**AADL – Eligibility and application for benefits**

Overview

Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) helps Albertans stay independent in their communities by paying for basic medical equipment and supplies.

To be eligible, a clinical assessment by a health care professional is required. The health professional determine what equipment and supplies you can get through the AADL program.

AADL is a cost-share program. Albertans pay 25% of the benefit cost to a maximum of $500 per individual or family per year. Low-income Albertans and people receiving income assistance do not pay the cost-sharing portion.

Eligibility for AADL

You may be eligible for benefits through AADL if you:

* are an Alberta resident with a valid Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan card
* require assistance because of a long-term disability, chronic illness or terminal illness
  + long-term and chronic are defined as being 6 months or longer

Who is not eligible for AADL

You may not be eligible for AADL benefits if you are eligible to receive comparable benefits from another source, including:

* Veterans Affairs (if you are a veteran who needs help because of a medical condition from active duty)
* Workers' Compensation Board
* Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Directorate, First Nations and Inuit Branch, Health Canada. People who have treaty status on or off a reserve receive assistance from NIHB with their medical equipment and supplies
  + If a benefit is not available through NIHB, and if clients are eligible for AADL, then AADL benefits can be accessed.
* a private insurance plan

Apply for AADL benefits

Before you can apply for AADL benefits, you must first be assessed by a health care professional to determine your basic medical needs and eligibility for the program.

AADL cannot refund clients who purchase their own medical equipment and supplies before being assessed and authorized for the equipment and supplies.

If you require oxygen, orthotics, prosthetics or hearing aids, your assessment will be done by a health care professional from an approved AADL specialty vendor.

* [Contact AADL](https://www.alberta.ca/aadl-contact.aspx), your local hospital, health care centre, or call HealthLink at 811 for more information on receiving these benefits.

For other benefits, please contact your local hospital or health care centre for an assessment by an approved AADL authorizer, or contact HealthLink for more information on contacting an assessor in your area.

* Read more about [AADL Authorizers and training](https://www.alberta.ca/aadl-authorizer-information-and-training.aspx)

**Access AADL benefits**

You must buy your medical equipment or supplies from an approved AADL vendor. Approved vendors include some home health care stores, pharmacies, home oxygen suppliers and hearing aid vendors.

* Your authorizer will provide you with a list of at least 3 vendors or you may choose from the [approved vendor list](https://www.alberta.ca/aadl-approved-vendors-list.aspx).

Large equipment, such as wheelchairs and hospital beds, is purchased by AADL and delivered to your residence.

Services and information

[Approved vendors list](https://www.alberta.ca/aadl-approved-vendors-list.aspx)

Find an approved Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) vendor for the equipment or supplies you need after your assessment from an authorizer.

[Authorizers and vendors](https://www.alberta.ca/aadl-authorizers-and-vendors.aspx)

Bulletins and information for health care or health services providers who provide or want to provide Alberta Aids to Daily Living benefits.

[Benefits covered](https://www.alberta.ca/aadl-benefits-covered.aspx)

Learn what benefits, equipment and supplies are covered and what is not covered under the Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) program.

[Contact AADL](https://www.alberta.ca/aadl-contact.aspx)

Contact information for the Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) office and program contacts.

[Cost sharing of benefits](https://www.alberta.ca/aadl-cost-sharing-of-benefits.aspx)

Learn about cost sharing of your Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) benefit, what you pay, who does not have to pay, and making an appeal.

[Eligibility and application for benefits](https://www.alberta.ca/aadl-eligibility-and-application-for-benefits.aspx)

Learn about eligibility requirements for Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) and how to apply for and access benefits.

[Forms and documents](https://www.alberta.ca/aadl-forms-and-documents.aspx)

Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) forms and information for use with client assessments and equipment ordering, as well as applications for system access.

[Program manual and product lists](https://www.alberta.ca/aadl-program-manual-and-product-lists.aspx)

From bathing aids to walking aids, find the manual with all the information and eligibility for each Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) benefit and product.

**AADL – Benefits covered**

What is covered

Benefits provided through Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) include:

* amplification benefits
* back and abdominal supports
* bathing and toileting equipment\*
* burn garments
* compression stockings and garments
* custom-made footwear
* custom-made ocular prostheses\*\*
* hearing aids and FM systems
* homecare beds and accessories\*
* incontinence supplies (diapers and catheters)
* injection supplies (not provided for insulin injections)
* laryngectomy equipment and supplies
* breast prostheses\*\*
* orthotic braces (not foot orthotics) \*\*
* ostomy supplies
* oxygen
* patient lifters\*
* pressure reduction overlays
* prosthetic devices\*\*
* respiratory equipment and supplies\*
* shoe elevations
* specialized pediatric equipment\*
* specialized seating devices
* speech generating communication devices
* therapeutic shoes with custom modifications
* transfer aids
* walkers and walking aids
* wheelchair cushions and accessories
* wheelchairs – manual and power\*

\* Equipment might not be new.

\*\* All seniors in Alberta who receive prosthetic, orthotic, breast prosthesis and eye prosthesis benefits through the AADL program receive these benefits at no cost. This includes seniors who are currently receiving these benefits as well as those who will be applying for them in the future.

To be eligible, a clinical assessment by a health care professional is required. The health professional determine what equipment and supplies you can get through the AADL program.

* Lean about [AADL eligibility and how to apply for benefits](https://www.alberta.ca/aadl-eligibility-and-application-for-benefits.aspx)

AADL is a cost-share program. Albertans pay 25% of the benefit cost to a maximum of $500 per individual or family per year. Low-income Albertans and those receiving income assistance do not pay the cost-sharing portion.

* Learn more about [AADL cost sharing](https://www.alberta.ca/aadl-cost-sharing-of-benefits.aspx)

What is not covered

AADL does not provide coverage for:

* foot orthotics
* eyeglasses
* prescription drugs
* dental care or dentures

Seniors may be eligible for financial assistance with these items through other programs.

* For more information on AADL benefits, read the [AADL Program Manual and product lists](https://www.alberta.ca/aadl-program-manual-and-product-lists.aspx)

Equipment and supplies

Once assessed by an AADL Authorizer, clients will be provided with a list of up to 3 AADL approved vendors from which to obtain medical equipment or supplies.

If clients are assessed by a specialty supplier, they will supply the benefit.

Benefit limits

A maximum number of benefits are available each year. AADL will review requests for more than the maximum number through an appeal.

Some benefits may be upgraded to a more expensive item, but you are responsible for paying the additional amount. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please speak to your authorizer or specialty supplier.

Hearing aids benefits

Eligibility

Albertans are eligible for funding towards the purchase, replacement and repair of hearing aids, if you are:

* under the age of 18 and have a documented hearing loss – you may be eligible for 2 hearing aids once every 5 years
* 18 to 24 years old, have a documented hearing loss and are pursuing full-time post-secondary studies – you may be eligible for 2 hearing aids once every 5 years
* 18 to 64 year old, have a documented hearing loss and have a low income – you may be eligible for funding towards 2 hearing aids or a personal listening device once every 5 years
* 65 years or older, you or your spouse/adult dependent have a documented hearing loss and have a low income – you may be eligible for funding towards 2 hearing aids or a personal listening device once every 5 years
* 65 years or older, you or your spouse/adult dependent have a documented hearing loss but have a higher income – you may be eligible for funding towards 1 hearing aid or a personal listening device once every 5 years.

Read more about [AADL benefit eligibility](https://www.alberta.ca/aadl-eligibility-and-application-for-benefits.aspx)

**Hearing aids purchase process:**

**Assessment**

Before you can request hearing aids, you must have a complete hearing assessment. This assessment may be done by an AADL vendor or by an audiologist working for Alberta Health Services. Once a diagnosis is made and any possibility of medical intervention ruled out, you may proceed to discuss your hearing aid options.

**Counselling**

The hearing professional will use the information from the assessment to make recommendations regarding your hearing aids.

* [Find an approved AADL hearing aid vendor](https://www.alberta.ca/aadl-approved-vendors-list.aspx)

**Fitting**

When the hearing aids are ready, an appointment is made to fit the devices. The devices are checked for proper fit and comfort, and the aids are programmed to meet your specific hearing needs.

You will also receive instruction on the proper care, use and maintenance of your hearing aids. At the fitting, the vendor will ask you to pay your cost-share portion and any upgrade costs, if applicable.

* Read more about [AADL cost sharing](https://www.alberta.ca/aadl-cost-sharing-of-benefits.aspx)

**Trial period**

You will be given a minimum 28-day trial period with the hearing aids. Should you have any questions or concerns, please discuss them with your vendor.

**Validation Certificate**

After your trial period, you will sign an AADL validation certificate if you are satisfied with your hearing aids. If you are not satisfied, do not sign the Validation Certificate. You may continue your trial with further adjustments, or you may return the hearing aids.

**AADL billing by the vendor**

Once you have signed the validation certificate or returned the hearing aids, your vendor will bill AADL directly for the equipment and/or services they have provided.

Ensure you do not sign the validation certificate until you are completely satisfied with your hearing aids.

Hearing aid replacement

AADL will replace a hearing aid if:

* your degree of hearing loss or physical condition has changed so much that the device is ineffective
* your ability to operate the controls has diminished to the point where it is impossible for you to use the device
* after 5 years of use, the benefit of repair is not cost effective

Hearing aid repairs

AADL will provide funding towards the cost of repairs once per year for each device registered with AADL. All repairs come with a 1-year manufacturer’s warranty.

Funding for earmolds

AADL will provide funding towards the cost of replacement earmolds for those individuals who are fit with behind-the-ear style hearing aids.

For replacement quantities and frequencies, ask your vendor.

Returns within trial period

If you return your hearing aids at the end of the trial period, there will be no charge to cost-share exempt clients – AADL pays the vendor for services rendered.

Non-exempt clients will have to pay for earmolds and custom accessories that cannot be returned to the manufacturer.

Homecare bed benefits

Eligibility

To get a bed or bed equipment through AADL, you must first be assessed by an AADL Authorizer and then eligibility for equipment is decided.

The person who needs the equipment:

* must be an Alberta resident with a valid Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan card
* requires equipment due to a long-term disability, chronic illness or terminal illness
* spends 80% of their time in bed and/or are end-stage palliative

The Authorizer identifies the needed equipment, the client signs declaration form and is made aware of the cost-share portion, if required. Then the equipment is ordered and delivered.

Beds and accessories are provided as a package or individual items. A bed package includes a homecare bed (power), a pressure reduction mattress, and bed rails.

Bed equipment is not provided to people in acute care facilities or continuing care centres, and may be new or recycled.

AADL is a cost-share program. Clients are required to contribute 25% of the approved benefit amount, up to a maximum of $500 per individual (family) per benefit year (July 1 to June 30).

* Learn more about [cost-sharing](https://www.alberta.ca/aadl-cost-sharing-of-benefits.aspx)

Ownership of equipment

The AADL program retains full ownership of the equipment. The equipment is not for resale and must be returned to the vendor if:

* the equipment is no longer required, for whatever reason
* the equipment needs to be replaced by AADL
* the person using the equipment moves out of Alberta
* for any reason, the person becomes ineligible for the benefit

Once the equipment is no longer required, contact the vendor to arrange pick up.

* Call Eco Medical Equipment toll-free within Alberta at [1-800-232-9450](tel:+18002329450) or in Edmonton at [780-483-6232](tel:+17804836232).

Client responsibility

The client (their family, trustee/guardian) is responsible to ensure reasonable care and maintenance of AADL-supplied equipment. The client is responsible for replacing equipment that is lost, stolen or damaged due to misuse.

Refusing ordered equipment

By signing the Client Declaration form, the client or their designate acknowledges that:

* the equipment was ordered on their behalf
* there is space for the equipment in the home
* they are aware of cost-share charges, if applicable, once the equipment leaves the vendor

If the equipment is refused, AADL will not resupply for at least 6 months. If the client and/or the family require the equipment be re-ordered, they must submit a request letter. The letter must outline why the equipment was initially refused and what circumstances have changed that now allow them to accept the equipment.

If there is a second refusal of the equipment, AADL will not provide the benefit again.

If there is an unexpected change and the bed is no longer required, contact the vendor immediately to prevent being charged for the cost-share.