Accessibility

Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle Funding



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

Transportation in a non-accessible vehicle can not only be challenging, it can be dangerous for individuals who use a wheelchair for mobility. It is much safer to travel and transition in and out of an accessible van.

There are many different wheelchair accessible vehicle options to choose from. Research the different options online, attend conferences or resource fairs and talk to other families. Dealerships that specialize in wheelchair accessible vehicles are a great resource. They can show you different options and may offer an option to rent, to allow you to try before you buy.

One important thing to keep in mind when looking for funding options is the type of wheelchair your child uses. Many funders do not offer assistance if a portable wheelchair, one that can be folded and placed in a trunk is used.

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 & 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>

Statewide:

- Easter Seals Assistive Technology Loan
<http://www.easterseals.com/ma/our-programs/assistive-technology/loan-programs.html>
- Knights of Columbus
<http://maskofc.org/program-team/#programs>

National:

- National Organization for Vehicle Accessibility (NOVA)
<https://novafunding.org/>
- United Cerebral Palsy Association
<http://ucp.org/>
- Muscular Dystrophy Association (or other diagnosis-specific groups)
<https://www.mda.org/>