

When Your Child Needs Adaptive Equipment & Home Modifications: A Family Guide



If your child is receiving behavioral health services and needs adaptive equipment or home modifications, your local Community Mental Health Service Providers (CMHSP) may be able to help with items not covered by private insurance or the standard Medicaid State Plan.

Specialized or adaptive equipment or modifications may be covered if your child has the Children's Waiver Program (CWP), the Habilitation Supports Waiver (HSW) or has Medicaid and receives enhanced behavioral health services under 1915(i)SPA. Eligibility criteria and documentation of need requirements must be met.

Examples of Adaptive Equipment and Home Modifications That Might Be Covered

Home Modifications or Adaptations

- Bathroom modifications.
- Fencing (Children's Waiver only).
- Ramps.
- Specialized electric or plumbing.
- Systems required to support medical equipment.
- Widening of doorways.

The following conditions apply:

- Home modifications must be required by the child's assessed need and identified in the Individual Plan of Service.
- Modifications must be needed to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the child or help them be more independent in their home or community.
- If a family purchases or builds a home while the child is already receiving waiver services, it is the family's responsibility to ensure the home will meet the child's basic needs, such as having a ground floor bath or bedroom if the child has mobility limitations.

Specialized or Enhanced Medical Equipment and Supplies*

- Adaptations to vehicles (i.e. van lift).
- Adaptive equipment (i.e. bike, trike).
- Air conditioner.
- Allergy control supplies.
- Assistive technology.
- Daily living aids.
- Durable and non-durable equipment not available under the Medicaid State Plan.
- Environmental safety and control devices.
- Items necessary for life support. (May also include supplies and equipment needed for the proper functioning of these items.)
- Generators. (May require being dependent on a ventilator or daily use of an oxygen concentrator.)

*As determined by medical necessity and required by the child's assessed need and identified in the Individual Plan of Service.

Documentation Required and Action Steps

Parent or Guardian Action Steps

- Identify the need for adaptive equipment, supplies or home modifications. This can be through conversation with the case manager or other medical or clinical staff. If necessary, the case manager can help arrange any assessments or evaluations needed to support the request.
- Request the item from the CMHSP. Requests can be made at any time through the person-centered planning process.
- Obtain a prescription signed by physician within the past twelve months.
- Obtain written statement of coverage from other sources such as private insurance, that shows whether the request is denied or only partially covered.
- You may need to obtain three bids for items greater than \$1,000.

Community Mental Health Service Provider Action Steps to be Completed with the Parent or Guardian

- Create a written document that provides all the information on why the item is needed.
- Include documentation of assessments or evaluations that show the requested item, device or modification is necessary to carry out the child's Individual Plan of Service. It must be of direct medical benefit.
- Include a copy of the goal, objectives or methods that are related to the request and identified in the Individual Plan of Service.

If Denied, You Have the Right to Appeal the Decision

If you are informed that an item or service requested is not a benefit, or that eligibility criteria was not met, you have the right to appeal this decision.

In order to do so, there are specific steps that should be followed. Community Mental Health will provide you a written "Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination." This written notice will have information on how to appeal the decision.

You may request an internal appeal; if denied through internal processes, you may request a Medicaid State Fair Hearing.



This document was created by the Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs within the Children's Special Health Care Services Division in partnership with the Bureau of Children's Coordinated Health Policy and Supports. It is intended to be used as a guide only. It is not a guarantee of coverage. Please direct any questions regarding Community Mental Health program benefits and eligibility to your CMHSP.