



Assistive products and devices are becoming available at a much faster rate than are the funds to pay for them. Much of this new and innovative technology can be very expensive. The need for it will continue to be questioned by funding sources and denials will occur. Be aware of the variety of assistive technology options which exist.

Again, make sure to know what specific information is required by the source. Always check paperwork closely to be sure it is complete and correct.

What happens when funding is approved and authorization occurs?

Written approval will be given for the amount of money that has been authorized toward the purchase of the specified assistive technology. If the approval is for the entire or full amount requested/needed, the AT supplier or vendor will process the order and deliver the equipment. If the approval is for less than the full amount, locate other options to fund the remaining amount. This is why it is important to determine ALL potential funding sources as soon as possible, so that you can expedite the process.

Final Suggestion...

Never give up when it comes to funding! Key components in successfully obtaining funding are:

- Perseverance and determination
- Exercising self-advocacy
- Educate the funding source personnel by demonstrating the benefits of the AT device
- Investigating and actively seeking alternate funding sources if necessary

APPEALS AND ADVOCACY

In Oklahoma, there are several resources to assist with the appeals process and/or to pursue other routes, such as legal action. These include the Client Assistance Program (CAP), Office of Disability Concerns, Office of Client Advocacy, Oklahoma Parents Center, Alternative Dispute Early Settlement Mediation Program, Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma, Special Education Resolution Center, and Oklahoma Disability Law Center.

Client Assistance Program (CAP)

The Client Assistance Program (CAP), a program within the Office of Disability Concerns, is the advocacy unit that assists eligible persons with complaints, appeals and understanding the 1998 Rehabilitation Act Amendments.

The CAP assists by providing:

- Information about the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and amendments
- Information about benefits available to clients and applicants through the Vocational Rehabilitation program
- Mediation between counselors, facilities and clients to resolve problems
- Assistance to clients and applicants in pursuing all available remedies to ensure the protection of their rights
- Education about CAP and Vocational Rehabilitation program for the public

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Office of Disability Concerns

The Office of Disability Concerns (ODC) is an independent state agency whose purpose is to help state government develop policies and services that meet the needs of Oklahomans with disabilities. ODC serves as a resource, to people with disabilities, who want to present their views and recommendations to the Governor, the State Legislature and State agencies. The Office of Disability Concerns provides information and referral, technical assistance to individuals with disabilities, businesses and governmental entities on various topics concerning people with disabilities.

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