



Justice Center for the Protection of People With Special Needs

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Justice Center Introduces New Assistive Technology Funding Toolkit *Pediatric Power Wheelchairs*

The NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs (Justice Center), in partnership with National AT Advocacy Project of Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc., launched the second in a series of Assistive Technology Funding Toolkits. This resource provides guidance and helpful tips for individuals with disabilities and their families who wish to seek funding for pediatric power wheelchairs. Power wheelchairs can help children gain mobility to better access environments and participate in the same activities as their non-disabled peers.

“Paying for assistive technology devices such as a pediatric power wheelchair can be challenging, and many funding sources require documentation of a person’s need for a device.” said Lisa Rosano-Kaczowski, Director of the Justice Center’s TRAIID Program. “This toolkit includes a funding checklist and sample letters from a physician and a healthcare professional that can be modeled to support requests for coverage.”

Funding Request Tips

Letters of Medical Justification and Medical Need should include:

- Information about the child's specific disability
- The medical need for independent functional mobility
- An explanation of why a power wheelchair is important to the child's quality of life
- Functional activities in which the child will be able to participate
- Videos and photos of the child using a power wheelchair

The AT Funding Toolkit for Pediatric Power Wheelchairs includes:

- [Funding Request Checklist: Pediatric Power Wheelchair With Accessories](#)
- [Sample Letter: Medical Justification for a Pediatric Power Wheelchair with Accessories](#)
- [Sample Supporting Letter: Medical Justification for Pediatric Power Wheelchair with Accessories](#)

About the Justice Center’s Assistive Technology (TRAIID) Program

The TRAIID Program’s mission is to coordinate statewide activities to increase access to and acquisition of assistive technology in the areas of education, employment, community living and information technology/telecommunications. The program serves individuals of all ages and

disabilities. The Justice Center supports 12 [Regional TRAIID Centers](#) (RTCs), which provide information, training, device demonstration, reuse, exchange, and loans. In addition, the Justice Center TRAIID Program and RTCs provide technical assistance and advocacy on how to obtain and use assistive technology services and devices.

The Justice Center also participates in a multi-state online equipment exchange collaborative. The [Assistive Technology Exchange in New England & New York](#) was established to help facilitate equipment exchanges between individuals. Items can be found at lower than market price or for no cost.

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