

# Paying for assistive devices

## Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC)

VAC offers financial assistance to eligible clients who need to purchase assistive devices. Access to these benefits depends on your eligibility status and your specific health needs.

Toll-free.....1-866-522-2122

[www.veterans.gc.ca](http://www.veterans.gc.ca) (search Treatment Benefits)

## Assistive Devices Program (ADP)

ADP helps Ontario residents with a valid OHIP card and a disability requiring the equipment or supplies for 6 months or longer to pay for customized equipment or specialized supplies. Some examples include hearing aids, wheelchairs, home oxygen therapy, visual aids, diabetic supplies, ostomy supplies.

Coverage varies depending on the assistive device and your situation. Often 75 % of the cost for equipment and supplies is covered and ADP is billed directly by the authorized supplier. You then pay the other 25 per cent when you purchase the item.

In some cases, you will receive a series of payments throughout the year to help cover the cost of supplies.

# Examples of ADP Coverage

**Hearing Aids** – up to \$500.00 per side once every 5 years

**Type 1 Diabetes** – 100 % Insulin pump, 100% real time glucose monitoring system

**Mobility Aids** (wheeled walker, wheelchair, forearm crutch) -75% of ADP approved price

**Home Oxygen** – 100% if over age 65, otherwise 75%

For information on how to qualify, apply and find a vendor for these types of equipment and supplies, visit the ADP website at [www.ontario.ca/page/assistive-devices-program](http://www.ontario.ca/page/assistive-devices-program)

## March of Dimes

Funded by the Ontario Government, March of Dimes Home and Vehicle Modification Program may provide funding to eligible individuals for basic home and/or vehicle modifications.

[www.marchofdimes.ca](http://www.marchofdimes.ca) (search HVMP)

## Personal Health Insurance Plan

Your own health insurance may cover some or all the device cost not covered by ADP. Check your policy or contact your provider to see if you are eligible for further compensation.

# Other organizations that help

Some community and non-profit organizations such as the Rotary Club, Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), Halton Region or Red Cross may offer financial assistance to purchase assistive devices.

## Tax Credits

### Home Accessibility Tax Credit HATC

You may be able to claim the Home Accessibility Tax Credit (HATC) for renovations or devices that allow a qualifying individual to be more mobile or functional within their home.

[www.canada.ca](http://www.canada.ca) (search Home Accessibility Tax Credit)

### HST Relief

Many assistive devices are exempt from HST, though some items like lift chairs or eyeglasses require a prescription for the exemption.

For more information, visit [www.halton.ca](http://www.halton.ca) or call 311.



SCS-2633113

[halton.ca](http://halton.ca) 311

# Assistive Devices



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# Fast Facts

Older Adult Advisory Committee (OAAC)



## What is an Assistive Device?

An assistive device is any product, gadget, or piece of equipment that will help you with daily activities such as mobility, sight, hearing, communicating, or eating that you might otherwise have difficulty performing.

Some examples of assistive devices include eyeglasses, hearing aids, mobility aids, or digital devices.

This leaflet highlights some of the assistive devices available and offers suggestions on how to access them.

## Examples of Assistive Devices

Here are a few examples of common activities and some assistive devices that can make them easier and safer.

**Bathing/toileting:** grab bars, hand-held shower head, bath seat with arm rails, non-slip floor mat, commode chair, raised toilet seat

**Dressing:** long-handled shoehorn, Velcro fastenings, sock pullers

**Food Preparation:** easy-grip utensils, side-opening oven door, height-adjustable cupboards and counters, sliding cabinet drawers, pouring aids

**Mobility:** cane, walker, rollator, wheelchair, electric lift/recline chair, mobility scooter

**Phone Usage:** using smartphone accessibility and Bluetooth features, large button land line handsets

**Enjoying hobbies:** playing card holder and card shuffler, long-handled gardening tools, TV remote with larger buttons and closed captioning, modified computer keyboards, audio books, reading magnifier

Assistive devices can have a positive impact on your mental health. By living an active and social lifestyle, you can remain independent, confident and positive.

## Getting started

Consult your doctor, pharmacist, audiologist, optometrist or occupational therapist to find out what assistive devices are available.

## Will I need a prescription?

Most sources of financial support (Ontario Assistive Devices Program, private health insurance, funding agencies) will require that a prescription from a healthcare professional (Doctor, Occupational Therapist, etc.) be completed **before** you apply for any compensation or reimbursement.

## Finding Assistive Devices

Most assistive devices are widely available in stores or on the internet. However, to find the “best fit” for your situation you should follow the advice of a healthcare professional.

- Prescription eyeglasses should be dispensed by an Optometrist or Optician.
- Hearing aids should be fitted by a qualified Audiologist.
- When purchasing any mobility aid you should seek guidance from an Occupational Therapist. For assistance contact “Ontario Health atHome” or visit a pharmacy that specializes with Home Health devices.
- Hardware and general stores offer wheeled shopping carts, easy-grip utensils and other gadgets that can make life easier.
- You can find items such as screen-reading software (for people with reduced vision) and modified keyboards and mice (for people with limited mobility) at specialty computer and electronics stores.

## Additional tips

If the assistive device you are considering is expensive, ask if you can rent or borrow one to find out if it meets your needs before you buy it.

Use caution if buying mobility aids over the internet or from preowned sources. If not fitted properly by an Occupational Therapist, canes, walkers, wheelchairs, etc. can worsen your situation.

Read and follow all instructions when using your assistive devices. Make sure caregivers also know how to use the devices properly.

Don’t hesitate to ask others where they got their useful gadgets or aids.

## Health 811 (Formerly Telehealth Ontario)

Health 811 is a free 24/7 service providing confidential health advice from a registered nurse. Use Health 811 to:

- Find a Doctor
- Apply for a Health Card
- Check Symptoms
- Find Health and Community Services
- Check coverage for prescriptions and Assistive Devices
- and more

Call..... 811

[www.health811.ontario.ca](http://www.health811.ontario.ca)