

## Adaptive Equipment, Assistive Technology, Remote Support, Home & Vehicle Modifications

Presented by: Derek Hedges,

Medicaid Waiver Manager

IDHS/Division of Developmental Disabilities

and

**Chris Lenart** 

Founder, Disability Awareness

Help is Here

THIS



### Introduction

- Adaptive Equipment, Assistive Technology, Remote
  Support (new waiver service), Home and Vehicle
  Modifications requests may be eligible for funding through
  the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD).
- Funding through the DDD is only available to persons enrolled in a Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver.



## The Love of Technology

- My first communication system Autocomm
- Technology is changing all of our lives especially people with disabilities
- My wheelchair and iPad
- Why the iPad as a device
- Closing the Gap Conference saw many devices for \$6,000 – Why?



### **SMART Technology**

- It is transforming lives for all people including people with disabilities
- Prices are coming down
- Have a full class on this subject
- Example of playing music
- Sense of independence





### **Automations**

- Motion sensors in my office, the bathroom, and the kitchen
- Why in the office and bathroom?
- A form of independence
- The lamp example

### The Cost of SMART Technology







BULBS VS. SWITCHES – FOR ME, WENT WITH SWITCHES



PRICES ARE DROPPING BECAUSE
PEOPLE ARE MAKING THEIR
HOMES SMART

### **Contact Info**

- www.disabilityawareness.us Sign up for weekly newsletter
- Email <u>clenart@comcast.net</u>
- Facebook page Disability Awareness
- YouTube <u>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC</u>

   ZJuCecT735\_74yCXhE5Q4g





## Bill Codes

Adaptive Equipment – 53E

Assistive Technology – 53T

Remote Support – undetermined

Home Modification – 53H

Vehicle Modification – 53V



### **Overarching Requirements**

The modification or equipment must be:

- For the direct benefit of the person.
- Essential to address needs related to the person's developmental disability.
- Necessary to enable the person receiving services to integrate more fully into the community.
- To ensure the health, welfare and safety of the person receiving DDD Waiver services.





### Overarching Requirements (continued)

The needed modification or equipment:

- Must be clearly documented in the individual's Personal Plan.
- Must increase independence and/or decrease reliance on supports and services.
- Is not something that would be considered a "general utility item." For a list of excluded general utility items, see Section III. Waiver Services of the Waiver Manual.





### Overarching Requirements (continued)

- If the modification or equipment is for something anyone would need in their home, vehicle or life, then it will not qualify for funding consideration. (See Section III. Waiver Services of the DDD Waiver Manual.)
- Equipment or modifications requested and approved through this process do not count against a Home-Based Services (HBS) person's monthly cost limit/individual budget.





### Overarching Requirements (continued)

- The Medicaid HCBS waiver can't fund items that can be attained through the Medicaid State Plan such as a wheelchair, shower chair, communication devices, adaptive eating utensils, etc.
- A list of items available under the State Plan can be found here:

https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalProviders/MedicaidRei mbursement/Pages/DME.aspx



### 9

### Adaptive Equipment (bill code 53E)

Devices, controls, or appliances which enable a person receiving DDD Waiver services to:

- Increase their ability to perform activities of daily living.
- Perceive, control, access or communicate within the environment in which they live.
- Other durable equipment not available under the State Plan that is necessary to address a person's functional limitations.
- The cost of adaptive equipment may include training or technical assistance for the person receiving DDD Waiver services.



# Medicaid HCBS Waiver Reimbursable Adaptive Equipment

includes:

- Weighted blankets or vest
- Noise cancelling headphones
- Sensory swing, sensory items
- Mats, wedges or positioning items
- Wrist Weights

Nonreimbursable Adaptive Equipment (under a Medicaid **HCBS Waiver**)

- Weighted Utensils
- Suction and/or segmented plates
- Built-up Utensils
- Oral motor chewing devices

### Assistive Technology (bill code 53T)

Assistive Technology is a device, item, piece of equipment, or product used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of a person receiving DDD Waiver services.

- The device, item, piece of equipment or product can be acquired commercially, modified, or customized.
- All items shall meet applicable standards of manufacture, design and installation.
- All purchased items shall be the property of the person receiving DDD Waiver services or the person's family.





### **Assistive Technology** reimbursable under the Medicaid HCBS Waiver:

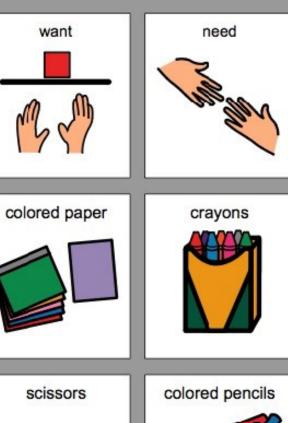
- Communication software and boards
- Evaluation of the individual's need for Assistive Technology.
- Services from a company that directly assists in the selection, purchase, lease, acquisition or use of an assistive technology device.
- Selecting, designing, fitting, customizing, adapting, applying, maintaining, repairing or replacing Assistive Technology devices.

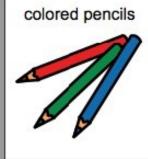




looks good

















### Assistive Technology reimbursable under the Medicaid HCBS Waiver:

Training or technical assistance, in the operation and/or maintenance of the AT device, to:

- The person receiving DDD Waiver services.
- The family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives, as appropriate.
- Professionals or other persons who provide services to, employ, or are otherwise substantially involved in the major life functions of the person receiving services.



Assistive
Technology
items NOT
reimbursable
under a HCBS
Waiver:

- Medical equipment and supplies furnished under the State Plan.
- Items furnished by a school program.
- Items that are not of direct remedial benefit to the person receiving DDD Waiver services.

### Items furnished by a school program:

Illinois State Board of Education:

"IDEA 2004 specifically addresses school-owned AT use in home settings: On a case-by-case basis, the use of school-purchased assistive technology devices in a child's home or in other settings is required if the child's IEP Team determines that the child needs access to those devices in order to receive FAPE. (34 C.F.R. § 300.105(b)). Consequently, school-owned AT should be used in home settings if the IEP team determines such use is required for the student to accomplish IEP goals."



### $\bigcirc$

### Home Accessibility Modifications (bill code 53H)

Physical adaptations to the private residence of the person receiving DDD Waiver services or the person's family.

- The home modification must be necessary to:
  - Ensure the health, welfare and safety of the person receiving DDD Waiver services.
  - Enable the person receiving DDD Waiver services to function with greater independence in the home.
- All services shall be provided in accordance with applicable Federal, State and local building codes.





### Additional approval criteria for Home Accessibility Modifications

- Homes must be the primary residence of the individual and the individual is expected to live in the home for a period of at least one year.
- For rented or leased homes, individuals must have written permission of the landlord to make the modifications.
- For CILA homes, modifications must comply with the requirements of the CILA Start-Up Guidelines.





## Home accessibility modifications reimbursable under the Medicaid HCBS Waiver:

- Installation of exterior ramps and grab-bars.
- Widening of doorways.
- Bathroom or kitchen modifications.
- Lifts and landings at the top and bottom of a lift.
- Exterior ramps and lifts.
- Installation of specialized electric and plumbing systems that are necessary for the welfare of the person receiving DDD Waiver services.
- Modifications to meet OSFM requirements in a CILA.





## Home accessibility modifications NOT reimbursable under a HCBS Waiver:

- Adaptations/improvements that are not of direct benefit to the person receiving services, such as
  - Sidewalks
  - Driveways
  - o Decks.
- Adaptations that add to the total square footage of the home.
- Adaptations/improvements that are of general utility such as:
  - Carpeting, roof repair, central air conditioning.
  - Repair or replacement of damaged or deteriorated parts of a home.
- Seasonal items such as swimming pools and related equipment.





### Vehicle Modifications (bill code 53V)

- Adaptations or alterations to an automobile or van that is the person receiving DDD services primary means of transportation in order to accommodate the special needs of the person.
- Adaptations necessary to enable the person receiving services to integrate more fully into the community and to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the person receiving services.





# Vehicle Modifications reimbursable under the Medicaid HCBS Waiver:

- Vehicle modifications so that a person can access a vehicle with their wheelchair or other mobility device.
- Wheelchair tie-downs and other safety modifications to secure a person in a wheelchair when in transit.



## Vehicle modifications NOT reimbursable under the Medicaid HCBS Waiver:

- Purchase or lease of the vehicle.
- Repair or replacement of parts which any vehicle needs.
- Purchase, installation, repair or replacement of items or parts of a vehicle not related to the accessibility modification.



### Remote Support (bill code TBD)

- Remote Support includes the use of video, audio, door and window monitoring devices, or other technology which enables an individual to be more independent and less reliant on staff being physically present when receiving CILA supports and services.
- Currently limited to CILA participants
- Adult Waiver Amendment submitted in December 2020





### Service, Equipment and Funding Maximums

For any combination of Adaptive Equipment, Assistive Technology, Remote Support, Home Modifications and Vehicle Modifications:

- There is a \$15,000 maximum per person per five-year period.
- Within the five-year maximum, there is also a \$5,000 maximum per address for permanent home modifications for rented homes.
- See Appendix C-4 of the Waiver for any additional service maximums.





### Service, Equipment and Funding Maximums (continued)

CILA site modification reimbursement is limited to the maximums specified in the Waiver Manual or CILA User Guide, and are as follows:

- \$5,000: Rented locations with a lease of less than 5 years.
- \$7,500: New construction.
- \$15,000: Existing structures which are owned by the person, CILA agency or have a long-term lease of 5 years or greater with a renewal at the end of the lease.

NOTE: This means the lifetime maximum reimbursement for a CILA site is \$15,000, not \$15,000 per person served.





### Service, Equipment and Funding Maximums (continued)

RECOMMENDATION: If the modification request reaches or exceeds the maximum allowance, the CILA provider should focus their modification request for the project(s) or modification(s) with the greatest cost rather than more modifications with less cost in order to maximize funding and simplify funding requests.





### **Request Process**

- The process for requesting Adaptive Equipment, Assistive Technology, Home and Vehicle Modifications is outlined in the Informational Bulletin DD.20.001, which is available on the DHS Website.
- The request process for Remote Supports will be similar, if not the same.
- All requests require prior approval. This means the request must be submitted and on file in the Bureau of Reimbursement and Program Support (BRPS) before the project is started.
  - DDD will not approve any request which has already had work initiated or completed prior to submission and approval of service.
  - Prior Approval criteria can be located on the DHS website at: http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=53193



### $\bigcirc$

### **Special Notes:**

- The CILA provider or HBS recipient/guardian is strongly encouraged to ask for and check a contractor's or vendor's references before entering into any agreement or contract.
- The modification is an agreement between the Provider and the Client.
- The Provider and the Client enter into an agreement to enable the modification to proceed; DHS/DDD is not a party to this agreement.
- Any dispute that arises under the agreement between the Client and the Provider, shall be resolved solely between the Provider and the Client.



### **Special Notes:**

- The DDD is ONLY a possible source of reimbursement and has no liability for the workmanship by the contractor(s) and vendor(s).
- The CILA provider or HBS recipient/family is strongly encouraged to ask for and obtain a copy of the contractor's:
  - License(s) to perform work such as contractor, roofing, plumbing, electric, etc.; and
  - Certificate of Liability Insurance; and
  - Proof of Worker's Compensation Insurance before entering into any agreement or contract.





### **Special Notes:**

The CILA provider or HBS client/family is responsible for:

- Ensure any home modifications meet all Federal, State and local building and zoning codes.
- Ensure all necessary permits or approvals as required by local applicable authorities have been secured.





### **Special Notes:**

It is strongly recommended the CILA provider or HBS client/family assures the vendor/contractor is enrolled or has submitted the paperwork to become an enrolled vendor PRIOR to signing an agreement, contract or accepting a bid.

- If after-the-fact the vendor/contractor declines to become enrolled after the work is completed or the item(s) are delivered there is NO reimbursement even though an award letter may have been issued.
- See Provider Enrollment Link: <a href="http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=47336">http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=47336</a>





### Resources

The DDD Waiver Manual (currently being revised)

### Link:

http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=45 227

- Section III. E.
- Section VII. A.
- Section VII, Table 6
- Section VII. 5.
- Section X, Table 7.



### Resources

The Community-Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA) Individual Rate Determination Model

CILA User Guide, Cost Center Definitions and Allowance Levels (Revised January 2002)

### Link:

http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item = 16043



### Resources

### **Medicaid Waivers**

- Children's Residential Waiver and Children's Support Waiver (Approved Effective 7/1/2017)
- Adult Waiver (Approved Effective 12/11/2017)

### Link:

http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=45 915

Maximum Reimbursement amounts found under Appendix C: Participant Services, C-1/C-3: Service Specification and Service Type: Other Service.



### **Contact Information**

For more information, please contact:

- Primary contact for people funded through HBS:
  - Kim Kavanagh at <u>kim.kavanagh@Illinois.gov</u>
- Primary contacts for CILA Home Modifications:
  - Eric Mitchelle at <u>Eric.Mitchelle@illinois.gov</u> or
  - o Diane Garbin at <u>Diane.Garbin@illinois.gov</u>
- My contact information:
  - Derek Hedges at (217) 782-5919 or derek.hedges@Illinois.gov





### **Contact Information**

You can also contact the DDD Region Staff in your geographic area. You may access the list of Region Staff at: <a href="http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=48541">http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=48541</a>

### Chris Lenart:

Email – <u>clenart@comcast.net</u>



