

*Therapy Unit
Clinical Services Bureau
Developmental Disabilities Supports Division*

Announcing: The AAC Loan Bank

An array of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices is available for loan to speech-language pathologists (SLPs) serving individuals with developmental disabilities in New Mexico. If the needed device is not available through the loan bank, but may be rented from the vendor, an application may be made to the Assistive Technology Fund for rental fees up to \$250.00/fiscal year. See ATF information on the DDS website.

Purpose:

This resource is available for the purposes of AAC evaluation and short term trial to determine the appropriate choice of a device. Medicaid funding and best practices require that the individual has direct exposure to the recommended device and a trial period of use.

The AAC Loan Bank is not a source for replacement devices needed when an individual's personal communication device is in need of repair. In fact, it is required that the SLP (borrower) maintain the device in their possession throughout the period of the loan.

A rental device may be funded by insurance following the evaluation for an extended trial.

Cost:

The equipment loan is FREE of CHARGE, but requires that the borrowing SLP pay the shipping and insurance costs when returning the device. If the loan is to a local therapist, arrangements may be made with the loan bank administrator to pick up and/or drop off the device to avoid costs.

Eligibility:

- Loans are made to NM licensed SLPs only.
- Loans are for diagnostic procedures received by persons with developmental disabilities and living in NM only.
- It is not necessary that the individual be allocated to receive NM Medicaid DD Waiver Services.
- Loans are made to SLPs in good standing with the AAC Loan Bank.

Number of Devices that May be Borrowed:

An SLP may request up to two (2) devices for loan concurrently. This will allow a comparison of multiple devices with differing features and options during an evaluation.

Loan Period:

Loans are made for a period of 30 days. A loan may be renewed at the end of the loan period if there is no waiting list to borrow that device. Special arrangements must be made for loan renewal.

Application Process & Devices Available for Loan:

See attached pages

AAC Loan Bank Administrator:

Lourie Smith Pohl, CCC-SLP
Therapy Services Unit
Clinical Services Bureau-DDSD

Contact Information:

E-mail: lourie.pohl@state.nm.us

Phone: direct @ (505) 839-6999 or toll free @ (800) 283-8415 and ask for Lourie Pohl

Fax: (505) 232-5724