

“To support independent living through service excellence and partnerships.”

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## **Independent Living Waterloo Region Access Fund Eligibility and Process FAQ**

### **What is the Access Fund?**

The Independent Living Waterloo Region (ILWR) Access Fund helps individuals with disabilities purchase assistive devices, adapted technology, and medical equipment that helps them live more independent lives.

### **What does the Access Fund cover?**

The Access Fund covers 100% of the purchase cost of an item up to a maximum of \$7500. Please note that the fund **does not** cover partial or a percentage of purchases in partnership with other funders.

For example:

**Will fund** - Susie wishes to purchase voice dictation software and a quality microphone so that she can interact with her computer for sending email to family and friends. The total cost of the purchase is \$500.

**Will Not fund** - Johnny’s family wishes to modify the ground level of their home to include an accessible bathroom. The total cost for the renovation is \$27,000, some of which is being covered by personal credit and other community service agencies. They are asking for \$7500 to go towards overall costs.

**Will fund** Johnny’s family wishes to modify the ground level of their home to include an accessible bathroom and they need to purchase a special piece of equipment, e.g. a ceiling track lift, that would be a part of the renovation.

The Access Fund will pay for many different types of devices and equipment, including items such as chair lifts, portable ramps, specialized beds, computer equipment and software, and wheelchairs/mobility aids.

**Note:** Each applicant may apply for one item only.

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## What doesn't the Access Fund cover?

The Fund does not:

- cover home renovations or permanent structures such as ramps
- cover equipment repairs, maintenance, or parts
- cover partial costs, or cost shared with other providers except for equipment funded through the ADP
- cover vehicle purchases
- reimburse vendors for purchases already made
- make payments directly to the recipient (payments made to vendor only)

## Who can apply to the Access Fund?

The Access Fund is available to anyone with a disability who lives in the Waterloo Region that needs equipment and financial support.

## How do I apply for funding?

This year we are accepting applications online only. The fund will open on **Monday, January 23, 2023 at 9 a.m.** and will close on **Monday, February 6, 2023 at 4 p.m.**

If you need any support completing the online form or require the form in an alternative format, please contact the Program Manager, Dan Lajoie ([dan.lajoie@ilwr.ca](mailto:dan.lajoie@ilwr.ca))

## What do I need to apply?

The preliminary application will be available online. The short form consists of personal information, questions about the item you need, the item's cost, and a declaration that you need financial support.

We will not need the vendor quote at the time of application, but you must identify the specific device and its cost. If approved, you may not change the item or dollar amount requested.

## How much funding can I apply for?

The Access Fund can provide **up to \$7,500** to purchase an approved item.

Only one applicant for the maximum request will be selected each round; the remainder of the available funds will be awarded to smaller requests.

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### **How do you select recipients?**

The Access Fund receives a great number of requests from applicants in need. We anticipate a significant number of applications. We will be utilizing a lottery system and recipients will be chosen at random from a list of complete applications.

Applicants may only submit one time and each application is for one item. Occupational Therapists or other medical professionals may submit applications on behalf of multiple individuals.

### **What happens after you select recipients?**

Once recipients are drawn and notified, they will have **30 days** to produce the following two documents:

1. **Professional assessment:** This document declares the necessity of the device for the applicant. Medical professionals include: physicians, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, or another approved specialist.
2. **Vendor quote:** One quote from the vendor of the applicant’s choice.

### **How long does it take to receive the device?**

Once the fund closes, names will be drawn, and applicants will be contacted within two weeks. The sooner the selected recipients submit their vendor quote and professional assessment, the sooner we can order the device from the vendor. The amount of time the device or equipment takes to arrive will vary by vendor.

**Note:** Access Fund pays the vendor directly. The recipient **does not** receive direct payment.

### **How often can I apply?**

Due to the volume of requests and our desire to help as many people as possible, if you were approved funding in **2022**, you will not be eligible this year.

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### **Where does the money come from?**

The Access Fund receives money through a variety of sources, including fundraisers such as The Tournament of Hope and Deer Ridge Golf Tournament. Periodically, the Access Fund receives donations from personal donors.

If you or someone you know is interested in donating to the Access Fund, please visit: <https://ilwr.ca/donate/>

### **Do you need anything else from recipients?**

Feedback from our recipients is very important. It tells our donors how important this fund is and motivates them to give again. We ask all recipients to give feedback after receiving their new device or equipment. This will be a very short questionnaire or a quick phone call. We also invite a few recipients to join us for dinner at the annual Tournament of Hope.

### **Still have questions?**

Independent Living Waterloo Region provides administration for the Access Fund. If you would like more information about the Access Fund, our golf tournament, making a donation, or our organization, please contact **Dan Lajoie, Manager of Independent Living Resources**, at [dan.lajoie@ilwr.ca](mailto:dan.lajoie@ilwr.ca), or **519-571-6788 ext. 7497**.

Thank you.



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