

What kind of visual aids are covered by the Assistive Devices Program (ADP)?

- **Optical Aids** including magnifiers, telescopes and specialized glasses
- **Reading And Writing Systems** including audio book playback machines, Closed-Circuit Televisions (CCTV) and braille
- **Orientation And Mobility Devices** such as white canes

You may be eligible for up to 3 optical aids, 1 reading aid, 1 writing aid and 1 orientation and mobility aid.

ADP contributes to the cost of the most basic equipment required for ongoing daily visual tasks as defined by ADP for funding purposes.

What kind of visual aids are not covered by ADP?

- Visual aids which are used for only one purpose such as school, work, sports, recreation or social activities
- Used equipment
- Items purchased before they are authorized by an authorizer registered with ADP
- Items purchased outside of Ontario

Who can apply?

Any permanent resident of Ontario who has a valid health card issued in their name, and

- has long-term low vision or blindness that cannot be corrected medically, surgically or with ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses (e.g. corrected vision in the better eye is in the range of 20/70 or less) and
- who requires a visual aid for six months or longer.

ADP does not pay for equipment available under Workplace Safety & Insurance Board or to Group "A" Veterans for their pensioned conditions.

How do I apply?

A health professional registered with ADP as an authorizer will perform an assessment to recommend the appropriate device to best meet your needs.

Eligibility for ADP funding assistance is based on established policies. If you are determined eligible, the authorizer will complete the application form attached and it will be submitted to ADP for review.

Who authorizes my equipment?

- For optical aids including specialized prescription glasses or contact lenses, field enhancement and spectacle mounted low vision aids you must be assessed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist who is registered with ADP.
- For optical aids including non-spectacle mounted magnifiers, telescopes, binoculars and non-prescriptive absorptive filters, you must be assessed by an ophthalmologist, optometrist or vision rehabilitation worker who is registered with ADP.
- For reading aids including audio book playback machines, you must see a specialist teacher of the blind or rehabilitation teacher or vision rehabilitation worker who is registered with ADP.
- For writing aids like Perkins braille, you must see a specialist teacher of the blind or a rehabilitation teacher who is registered with ADP.

- For reading and writing systems including Closed Circuit Televisions (CCTVs) and computer equipment, you must be assessed by a high technology authorizer registered with ADP and located at ADP designated centre.
- For orientation and mobility aids including white canes, you must be assessed by an orientation and mobility instructor who registered with ADP.

Do I have to pay the ADP registered authorizer?

Regional Assessment Centres and CCTV Assessment Centres may charge you an administration fee when you apply for a high technology device. The administration fee, of which ADP will pay 75%, is usually charged once every 5 years. Other fees will depend on the authorizer and their employer. ADP does not set or pay for authorizer assessment fees.

When does a physician (prescriber) have to sign my application form?

If you are applying to ADP for a visual aid for the first time, you must be examined by a physician, an ophthalmologist or an optometrist who completes Section 4 of the application form. The prescriber can sign the form before or after the assessment.

Do I sign my application form?

You are required to sign the application form. If you are unable to sign, someone who has the legal authority to act on your behalf may do so. This may be your spouse, parent, child, power of attorney, or public trustee.

How much money does ADP contribute?

ADP pays 75% of the ADP approved price. You pay 25%.

If you are receiving social assistance benefits under Ontario Works (OW), Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) or Assistance to Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD), ADP may pay 100 per cent of the ADP approved price.

Does this mean that ADP will pay 100% of my costs for equipment?

Not necessarily. You must pay the vendor directly for any non ADP funding options you may choose to purchase for your equipment. Be sure to ask your vendor how much of the total cost you will be responsible for.

Where can I get my visual aid?

CCTVs are lease-to-own through an ADP equipment pool. All other visual aids must be purchased through a vendor registered with ADP. Registered vendors bill ADP for the amount it will pay toward your visual aid. They will bill you the remaining amount. We advise you to shop around among ADP registered vendors as services may vary.

You may buy the equipment from an Ontario vendor who is not registered with ADP when:

- You require high technology equipment, and there is no registered vendor within 100km of your community; in this case you will need to get two quotations from two separate vendors
- There is a registered vendor within your community, but you decide to purchase your computer, printer and monitor on your own; in this case no quotations are required

If you purchase your visual aid from a non ADP registered vendor, you must pay the vendor for the full cost of the purchase and provide the completed Application for Funding Visual Aids form with the two quotations (if required), within one year from the authorization day to:

Ministry of Health
Assistive Devices Program
5700 Yonge Street 7th floor
Toronto ON M2M 4K5

Once your application has been processed at ADP you will receive a letter with information about the status of the application and the number you must use for invoicing purposes.

If the application has been approved, you can send the fully itemized invoice(s), indicating “paid in full” to:

Ministry of Health
Financial Management Branch,
Program Payments
PO Box 48
49 Place D’Armes 2nd Floor
Kingston ON K7L 5J3

The ADP will then reimburse you directly for the funding amount.

Is there a trial period for me to try out my visual aid?

You usually have 30 days to try out your visual aid. If you are not satisfied with it, return the visual aid to the vendor before the trial period ends. The vendor may charge you a handling fee. Ask your vendor for more details.

Does ADP pay for repairs?

ADP does not pay for repairs and maintenance (SEEPAC excepted). You own the equipment and are responsible for taking care of it.

Who do I call if I have problems with my visual aid?

If you have any problems using your visual aid, please contact your authorizer and vendor, and/or the Sight Enhancement Equipment Pool Assessment Centre as applicable.

What if I need to replace my equipment?

Each type of visual aid has its own replacement period. ADP may contribute to the cost of a new visual aid after or before the placement period has passed, if:

- Your medical condition and/or functional ability has changed or
- Your old device has worn out.

ADP does not pay for replacement if the original equipment is lost, stolen or damaged due to misuse. We encourage you to buy insurance to cover these situations.

What if I am not eligible for ADP funding assistance?

If you need a visual aid but are not eligible for ADP, your insurance company may pay for it. If you do not have insurance, you may want to consider buying reconditioned equipment. Agencies, such as the March of Dimes, Easter Seals Society, and community service groups may help.

What if I have more questions about ADP?

Contact us at:

Ministry of Health
Assistive Devices Program
5700 Yonge Street 7th floor
Toronto ON M2M 4K5

Telephone 416-327-8804
Toll Free 1-800-268-6021
TTY 416-327-4282
TTY Toll Free 1-800-387-5559
Email adp@ontario.ca

Or visit our website at: www.ontario.ca/page/assistive-devices-program