



FUNDING OPTIONS FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Assistive technology can be expensive, especially when you need a lot of it. Here are some sources of funding that can be used for assistive technology.

QUESTION: How do funding schemes work?

Most funding schemes need you to complete some forms, give them one or two quotes for what you want, and maybe write a letter or story. Someone then needs to check these documents to make sure that you are eligible for funding. They might also have to weigh your application against those of other applicants and get back to you. Finally, once approved, there may still be some work that needs to be done so that they can pay for the assistive technology and keep their records in shape.

Funding is never unlimited and has to come from somewhere. There are two main types of funding sources: government-funded schemes and non-government fundraising efforts.

Government funds – These schemes receive money each year from the government to use within that funding scheme. This means that, ultimately, tax payers have paid for this funding scheme, and the government needs to make sure that the money is spent responsibly. They often want a health professional involved to make sure that the item will work and that it is value for money. They also need to make sure that money is being distributed fairly, so they often have strict rules about who can access the scheme, and for what.

Donations and Fundraising – Sometimes, businesses and individuals want to donate money to help others. They often want to make a big difference to a few people rather than spreading money thinly amongst everyone. Stories of personal hardship and urgency of need are more likely to move people to donate to a cause. Often, funders will want to share the story of the donation and outcomes with the public, through the media.

QUESTION: How long will it take?

When looking for extra funding, you will need extra time. You will also need to complete extra paperwork, and maybe involve more people in the process.

Timeframes differ between funding schemes and can change over time. Check with the funding body how long it usually takes between submitting an application and release of the funds.

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