



showerbuddy®

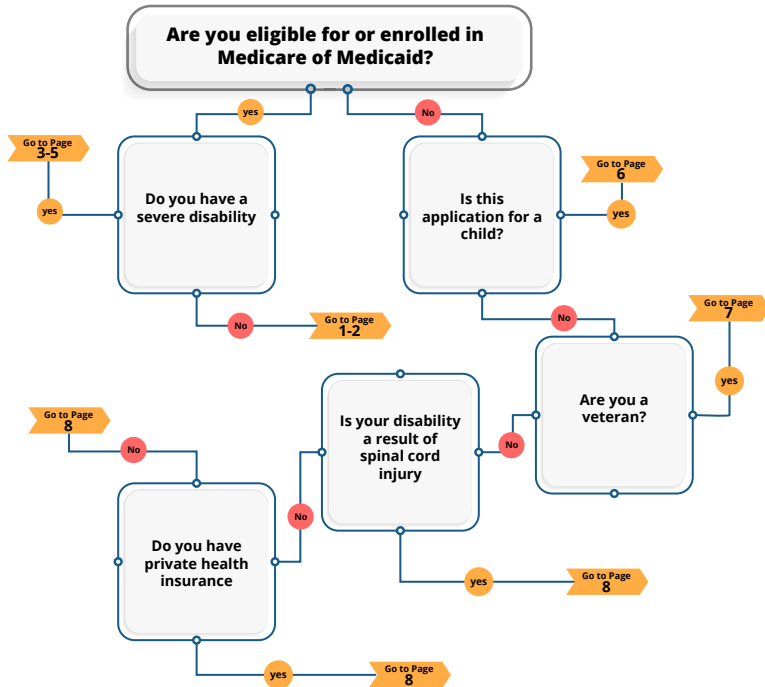


Showerbuddy

How to get funding in Texas

Guide to Medicare, Medicaid and other funding for Durable Medical Equipment for residents of Texas

Funding: A Quick Guide for Residents of Texas



MILD DISABILITY

If you are covered by Medicaid or Medicare, Showerbuddy chairs will require pre-approval. To get pre-approval your OT, PT or primary care physician will need to work with your local approved durable medical equipment (DME) vendor to submit a Prior Authorisation request to the Texas Medicaid & Healthcare Partnership.

- ✓ Medicaid plans and other health insurance cover some or most of the cost of DME and supplies if they have been prescribed by a doctor and deemed medically necessary.
- ✓ Many insurance plans have co-payments or other limits on how many supplies they will pay for or how often they can replace DME.

This Prior Authorisation request is a critical step in the process of getting your equipment. Your story and description of your problems and how a Showerbuddy chair will **solve your problems** will help to get the funding approved.



MILD DISABILITY

The following steps will help you in this

PROCESS:

With the help of your OT or PT, write out your story



- *List out and detail your problems,*
- *What stops you from achieving a better standard of living*
- *How would the equipment help you*
- *What would the chair allow you to do, would it provide you more independence etc.*

The better the request is presented the higher your chance of success. The completed document must justify the "need" for the equipment to both Medicare and the DME vendor.

It is your responsibility to urge your OT or physician to be as specific as possible. For example, rather than the physician simply writing "shower chair," include necessary details such as "shower chair that transfers over the tub with reclining motion is medically necessary."

Be specific, set out the problems and how a Showerbuddy chair would make your life easier and safer by giving access to the bathroom again, allowing toileting and showering with less manual handling.

The physician will describe your medical needs and the DME Supplier will describe how a Showerbuddy will meet those needs but you should take responsibility for ensuring the forms are completed fully and to a high standard.

If you do not have a preferred equipment supplier or your usual DME store is not an approved DME dealer then contact a Showerbuddy customer support representative, phone Toll-free: **(800)337-6660** or email **info@myshowerbuddy.com** for advice on who to contact in your area.

If you have any issues getting approval, you can contact Disability Rights Texas.

SEVERE DISABILITY

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Texas STAR+PLUS Medicaid waiver

There are additional resources for people who are living with a severe disability or requiring facility-level care.

The Texas STAR+PLUS Medicaid waiver allows disabled adults and elderly Texans, aged 65 or older, that require a nursing facility level of care, to reside at home, adult foster care, or in assisted living residences and receive care services in those locations. Under this Medicaid waiver, both medical care and non-medical long term care services are covered. Benefits such as personal care, adult day care, assistance for home modifications, and personal emergency response systems are available. ***Showerbuddy chairs assist significantly with assisted living and may be covered by the waiver.*** Eligibility information and can be found here: <https://www.payingforseniorcare.com/texas/medicaid-waivers/star-plus>. STAR+PLUS does not replace your regular Medicare benefits, and where you are eligible for them you will continue receiving them alongside the waiver benefits.

To apply for STAR+PLUS or to get more information about the waiver you can visit the website or your local Area Agency on Ageing.

GrantWatch also has a targeted grant for Texans:

GrantWatch ID#:194812. Grants of up to \$15,000 to Texas homeowners and renters in eligible locations to enhance accessibility for seniors and individuals with disabilities. Funding is intended to support home improvements and modifications, or provision of Showerbuddy accessibility equipment for renters unable to do modifications, that increase home safety. Eligibility information and can be found here:

<https://texas.grantwatch.com/grant/194812/grants-to-texas-individuals-in-eligible-areas-for-home-improvements-that-increase-accessibility.html>



CHILDREN

For children or primary caregivers applying on behalf of their children, there is additional help available.

- ✓ **The Children with Special Health Care Needs Services** Program assists low-income children (20 or younger) living with disability in securing assistive technology and durable medical equipment, among other services. Family Support Services are also available to families who are already part of the Children with Special Health Care Needs Services Program in order to assist caregivers and provide more independence to children living with disability. These services fund special equipment that otherwise isn't covered by insurance or by the Children with Special Health Care Needs Services Program. This is an excellent program for those who are unable to secure Medicaid, as Medicaid recipients are ineligible for Family Support Services Funding.
- ✓ GrantWatch also lists one-off grants for people living with disability. You can search grants which are aimed at your specific circumstances, including grants for caregivers or for children living with disability.
 - GrantWatch ID#: 157388. This grant provides funding for USA disabled children youth for mobility equipment, adaptations, and devices. Eligibility information and can be found here:



<https://texas.grantwatch.com/grant/157388/grants-to-usa-disabled-children-and-youth-for-mobility-equipment-adaptations-and-devices.html>

VETERANS, FIREFIGHTERS AND POLICE

For veterans, funding for durable medical equipment (DME) / assistive technology may be available through the Texas Veterans Commission. The Texas Veterans Commission can direct you to your local Assistive Technology Program, who will be able to coordinate access to equipment if it meets your needs. However, typically for this funding to be available, the injury which created the need for assistive technology must have occurred during the veteran's service or been aggravated by it.

- Grants are also available through GrantWatch. GrantWatch ID#165702 provides funding to USA military veterans and active-duty personnel who have been disabled during the course of their service for home alterations and adaptations. Eligibility information and can be found here:

<https://texas.grantwatch.com/grant/165702/grants-to-usa-military-veterans-or-personnel-with-service-related-disabilities-for-home-alterations-and-construction.html>

The Fleetwood Memorial Foundation provides financial assistance for firefighters and police personnel injured in the line of duty. In case of injury, the grants are available within eight weeks of obtaining the injury and range from \$3000-\$5000. They are designed as a 'cushion' until further funding becomes available. The grant does not specify what use they are for, so they can be used to fund assistive technology. Information on how to apply can be found here:

<https://northtexascf.org/community-investment/community-endowed-funds/fleetwood-fund/>

SPINAL CORD INJURY

If you have recently become disabled through spinal cord injury, the Triumph Foundation provides a “Keep Moving Forward” grant. The grant helps individuals get necessary durable medical equipment (DME) or adaptive equipment for activities of daily living, and to maintain therapeutic activities for health and wellness. Applicants must be citizens of the United States of America, with priority given to Southern California residents. Applications are reviewed by the Board of Directors every 30-90 days, the maximum grant is \$2,000 when funds are available, and are paid directly to the vendor (no cash assistance to individuals).

Partial Payments toward items will not be considered unless all payments are already in place for the total amount. For example, if requesting \$2,000 toward a \$5,000 purchase, you must have already obtained \$3,000 to complete the transaction.

Application form here: <https://triumph-foundation.org/outreach/grants-and-equipment/>.

PRIVATE INSURANCE

If you have private insurance, the easiest way of getting funding for a Showerbuddy is through your insurance policy. All you need to do is to contact your primary healthcare physician – whether this is your OT, PT, doctor, or pediatrician – and discuss a prescription with them. Showerbuddy chairs are classified as durable medical equipment (DME) or Assistive Technology, and help people maintain good hygiene, independence, and support good mental health.

TRYING OTHER GENERAL RESOURCES

If you are unable to have your Showerbuddy covered by insurance or if you are not insured, there are other funding sources available to you.

- ✓ **The Texas Health and Human Services Commission** indirectly provides Independent Living services for people living with disability. Centers for Independent Living which have contracts with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission can provide rehabilitation services including assistive devices. To find out more, contact your local Centre for Independent Living.