

Division of Specialized Care for Children

Vehicle Modification Information for Families

Vehicle modifications are an available service through the Home and Community-Based Services Waiver for Medically Fragile Technology Dependent Children (commonly called the MFTD waiver).

A vehicle must be the property of the individual or the individual's family to be eligible for modification. The vehicle must also be the primary means of transportation to safely access the community and healthcare services.

What modifications may the waiver cover?

- Lifts or ramps.
- Door, seating and safety modifications.
- Inside height modifications.
- Replacement or Repair of broken or worn-out individual components of a lift mechanism not covered by a warranty or insurance. Please note – an eligible repair must have prior approval. The vendor must prepare a quote and submit it to DSCC for consideration.
- The waiver may potentially cover already-modified vehicles. Please work with your DSCC Care Coordinator about the specifics.

What modifications will the waiver NOT cover?

- Adaptations or improvements that are not needed as part of the special modification.
- Purchase or lease of a vehicle.
- General vehicle maintenance such as oil change, tire rotation, cleaning, radiator flush, etc.
- General vehicle repairs, such as struts, shock absorbers, electrical system, tires, engine, transmission, muffler, brakes or body work.

What do I need to do?

- Meet with your Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC) Care Coordinator to provide information about your vehicle. Make sure this information is included in your person-centered plan. (You will need to share the make, model, mileage and year of your vehicle and if you've already talked with a vendor about modifications.)
- Help your Care Coordinator get a letter from the physician. This letter must state that the vehicle modifications are necessary to allow safe access to the community and medical care.
- If the vehicle is more than five years old, you will need to have a mechanic (any of your choice) complete a required DSCC form. Your Care Coordinator will give you this form. Your mechanic should usually be able to complete this form with no fee.
- Work with your Care Coordinator to find vendors and take your vehicle to get bids on the modification costs.

What else do I need to know?

- Modifications must be cost-effective. Talk to your Care Coordinator if you have any concerns about the vendors or their bids.
- The cost of the vehicle modification will come out of the five-year \$25,000 fund allocation. There must be a balance sufficient to cover the cost of the modification or additional resources will be needed. The cost is deducted on the date the service is provided.
- No work may begin until the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) issues the prior approval. Work done before the prior approval will not be paid.
- Some makes/models of vehicles cannot be modified due to manufacturer restrictions. Please make sure your DSCC Care Coordinator is aware of any vehicle you plan to buy with the intent to modify. Your Care Coordinator can help ensure modifications are possible.