

32 ADP can help people with disabilities secure funding for supplies and equipment

When disability of one sort or another strikes an individual there are a number of issues, which they have to deal with. It can be overwhelming in the extreme.

Many questions are raised, not the least of which is "Why me?"

What to do now?

Where do I find information?

What aids or devices are available to help me?

This latter question can be restated as what is appropriate for my circumstances and

can I afford it?

As Ontarians, we are fortunate to have a program available through the provincial government called Assistive Devices Program. This program helps by providing funding for devices that facilitate the independence of a person with a disability.

The ADP funds over 8,000 separate devices from prosthetics, ostomy bags, hearing aids, visual aids, wheelchairs, other seating devices, and much more.

Anything that would help a

person become more independent and in some cases such as oxygen and related equipment, an absolute necessity.

Eligibility criteria include having been disabled for six months or longer and being

an Ontario resident with a valid health card issued in their name. This program provides funding to individuals who are not otherwise covered under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board or Veterans Group "A" pensions benefits.

Initially you can access the program through a medical specialist or general practitioner who can evaluate your specific needs. In many cases an individual registered with the program will perform an assessment as to your need and what sort of device or class of

devices would be best suited for you. This person may even be the vendor.

The funding varies depending on age and financial circumstances. In some cases 75 per cent of the cost is covered. You can always approach service clubs like the Optimists or Lions clubs, or church groups for the difference.

Andrew Tutty is a member of the Halton Hills Accessibility Advisory Committee (HHAAC)

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