

Assistive Technology and Services

Service Definition

A. Assistive Technology and Services can be used as a creative solution to help with a participant's health and safety, build relationships, and increase independence at home, in the community, or at work.

The purpose of Assistive Technology and Services is to maintain or improve a participant's functional abilities, enhance interactions, support meaningful relationships, and promote their ability to live independently, and meaningfully participate in their community.

B. Assistive Technology and Services includes:

1. Assistive Technology needs assessment;
2. Acquisition of Assistive Technology;
3. Installation and instruction on use of Assistive Technology; and
4. Monthly service fees; and
5. Maintenance of Assistive Technology.

C. Assistive Technology means an item, computer application, piece of equipment, or product system. Assistive Technology may be acquired commercially, modified, or customized.

D. Assistive Technology devices include:

1. Speech and communication devices, also known as augmentative and alternative communication devices (AAC), such as speech generating devices, text-to-speech devices and voice amplification devices;
2. Blind and low vision devices, such as video magnifiers, devices with optical character recognizer (OCR) and Braille note takers;
3. Deaf and hard of hearing devices, such as alerting devices, alarms, and assistive listening devices;

Assistive Technology and Services

4. Devices for computers and telephone use, such as alternative mice and keyboards or hands-free phones;
5. Environmental control devices, such as voice activated lights, fans, and door openers;
6. Aids for daily living, such as weighted utensils, adapted writing implements, and dressing aids;
7. Cognitive support devices and items, such as task analysis applications or reminder systems;
8. ~~Alert Remote~~ support devices, such as ~~Assistive Technology~~ health monitoring devices, including ~~such as~~ blood pressure bands and oximeter ~~and personal emergency response systems~~; and
9. Adapted toys and specialized equipment such as specialized car seats and adapted bikes.

E. Assistive Technology Service means a service that directly assists participants in the selection, acquisition, use, or maintenance of an Assistive Technology device. Assistive Technology Services only include:

1. Assistive Technology needs assessment;
2. Programs, materials, and assistance in the development of adaptive materials;
3. Training or technical assistance for the participant and their support network including family members;
4. Repair and maintenance of devices and equipment;
5. Programming and configuration of devices and equipment;
6. Coordination and use of Assistive Technology devices and equipment with other necessary therapies, interventions, or services in the Person-Centered Plan; and
7. ~~Purchasing or leasing of Assistive Technology devices~~ ~~Services consisting of purchasing or leasing devices.~~

F. Specifically excluded under this service are:

Assistive Technology and Services

1. Wheelchairs, architectural modifications, adaptive driving, vehicle modifications, and devices requiring a prescription by physicians or other licensed health care providers when these items are covered through: (i) the Medicaid State Plan as Durable Medical Equipment (DME); (ii) other ~~Medicaid w~~Waiver ~~p~~Program ~~s~~Services (e.g., environmental modification and vehicle modifications); (iii) the Division of Rehabilitation Services; or (iv) any other State funding program;
2. Services, equipment, items, or devices that are experimental or not authorized by applicable State or Federal authority; and
3. Smartphones and associated monthly service line and data cost.

SERVICE REQUIREMENTS:

- A. If the Assistive Technology requested for the participant costs up to, but does not equal or exceed \$2,500, then an Assistive Technology needs assessment is not required, but may be requested by the waiver participant, prior to acquisition of the Assistive Technology.
- B. If the Assistive Technology requested for the participant has a cost that equals or exceeds \$2,500, then an Assistive Technology needs assessment is required prior to acquisition of the Assistive Technology.
- C. The Assistive Technology needs assessment must contain the following components:
 1. A description of the participant's needs and goals;
 2. A description of the participant's functional abilities without Assistive Technology;
 3. A description of whether and how Assistive Technology will meet the participant's needs and goals; and
 4. A list of all Assistive Technology, and other ~~Medicaid w~~Waiver ~~p~~Program ~~s~~Services (including a combination of any of the elements listed) that would be most effective to meet the technology needs of the participant.
- D. If the item costs over \$2,500, the most cost-effective option that best meets the participant's needs shall be selected from the list developed in the Assistive Technology needs assessment described in C. above. ~~must be selected for inclusion on the PCP unless an explanation of why the chosen option is the most cost effective.~~

Assistive Technology and Services

E. If the Assistive Technology, requested for the participant, has a cost that equals or exceeds \$2,500, prior to acquisition of the Assistive Technology the participant must submit three estimates for the Assistive Technology and Services for review and selection by the DDA.

F. Upon delivery to the participant (including installation) or maintenance performed, the Assistive Technology must be in good operating condition and repair in accordance with applicable specifications.

G. Prior to accessing DDA funding for this service, all other available and appropriate funding sources **which may include, as applicable, private insurance, including those** services offered by Maryland Medicaid State Plan, Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS), **and** Department of Human Services (DHS), **and or** any other federal or State government funding program, must be explored and exhausted to the extent applicable.

1. These efforts must be **documented written** in the participant's file.

2. If these services are deemed by the participant's person-centered planning team to be inappropriate to meet the specific needs of the participant, the exploration efforts and reasons that these services do not meet the participant's needs shall be **documented written** in the participant's **file PCP**.

3. The DDA has authority to determine if further efforts must be made, and documented, prior to authorization of funding for the service under the Waiver program.

H. To the extent that any listed services are covered under the Medicaid State Plan, the services under the waiver would be limited to additional services not otherwise covered under the Medicaid State Plan, but consistent with waiver objectives of **receiving community based services and** avoiding institutionalization.

I. A legally responsible person, relative, or legal guardian of the participant cannot be paid by the Waiver program, either directly or indirectly, to provide this Waiver program service.

J. Anyone paid to provide a Medicaid waiver service, including participant's employees, are considered a Medicaid Provider, subject to all laws and regulations associated with a Medicaid Provider.

Assistive Technology and Services

Specify applicable (if any) limits on the amount, frequency, or duration of this service:
Service Delivery Method (check each that applies):
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Participant-directed as specified in Appendix E <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provider managed (<u>Don't Check</u>) Remote/via Telehealth
Specify whether the service may be provided by (check each that applies):
NONE CHECKED <input type="checkbox"/> Legally Responsible Person <input type="checkbox"/> Relative <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Guardian
Provider Category(s) (check one or both):
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual. List types:
Assistive Technology Professional
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agency. List the types of agencies:
Organized Health Care Delivery System Services Provider
Provider Type:
Assistive Technology Professional

Assistive Technology and Services

License (specify)
Certificate (specify)
Other Standard (specify)
<p>Individuals must complete the MDH DDA provider application and be approved certified based on compliance with meeting the following standards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be at least 18 years old; 2. Have required credentials, license, or certification in an area related to the specific type of technology needed as noted below; 3. Pass a criminal background investigation and any other required background checks and credentials verifications as provided in Appendix C-2-a; 4. Have Commercial General Liability Insurance; 5. Satisfactorily complete Complete required orientation and training designated by DDA; 6. Satisfactorily complete Complete necessary pre/in-service training based on the Person-Centered Plan; 7. Have 3 professional references which attest to the provider's ability to deliver the support/service in compliance with the Department's policy values in Annotated Code of Maryland, Health General, Title 7; 8. Demonstrate financial integrity through the Internal Revenue Services (IRS), Maryland Department of Health, and Medicaid Exclusion List checks; 9. Complete and sign any agreements required by the Maryland Department of Health or DDA; and

Assistive Technology and Services

10. Have a signed Medicaid Provider Agreement; and

11. Submit a provider renewal application at least 60 days before expiration of its existing approval. The renewal license is good for a 3 year period unless otherwise noted in the approval letter.

Assistive Technology Professional credentialing, licensing, or certification requirements:

1. Individuals performing assessments for Assistive Technology (except for Speech Generating Devices) must meet **any of the** following requirements:

a. Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) Assistive Technology Practitioner (ATP);

b. California State University Northridge (CSUN) Assistive Technology Applications Certificate; or

c. Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech Language Pathology (CCC-SLP).

2. Individuals performing assessments for any Speech Generating Devices must meet the following requirements:

a. Needs assessment and recommendation must be completed by a licensed Speech Therapist;

b. Program and training can be conducted by a Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America Assistive Technology Practitioner or California State University Northridge (CSUN) Assistive Technology Applications Certificate professional.

3. Assistive Technology Specialist/Practitioner must have an acceptable certification from any of the following:

a. Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America Assistive Technology Practitioner;

b. California State University Northridge (CSUN) Assistive Technology Applications Certificate; ~~or~~

c. Shift Enabling Technology Certification; or

Assistive Technology and Services

~~d.e.~~ Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech Language Pathology (CCC-SLP); and

~~e.d.~~ Minimum of 3 years of professional experience in adaptive rehabilitation technology in each device and service area certified.

4. **Assistive Technology** Licensed **professionals** must have:

a. Maryland Board of Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers & Speech-Language Pathologists License for Speech-Language Pathologist; or

b. Maryland Board of Occupational Therapy Practice License for Occupational **Therapists**; or

~~5.c.~~ Entity designated by the Division of Rehabilitative Services as an Assistive Technology service vendor.

Provider Type:

Organized Health Care Delivery ~~Services~~ **System Provider**

License (specify)

Certificate (specify)

Other Standard (specify)

Agencies must meet the following standards:

1. **Complete the MDH provider application and be approved** ~~certified or licensed by the DDA~~ to provide at least one Medicaid waiver service;

2. Complete the DDA provider application to be an Organized Health Care Delivery **System** ~~Services~~ provider.

Assistive Technology and Services

Organized Health Care Delivery ~~Services~~System providers shall verify the licenses, credentials, and experience of all professionals with whom they contract or employ and have a copy of the same available upon request.

Assistive Technology Professional credentialing, licensing, or certification requirements:

1. Individuals performing assessments for Assistive Technology (except for Speech Generating Devices) must meet following requirements:

- a. Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) Assistive Technology Practitioner (ATP);
- b. California State University Northridge (CSUN) Assistive Technology Applications Certificate; or
- c. Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech Language Pathology (CCC-SLP).

2. Individuals performing assessments for any Speech Generating Devices must meet the following requirements:

- a. Need assessment and recommendation must be completed by a licensed Speech Therapist;
- b. Program and training can be conducted by a Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America Assistive Technology Practitioner or California State University Northridge (CSUN) Assistive Technology Applications Certificate professional.

3. Assistive Technology Specialist/Practitioner must have an acceptable certification from any of the following:

- a. Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America Assistive Technology Practitioner;
- b. California State University Northridge (CSUN) Assistive Technology Applications Certificate; ~~or~~
- c. ~~Shift Enabling Technology Certification; or~~
- d.e. Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech Language Pathology (CCC-SLP); and

Assistive Technology and Services

~~e.d.~~ Minimum of 3 years of professional experience in adaptive rehabilitation technology in each device and service area certified.

4. **Assistive Technology** Licensed professional must have:

a. Maryland Board of Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers & Speech-Language Pathologists License for Speech-Language Pathologist; or

b. Maryland Board of Occupational Therapy Practice License for Occupational Therapist.

5. Entity designated by the Division of Rehabilitative Services as an Assistive Technology service vendor.

Verification of Provider Qualifications

Provider Type:

Assistive Technology Professional

Entity Responsible for Verification:

1. ~~MDH DDA~~— for approval of certified Assistive Technology Professional.

2. Financial Management and Counseling Service (FMCS) provider, as described in Appendix E, for participants self-directing services.

Frequency of Verification

1. ~~DDA-MDH~~— Initially and at least every 3 years.

2. Financial Management and Counseling Service provider - prior to services and continuing thereafter.

Provider Type:

Assistive Technology and Services

Organized Health Care Delivery Services Provider
Entity Responsible for Verification:
1. DDA MDH for approval of Organized Health Care Delivery System Services-Providers .
2. Organized Health Care Delivery System Services providers for verification of entities and individuals they contract or employ.
Frequency of Verification
1. Organized Health Care Delivery System Services — Initially and at least every 3 years.
2. Organized Health Care Delivery System Services-Providers – prior to service delivery and continuing thereafter.