

The logo for Showerbuddy, featuring the word "shower" in a white sans-serif font with a black outline, and "buddy" in a bold, orange, rounded sans-serif font with a black outline. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located to the upper right of "buddy".

shower**buddy**®



# Showerbuddy

## How to get funding in Canada

The Canadian healthcare system operates on a territorial/provincial model, where each territory/province has its own funding structure for healthcare services. In this guide, programs are broken down by territory/province

# ALBERTA

**Alberta Aids to Daily Living Program** – this program provides partial or full funding for mobility devices for people living with a severe or chronic disability, based on income. Under the cost-share structure, Albertans pay 25% of the benefit cost to a maximum of \$500 per year, unless their income is below the cost-share threshold. The first step to getting this funding is being assessed by an AADL healthcare professional. From there, the healthcare professional will authorize your request for assistive technology and direct you to a list of approved providers from whom you are able to buy funded equipment. In the meantime, your authorization request will be processed by AADL and your chosen benefit selected. Once this is done, you will receive your equipment directly.

**Note – funding is only extended to authorized vendors.**

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation British Columbia (BC) - Employment and Assistance (BCEA) – Medical Equipment and Devices**

the Ministry will fund equipment that's considered essential for individual needs, where no other funding is available to them. This equipment includes aides for showering and toileting. First, you will need to be assessed by a healthcare professional and either be eligible for general health supplements or approved under life-threatening health needs banner. Your healthcare provider will then verify that you're not eligible for any other

# BRITISH COLUMBIA

funding, at which point you will fill in a Medical Equipment Request and Justification Form (HR2138). Your healthcare provider will forward this on to Health Administration, who will match you to eligibility criteria and then issue an approval letter to you and an authorization to the vendor. We urge you to be as specific and detailed as possible in your Medical Equipment Request and Justification Form. If your request is approved, your equipment will be sent directly to you.

## MANITOBA

*Home Care Services - Supplies and Equipment (under the umbrella of Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living)*

This program is coordinated through Regional Health Authorities (RHAs). You can contact your local RHA to request an assessment to receive home care services. Eligibility is based on whether you are registered with Manitoba Health, Healthy Living and Seniors and in need of health services or support to maintain daily living. Assessments are done by case co-ordinators who are healthcare professionals. They will typically meet with you to discuss your needs and how to best meet them. It is important to be as specific as possible, to make sure you don't miss anything that can negatively affect your eligibility. The assessment will determine what you may be eligible for, what services you may require, and how to best facilitate these. If your assessment considers you eligible, your case co-ordinator will decide

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on a care plan, and this may include any supplies or equipment that will be suitable for your needs. You will receive this equipment directly.

# NEW BRUNSWICK

## *Health Services Mobility and Adaptive Equipment Loan Program*

this program is open to clients of the Ministry of Social Development and their dependents, as well as individuals with special health needs who qualify for assisted healthcare. It works to loan three types of equipment – basic adaptive aids, complex adaptive aids, and mobility aids. ShowerBuddy chairs are classified as complex adaptive aids for this purpose. You will need to fill out a Complex Adaptive Aids Equipment Request form and send it to the mailing list provided on the form. If the device you require isn't available on loan, the government will assist in buying this device. To be eligible, you must not be able to get this equipment or funding for it from elsewhere. Once you have submitted the form, you will be assessed by a physiotherapist or an occupational therapist to determine your needs. From there, the PT/OT may recommend a particular device. This would be loaned to you for a five year period, with monthly maintenance.

## NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

### *Department of Health and Community Services - Special Assistance Program – Medical equipment and supplies*

this program is based on financial need and coordinated through your Regional Health Authority (RHA). To be eligible, you must demonstrate a financial need and at least a three month record of an existing need for the equipment. To get more information, please contact your RHA.

# NOVA SCOTIA

*Department of Health and Wellness - Continuing Care and Canadian Red Cross Nova Scotia - Health Equipment Loan Program (HELP) - Specialized Equipment Program* – this program provides specialised equipment to residents of long-term care facilities. To get equipment, you must complete an application through your local Continuing Care branch. You will then be assessed by a PT/OT to determine your needs. Depending on your income level, you may be required to contribute to the cost of the equipment. This program runs on a loan scheme, so you will not own your equipment outright.

## ONTARIO

*Ministry of Community and Social Services - Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) - Disability Related Benefits and Extended Health Benefits*

this program provides assistive technology to people receiving Ontario Disability Support Program Income Support. You will need to complete an application form to request an assistive technology, typically with help from a healthcare professional. For more information on eligibility, see this [link](#), and for any queries please email [adp@ontario.ca](mailto:adp@ontario.ca).

# PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

***Department of Family and Human Services – AccessAbility Supports*** – this program aims to support people living with disabilities in a number of ways. One of these is personal supports which aim to increase personal independence. To get funding for equipment, you will first need to meet with a AccessAbility staff member, who will develop an understanding of what kinds of supports you may benefit from.

## QUEBEC

***Physical Impairment Device Program*** – this aid program aims to support those insured by the Quebec health insurance plan and who have a physical disability. It provides funding for people living with disability to purchase, adjust or repair and replace the devices that assist them with their disability. The equipment must be prescribed by a healthcare professional and then claimed through the Quebec health plan. The prescription must state your physical impairment and the resulting incapacity, indicate why the device is needed and for what, and include a recommendation from a healthcare professional that this device adequately meets your need. Equipment is either fully funded or a rental price is paid.

## SASKATCHEWAN

For information on the ***Universal Benefits Program*** which aims to provide mobility aids to people living with disability, please contact Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living at [DPEB@health.gov.sk.ca](mailto:DPEB@health.gov.sk.ca).

# NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

***Extended Health Benefits Seniors' Program*** – this program offers funding to people over 65, but is a funder of last resort. To be eligible, you will need to be registered with the NWT Health Care Plan. You will first need to apply to the EHB Seniors Program, and the application can be found at hospitals, health clinics, health centres and the Health Services Administration Office. From there, you will most likely require prior authorisation from a healthcare professional to claim your ShowerBuddy. To find out more, you can contact the Health Services Administration at [healthcarecard@gov.nt.ca](mailto:healthcarecard@gov.nt.ca), where you will have also sent your application. A similar program is also available for ***specified disease conditions*** and ***indigenous metis Northwesterners***.

## NUNAVUT

***The Extended Health Benefits Seniors Program*** - this program offers funding to people over 65, but is a funder of last resort. To be eligible, you will need to be enrolled in the Nunavut Health Care Plan. You will first need to apply to the EHB Seniors Program,. From there, you will most likely require prior authorisation from a healthcare professional to claim your ShowerBuddy. To find out more, you can contact the Nunavut Health Insurance Programs office at [ehb@gov.nu.ca](mailto:ehb@gov.nu.ca) where you will have also sent your application. A similar program is also available for ***specified disease conditions***.

# YUKON

***The Extended Health Benefits Seniors Program*** - this program offers funding to people over 65, but is a funder of last resort. To be eligible, you will need to be registered with the Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan. You will first need to apply to the EHB Seniors Program. From there, you will most likely require prior authorisation from a healthcare professional to claim your ShowerBuddy. To find out more, you can contact the Yukon government department overseeing EHB by calling phone 867-667-5403, or toll free in Yukon, Nunavut and the NWT at 1-800-661-0408, extension 5403. A similar program is also available for ***specified disease conditions.***

## NON-TERRITORY/PROVINCE SPECIFIC

You can also access ***GrantWatch*** to browse one-off grants. Additionally, ***linked here*** and ***here*** are lists of charitable organizations and trusts which offer funding for assistive technology to Canadians living with disability.