Mobility Devices for Adults with Physical Disabilities

How do adults with disabilities get their wheelchairs and mobility devices?
Anyone can buy a wheelchair, walker or scooter from any vendor in Ontario. However, adults with disabilities in Ontario can get funding to pay for part or all of the cost of devices through a program called the Assistive Devices Program (ADP) if they get assessed by an ADP authorizer. ADP Authorizers are Occupational Therapists or Physical Therapists trained in assessing equipment needs of people with disabilities.

How much of the cost will the Assistive Devices Program (ADP) pay?
ADP pays 75% of the ADP approved price of an approved mobility device and you pay the remaining 25% of the cost.

If you are receiving Ontario Works (OW), Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) or Assistance to Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD), ADP will pay 100% of the ADP approved price.

ADP does not pay assessment fees or repairs and covers a specific list of products.

What are the eligibility criteria for the Assistive Devices Program?
You must be an Ontario resident who has a valid Ontario Health card issued in their name and has a physical disability of six months or longer. Equipment cannot be required only for sports, work or school. There are rules about the types of equipment covered, how often equipment can get replaced and limits on what features are covered.

What is the process to apply?
Your Occupational Therapist or Physiotherapist, who must be registered with ADP as an authorizer, will assess your functional mobility status and recommend a specific device from the list of approved devices funded by ADP. If you are determined eligible the authorizer will complete the Application for Mobility Devices form and it will be submitted to ADP for review. You may be required to pay an assessment fee which is not covered by ADP.

Consider getting any extra equipment with charitable funding before you turn 18, as it is sometimes easier to get funding in the paediatric system.

If I am on ODSP, can I get help with the cost of the assessment or repairs?
If you are on ODSP this program will typically cover the assessment fees for a seating clinic and will also pay for wheelchair repairs and maintenance. Talk to your ODSP worker about this and make a plan so you know who to call and what to do if your chair breaks down.

How do I find an ADP authorizer?
Before you turn 18, ask your paediatric seating clinic or local children’s treatment centre for a referral to an adult centre for seating. You can also contact the ADP Authorizer centres directly on your own.
Ways to find Adult Seating Clinics or ADP Authorizers:

- **Assistive Technology Clinic: Out-Patient Postural Seating and Mobility Clinic**
  [www.assistivetechnologyclinic.ca/services_seating.html](http://www.assistivetechnologyclinic.ca/services_seating.html)

- **Toronto Rehab Spinal Cord Outpatient Services: The Seating Clinic** (requires a diagnosis of a spinal cord injury or disease).

- **Community Care Access Centres** list Community Based ADP Authorizers [http://healthcareathome.ca/](http://healthcareathome.ca/)

- Search the **College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario** for ADP Authorizers [www.coto.org](http://www.coto.org)

- Search the **College of Physiotherapists of Ontario** for ADP Authorizers [http://publicregister.collegept.org/PublicServices/Start.aspx](http://publicregister.collegept.org/PublicServices/Start.aspx)

Learn **How to Get a Repair** and attach a summary of the steps to your chair or in your wallet/phone. Include the names and numbers of:

- Your vendor and the name of someone who does repairs
- Your ODSP worker (if you have one)
- Accessible taxi and/or transportation service—so you don’t get stranded!

**DISCLAIMER:** This resource was developed in Apr 2016 and content was based on the following references. Changes can occur to programs at any time. This resource may not reflect changes made after this date nor will it include information from other sources not listed below. Please refer to original resources for comprehensive definitions and terms related to the program, eligibility criteria, determination of rates, additional benefits, and other important information.

**REFERENCES CONSULTED:**

**Government Websites**
Ministry of Health and Long-term Care, Assistive Devices Program
Relevant Pages: Assistive Devices Program
Relevant Pages: Mobility Devices
Accessed: Apr 2016

Relevant Pages: 9.13 - Mobility Devices Batteries and Repairs
Relevant Pages: 9.6 - Assistive Devices
Accessed: Apr 2016