

A Polio Survivor's Guide: Funding Resources for Medical & Adaptive Equipment

POST-POLIO HEALTH
INTERNATIONAL
INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL VENTILATOR USERS NETWORK

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An Important New Resource from PHI

Living well with a physical disability in the United States is an expensive proposition. Most medical insurance coverage is very limited, sometimes nonexistent, for expenses needed to acquire necessary medical equipment, even ventilators for people who are unable to breathe adequately or wheelchairs for people unable to walk. “Medically necessary” criteria for coverage are not uniform between plans; co-pays or coverage limitations can be burdensome and spending limitations often lead to poor quality items. Almost no insurance plans contribute to costs for architectural modifications of homes, vehicles, clothing or adaptive equipment that could increase one’s independence, productivity and/or quality of life. Consequently, many US citizens with physical impairments feel like they pay an “American surtax on disability.”

PHI, with assistance from the University of Michigan Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and University of California, Davis

Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, have compiled a directory of funding resources from around the country for medical and adaptive equipment. The project was completed by a team of investigators coordinated by PHI board member Sunny Roller with the goal of compiling a list of potential resources available to assist people with disabilities obtain the adaptive medical and rehabilitative equipment and environmental modifications they determine that they need. Besides doing a deep search of the internet, the team reached out to a multiple consumer and professional networks. The end result is a list of valuable resources organized by state that any polio survivor can have access to.

View the new directory, *A Polio Survivor's Guide: Funding Resources for Medical and Adaptive Equipment*, at www.polioplace.org/sites/default/files/files/PHIFundsDirectory2020.pdf. ■