B.5: Discretionary funding for assistive technology or transportation

Unit: Disability Services	Effective date: February 18, 2022
Branch: Social Supports	Last updated: February 18, 2022
Policy number: A.5	Review date: February 18, 2024

Purpose

This policy describes discretionary funding for devices and technology that support or improve the client's development and quality of life; enhance their inclusion in the community; or provide support for the parents who are providing care. This funding may also be considered to meet a specific extraordinary transportation need.

Policy

1. Disability Services (DS) is a non-legislated program that acts as a funder of last resort.
2. DS may consider requests for funding to offset the cost of non-medical assistive technology (which may include a specific aid, piece of equipment, or device) or an extraordinary transportation need that is not provided for by a legislated program or other service, or could not be reasonably expected to be provided by the client's caregivers.
    - Funding may not be used to purchase food supplements, prescription drugs, or any item consumed on a regular or ongoing basis.
    - Funding for medical aids or devices, such as wheelchairs, standing frames, and microphone hearing aids is not provided by DS as it is eligible for funding by other providers.
3. Submissions for items or services must be:
    - based on clear need that is directly related to the client's disability; and
    - recommended in writing by a medical or allied health professional.
4. A written cost estimate is required and must include all associated costs (including shipping, if applicable).
5. Client or caregiver must submit proof of payment to the social worker after purchasing the item or service. DS bases reimbursement on actual costs.
6. The client is the owner of the item at the time of purchase and is responsible for all maintenance and repair costs.
7. DS may consider providing funding for an extraordinary transportation need when:
    - the cost is not otherwise covered by another government program;
    - the nature of the client's disability precludes them from using community transportation resources;
    - the need is expected to be short-term or limited; and

Historical

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- the transportation allows the client to access scheduled DS-funded therapy services.

8. DS does not fund home renovations that result in permanent structural changes to the client's home (for example, installing fixed lift systems, widening doorways, installing accessible bathrooms).
9. DS does not fund vehicle modifications.

Definitions

Activities of Daily Living (ADLs): A set of functional skills required to care for oneself independently, including eating, bathing, dressing, continence, and mobility.

Allied health professionals: A distinct group of professionals who are involved with the delivery of health or related services; includes occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech language pathologists, dieticians, and respiratory therapists, among others.

Assistive device or technology: Any item, piece of equipment, software program, or product system used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of persons with disabilities.

Caregiver(s): The caregivers of the client with whom the client resides on a full-time basis (clients may split time between two caregivers). Caregivers may or may not have legal guardianship over the client.

Client: An individual with a disability who receives services from Disability Services.

Authorities

- *Health Act* (Yukon)
- *Financial Administration Act* (Yukon)

APPROVED BY:		Director, Social Supports
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Historical