Adaptive Aids

Definition

Adaptive aids include items, controls, or appliances that enable the child or youth to increase his or her ability to perform activities of daily living, and successfully access, navigate, and participate in his or her home and community.

This service includes the purchase of vehicle modifications (for example, van lifts, hand controls for youth learning to drive, equipment modifications) that make it possible for the child or youth to use the vehicle to access the community.

Adaptive aids may also cover the initial purchase, training, and routine veterinary costs for a service animal. As per the Americans with Disabilities Act, service animals are dogs trained to perform major life tasks. Wisconsin Stat. § 106.52(1)(fm) states: "Service animal" means a guide dog, signal dog, or other animal that is individually trained or is being trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability. The tasks a service animal is trained to perform support the child’s or youth’s disability-related functional impairment(s).

Routine veterinary care and equipment necessary for a service animal to perform its function are included in the adaptive aids service. Routine veterinary care consists of both preventative veterinary services and care, and treatment necessary to maintain or restore the health and functionality of the service animal.

Examples of adaptive aids include (items listed are illustrative examples and not an exhaustive list):

**General**
- Accessible computer keyboards
- Adaptive accessories
- Adaptive bikes or tricycles
- Adaptive door handles and locks
- Adaptive security systems
- Computer and necessary software
- Control switches and pneumatic devices
- including sip and puff controls
- Electronic control panels

**Vehicle**
- Van or vehicle lift or transfer unit (manual, hydraulic or electronic)
- Vehicle hand controls

- Environmental control units
- Hygiene and meal preparation aids
- Over the bed tables
- Portable ramps
- Scald-preventing showerhead
- Service animals
- Specialized clothing
- Standing boards or frames
- Talking alarm clocks
The cost of installation, maintenance, and repair of allowable adaptive aids are included in the adaptive aids service. The cost of testing and/or evaluation to determine the appropriateness of an adaptive aid is also included.

Service Requirements

- To qualify as an allowable service animal, the animal is required to be trained to take a specific action when needed to assist the child or youth who has a disability. The service animal is required to be trained specific to the major life task needed to support the child or youth and is not otherwise required to have any specific accreditation. All breeds and sizes of dogs can be trained as service animals.
- The purchase of items or devices costing in excess of $2,000 requires recommendation from a rehabilitation organization, physical therapist, occupational therapist, physician, or other professional with comparable training or experience that indicates the item or device is appropriate for the child or youth.

Service Limitations

- Adaptive aids are limited to items and products and do not include services delivered by caregivers (persons who have regular, direct contact with the child or youth).
- This service includes the purchase of adaptive aids that have been denied funding through the Medicaid state plan as well as items or devices in excess of the quantity approved under the Medicaid state plan, when applicable.
- Payment to replace or upgrade the same adaptive aid is only allowable through the Children’s Long-Term Support (CLTS) Waiver Program if it is determined that the item or device has exhausted its useful life or has been rendered unsafe or unusable due to damage or defect.
- This service may not duplicate any service that is provided under another waiver service category.
- The CLTS Waiver Program is the payer of last resort and is not a source of funding for any service that would otherwise be the responsibility of another public or private entity, including:
  - Public benefits, energy assistance, or other poverty-related services.
  - Court-ordered, juvenile justice, or child protective services, including protective placement and guardianship or legal services.
  - Any goods or services covered by a third party, including private insurance or Medicaid, such as:
    - Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment benefit (known in Wisconsin as HealthCheck Other Services), which provides comprehensive and preventive health care services for children under age 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid or the Medicaid state plan services.
    - Mental health services that are otherwise available.
Educational or other services funded by the Department of Public Instruction or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, including those provided by the Birth to 3 Program.

Prevocational or other services offered through the Department of Workforce Development, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Service Exclusions

- This service excludes food, grooming, and non-routine veterinary care for service animals.
- This service excludes emotional support animals.
- This service excludes costs associated with adapted vehicles that are not directly related to the function of the vehicle adaptation, including the purchase of vehicles and any payment for the cost of general repairs or maintenance (for example, engine, transmission, suspension, tires).

Provider Standards and Documentation

General Provider Standards

- Providers are subject to required licensing and credentialing verification, caregiver background checks, and hiring prohibitions described in Chapter IV, Section 4.05, of this manual. Current documentation of licensure, professional certification, and caregiver background checks must be maintained by the provider and be accessible for review.
- Information about becoming a provider of CLTS Waiver Program services is located on the CLTS Provider Registry webpage.

Provider Types and Qualifications

Pharmacy and other providers appropriately qualified as related to the unique service being provided (agency provider)

Providers of systems or devices must ensure that all items meet the applicable standards of manufacture, safety, design, and installation for those systems or devices, such as the standards of Underwriters Laboratory and Federal Communications Commission.

Durable medical equipment provider (individual provider)

Providers must be appropriately qualified to distribute durable medical equipment.

Service Documentation

- The county waiver agency (CWA) is required to maintain documentation to demonstrate this service does not supplant or duplicate supports or services that are otherwise available through one of the funding sources listed above. (Refer to Service Limitations.)
- The CWA is required to maintain documentation, when applicable, that the adaptive aid has been denied by, or cannot be obtained through, the Medicaid state plan.
- For items costing in excess of $2,000, the CWA is required to maintain documentation from a rehabilitation organization, physical therapist, occupational therapist, physician, or other
professional with comparable training and experience that indicates the purchase is appropriate to the needs of the child or youth.

- The CWA is required to maintain documentation to evidence a service animal has been trained to support a child or youth in performing a major life task.