

ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM

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A program of the
Arkansas Department of Career Education's
Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Division

Arkansas Department
ACE
of Career Education


**ARKANSAS
REHABILITATION
SERVICES**

ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM

The Alternative Financing Program provides persons with disabilities access to extended-term, at or below market-rate loans for the purchase of assistive technology.

It is a *loan program*, not a grant program. **The Alternative Financing Program (AFP)** is sponsored by the Department of Career Education's Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Division.

Eligibility

Arkansas residents with a certified disability and in need of assistive technology can apply for a loan through the Alternative Financing Program. Family members, guardians or authorized representatives may also apply on behalf of the individual with a disability. *Applicants must be age 18 or older or have a co-signer age 18 or older.*



For program purposes, a disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. These activities include such things as seeing, hearing, walking, reaching, communicating, learning, working, or living independently. Verification of your disability and resulting limitations to a major life activity is required.

What is Assistive Technology?

Assistive technology is any item, piece of equipment or product system whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized that is used to increase, maintain or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities. Assistive technology includes devices and/or services that assist people with disabilities at work, in school, at home, or in recreation and



leisure activities. It is designed to improve quality of life. A variety of devices can help persons with a disability live more independently and productively.

Some examples of assistive technology might include:

Mobility

- ◆ manual or power wheelchairs
- ◆ motorized scooter
- ◆ used modified vehicles

Sensory

- ◆ Closed Circuit TV (CCTV)
- ◆ hearing aids/listening devices
- ◆ electronic reading devices

Aids of Daily Living

- ◆ electric feeders
- ◆ power lift chairs

Vehicle Access

- ◆ wheelchair lifts
- ◆ driving aids/devices
- ◆ seating systems

Home Modifications

- ◆ kitchen
- ◆ bathroom
- ◆ ramps



Computer Access

- ◆ voice recognition software
- ◆ scanners
- ◆ readers

If you are not sure the item that you need qualifies under the program, call our office and ask.

Loans

As part of the loan approval process, a review of your credit history will be necessary. Obtaining your individual credit report is included as part of the application fee. Individuals who might not qualify under traditional loan programs may be eligible under the Alternative Financing Program (AFP). Even if you are not employed or have a poor credit record you may qualify.

Circumstances unique to your credit history and income will be considered on an individual basis.



The minimum or maximum amount you can borrow depends on your ability to repay and the cost/value of the specific equipment or services to be acquired. The interest rate in effect at the time your loan is accepted is fixed for the duration of the loan. Repayment terms of the loan are based on the amount of money borrowed and the expected useful life of the assistive technology purchased.

How Long Will The Process Take?

The sooner you send in your completed application with all the requested information the quicker an approval or denial can be given. The Alternative Financing Program has a "Loan Committee" that reviews your documentation and renders a decision. Generally, the process takes up to 10 business days.

How to Apply

To obtain additional information or to receive an application packet regarding the **Alternative Financing Program** you may call 501-296-1663.

Alternative Financing Program

525 West Capitol Avenue

Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Phone: 501-296-1663 Fax: 501-296-1655

The letters 'AFP' are rendered in a large, bold, serif font. The letters are a deep red color and have a slight 3D effect with a shadow underneath, giving them a prominent, three-dimensional appearance.

The Alternative Financing Program

is a program of
the Department of Career Education's
Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Division

The Assistive Technology Alternative Financing Program is an activity funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), U.S. Department of Education under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998. The information contained herein does not necessarily reflect the position or policy of NIDRR/ED and no official endorsement of the materials should be inferred.