

Vehicle Purchase/Modification Funding Resources



The costs associated with modifying or purchasing an accessible vehicle vary greatly. Therefore, whether you are modifying a vehicle you own or purchasing a new vehicle with adaptive equipment, it pays to investigate public and private opportunities for financial assistance. The following resources may help those searching for funding assistance:

- Centers for Assistive Technology often can offer **information and referral activities** to respond to requests regarding consumer choices in the selection of assistive technology, specific devices and where to obtain them, and information about assistive technology service providers. Go to http://www.abledata.com/Site_2/state_technology_assistance_proj.htm or call 1-800-227-0216 to begin a search for a center in your state.
- Are you eligible for **funding sources** through the Veteran's Administration, your state's division of vocational rehabilitation, development disabilities services, worker's compensation or health insurance? Contact your local Independent Living Center (see www.ncil.org or call 703-525-3406 for a list of CILs across the country) for assistance in understanding these benefits.
- Many car manufacturers offer **rebate programs** to help pay for vehicle modification. For example, Ford has a program called "Mobility Motoring" that will allow you up to \$1,000 reimbursement for the cost of adding adaptive equipment to your new vehicle. Call 1-800-952-2248 for more information on this program.

Saturn, Chrysler, Ford and General Motors all have reimbursement programs for vehicle modification costs. Go to <http://www.infinitec.org/live/driving/dealers.htm> for information on how to get up to a \$1000 reimbursement when you purchase and modify a vehicle manufactured by one of these companies.

- There may be **local service organizations** (such as the Lions, Elks, Kiwanis or Rotary Club) in your area that would be willing to help fund a vehicle or vehicle modification for an individual.
- The "CarTalk" web site (<http://www.cartalk.com/content/features/Special-Needs/mobility-links.html#assistance>) has a special section on funding for accessible vehicles, with suggestions of possible sources.
- Many **private insurance companies** cover driver rehabilitation programs; some driver's insurance may cover vehicle modification.
- Have you checked with a qualified accountant to determine eligibility for **tax credits** for modifications?
- Finally, you might want to try posting messages or looking for used-car postings on disability-related **message boards** such as the one at New Mobility (sign in for free at <http://newmobility.com/messageboard.cfm>), or at some of the message boards such as the ones listed at <http://www.disabilityresources.org/CHAT.html>.