

Financing an Accessible Vehicle

Adapting or customizing a vehicle for accessibility adds considerable cost to the total purchase price. The following are programs that may help fund the purchase of adaptive equipment, an accessible vehicle, or the conversion of an existing vehicle.

Medicaid Waivers – In Indiana, the Family Supports Waiver (FSW) and the Community Integration Habilitation (CIH) Waiver provide up to \$15,000 (every 10 years) for vehicle modifications. The Aged & Disabled (A&D) Waiver and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Waiver provide a lifetime maximum up to \$15,000 for vehicle modifications (one vehicle every 10-year period). In addition, the waivers also offer limited funds of up to \$1,000 per year for maintenance and/or repair to vehicle modifications that were funded by the waiver budget (only). The funds cannot be used to purchase a vehicle, but rather the modifications.

Grants – Check with local and state organizations, as well as organizations specific to the person’s diagnosis. Include service organizations and community foundations in your search.

Vocational Rehabilitation – Provides adaptive equipment to enable the individual to be able to work or travel to/from work.

Insurance companies or Medicare may pay for adaptive equipment in certain instances.

Online fundraisers or donation sites have become quite popular in recent years and can be used to supplement funds for purchase of equipment or a vehicle. Be sure to check with your tax advisor about the possible implications of this type of funding.

Rebates are often offered by mobility dealerships for purchase of a new vehicle. Additionally, manufacturers may offer rebates on the purchase of a new vehicle that must be modified for accessibility purposes.

Additional Tips

- Some banks will offer loans with terms up to 10 years on a used mobility vehicle (a “mobility loan”), making the payments more affordable.
- The consumer does not pay sales tax on the mobility portion of the vehicle. For example, if the total purchase price of a van is \$22,000, and the mobility package is valued at \$15,000, the consumer pays state sales tax on \$7,000 (the price of the van only). In the event the consumer purchases a used accessible vehicle from an individual, the sales tax will be based on the Kelly Blue Book price of the vehicle, not the full purchase price paid to the seller. The BMV will require a doctor's certification that the modified vehicle is needed.
- Be sure to make your insurance company aware of the conversion package, as it must be covered as a separate line item under most insurance plans.

To learn more about these and other programs, contact Indiana Family to Family. We will assist you as you navigate health care systems and services, especially those available to individuals with special health care needs.
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