

Hawaii Disability Grants and Funds for Wheelchair Vans

Financial Aid Resources for Handicap Vans for Hawaii (HI) Residents

If you're a Hawaii resident in need of a new or used wheelchair van, apply for state disability grants. It doesn't matter whether you want to lease or buy. Financial aid can even go toward installing a ramp, a swiveling seating system, a wheelchair or scooter lift, adaptive driving controls and other accessories and modifications.

The following resources are a launching point for finding Hawaii disability grants for a handicap van. A number of state government departments and other groups are on-call, offering monetary assistance and other support. Some will even direct you to funding sources you may never discover in the course of your own research.

For additional opportunities, talk to people at Hawaii branches of charitable organizations that deal with your particular disability. Many award disability grants themselves, and they can all help you track down other sources.

Sources for Hawaii Disability Grants and Assistance

Assistive Technology Resource Centers (ATRCs) of Hawaii

ATRCs are federally funded nonprofit groups working to link disabled Hawaii residents with assistive technologies that help them lead more independent and productive lives. Inquire about securing financial aid for a wheelchair van.

200 N. Vineyard Blvd., Suite 430hawaii-disability-grants

Honolulu, HI 96817

(808) 532-7110

barbara@atrc.org

Hawaii Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs)

Persons with disabilities or age-related limited mobility can turn to their local ADRCs. These Centers are primary resources for information about all manner of available services, benefits and support. You can save yourself a lot of time and frustration by contacting your county's ADRC first in your quest for disability grants. Click the provided link to get to a map of Hawaii. Select your county to find contact details for your area office.

Hawaii Area Agencies on Aging (AAA)

There are six AAA centers in Hawaii. They serve senior citizen and disabled state residents in a variety of ways. Your county's office can point you toward appropriate sources of financial aid. Find it via the directory at the link above.

Hawaii Office of Veterans Services (OVS)

Hawaii's OVS is a liaison between in-state veterans and the US Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as other veterans groups and State and Federal agencies. In this capacity, it facilitates delivery of services and support veterans earn through military participation. If enlistment resulted in limited mobility, you may be able to receive a disability grant through OVS that you can apply toward a handicap van or vehicle modifications.

Tripler Army Medical Center

459 Patterson Road

E-Wing, Room 1-A103

Honolulu, HI 96819

(808) 433-0420

Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities (CDD)

The federally mandated CDD in every state was put in place to promote the capacity for self-determination and full community participation among citizens with developmental disabilities and their loved ones. If you or an immediate family member has a developmental disability and you live in Hawaii, this is a must-contact agency. Along with other assistance and services, you may receive a disability grant from the Council that's applicable toward a handicapped-accessible vehicle.

919 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 113

Honolulu, HI 96814

(808) 586-8100

council@hiddd.org

Hawaii Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services Program

Hawaii's VR division was established by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. It is a State and Federal partnership geared towards job training and placement services for disabled residents. If a handicapped vehicle would enable you to enter the workforce, you may be entitled to a disability grant through the Program.

1901 Bachelot St.

Honolulu, HI 96817

(808) 586-9744

info@hawaiiivr.org

Vocational and Rehabilitation Agency (Hawaii)

Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind Division

Kapolei State Office Building

601 Kamokila Boulevard, Room 515

Kapolei, HI 96707

Phone: (808) 692-7719

Fax: (808) 692-7727

TTY: (808) 692-7715

Email: sfoard@dhs.hawaii.gov or jcordova@dhs.hawaii.gov

Website: <http://www.hawaiiivr.org/>

Pacific Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Center

The Pacific ADA Center fights to enable unrestricted inclusion and participation in society for disabled citizens in Hawaii and the West Coast states within its domain. It provides numerous services and all sorts of useful support, and it's an essential resource when you're trying to get funding assistance for a handicap van or accessibility equipment and modifications.

555 12th Street, Suite 1030

Oakland, CA 94607-4046

(510) 285-5600 or (800) 949-4232

Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) of Hawaii

SILC of Hawaii aims to promote independent living and community integration for state residents with disabilities. The Council is not itself a source of disability grants for a handicapped-accommodating vehicle. It is, however, a key informative resource to take advantage of when trying to uncover all your options.

841 Bishop St., Suite 201

Honolulu, HI 96813

(808)585-7452

silchi@lava.net

FUNDING SOURCES

A wheelchair accessible vehicle is an expensive investment and it goes along with many other expensive investments you need to make. Below are some links to possible funding sources that may help with the adaptations.

STATE DEPARTMENTS OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Each state maintains a Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. These departments focus on helping prepare people with disabilities to work and lead productive and independent lives. Through programs and services, individuals with disabilities receive the assistance they need to enter or return to the workplace and thus to become productive and independent taxpayers and citizens. To find your state's Department of Vocational Rehabilitation [click here](#)

THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Are you a veteran? See what adaptive equipment you qualify for. [Click here](#) for a summary of the benefits available to you for your service to our country, including an auto grant of over \$19,000 as well as adaptive equipment reimbursements for equipment or wheelchair accessible vans.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides funding for wheelchair accessible vans and adaptive equipment for vehicles to qualified veterans. Benefits vary significantly based on whether you are a service connected veteran or non-service connected veteran. Here is the description of each according to the VA.

SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY

A disability that resulted from or was aggravated by an injury or illness while the Veteran was serving on active duty in the military.

NON SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY

A disability that did not result from or aggravated by an injury or illness while the Veteran was serving on active duty in the military.

Bruno Truck with Valet Seat and Scooter Lift AUTOMOBILE GRANT

Service-connected veterans may be eligible for a one-time Automobile Grant to help buy a motor vehicle. The current amount of the automobile grant for FY 2014 is \$19,817. An approved VA Form 21-4502 showing the veteran is eligible to receive Automobile Adaptive Equipment (AAE) is required. To qualify for the grant, the service-connected veteran or service member must have one of the following disabilities:

- loss, or permanent loss of use, of one or both feet
- loss, or permanent loss of use, of one or both hands, or
- permanent impairment of vision in both eyes to a certain degree

For more information about the automobile grant visit the VA Prosthetic & Sensory Aids Service website at <http://www.prosthetics.va.gov/psas/>

ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT

The Automobile Adaptive Equipment program pays for adaptive equipment to make vehicles accessible.

For Service-connected veterans, the program pays for the equipment or modifications to assist the eligible person into or out of the automobile and/or to safely operate the motor vehicle. According to the VA Website "The VA also provides necessary equipment such as platform wheelchair lifts, UVLs (under vehicle lifts), power door openers, lowered floors/raised roofs, raised doors, hand controls, left foot gas pedals, reduced effort and zero effort steering and braking, and digital driving systems. Additionally, VA's program provides reimbursements for standard equipment including, but not limited to, power steering, power brakes, power windows, power seats, and other special equipment necessary for the safe operation of an approved vehicle." This can include the modifications for wheelchair accessible minivans such as the BraunAbility Entervan.

AAE will pay to modify 2 vehicles within each 4 year period. Exceptions to this rule would include theft, fire, accident or other qualifying events.

For non service-connected veterans, the program pays for the equipment or modifications to assist the eligible person into or out of the automobile, called ingress/egress. Typically this consists of a wheelchair/scooter lift such as the Bruno Joey or Outsider Meridian to get the veteran's personal mobility device into and out of the vehicle. If medically necessary, it would cover a Bruno Valet Seat or possibly a lowered floor manual conversion such as the BraunAbility Companion Van if the veteran cannot transfer into the vehicle. It does not pay for modifications to operate the vehicle.

More information about the AAE program may be found at

<http://www.prosthetics.va.gov/psas/AAE.asp>

HOW TO APPLY

To begin the application process for this equipment, contact your local ADA Dealer. They will help you navigate the VA system and get the benefits you deserve. Or you can contact the Prosthetics department at your local VA Medical Center. To find the VA Medical Center near you visit <http://www.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp>

AUTO MANUFACTURERS

If you are looking to purchase or lease a new vehicle and need adaptive equipment, many auto manufacturers provide assistance toward the purchase of that equipment when installed on a new vehicle. [Click here](#) for a list of manufacturers and a description of their reimbursements.

OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Mobility Resource has created a comprehensive state-by-state listing of funding opportunities for wheelchair vans. [Click here](#) to find the opportunities in your state.

TRADE-IN

Adaptive Driving Alliance dealers provide the best of both worlds. As mobility experts, they're here to solve your personal mobility needs, whether it's installing equipment onto your existing vehicle or providing a new or pre-owned wheelchair van. As auto dealers, they offer all the services you require, and expect, when purchasing a vehicle without having to deal with the stereotypical car salesman. Trade your non-modified vehicle in for a wheelchair van and get all the tax advantages available in your state and lower your overall cost. Dealing with a local ADA expert has its advantages! To find an ADA dealer [click here](#)

FINANCING

Financing a wheelchair accessible vehicle can be a difficult process. Most banks will only finance the vehicle itself, with a small allowance for add-on equipment. Due to the extensive modifications made to a wheelchair van, and the associated cost, wheelchair vans fall outside the financing formulas of banks and financing institutions that do not want to incur that additional risk. ADA dealers understand your vehicle is your connection to the world. They have worked with local funding sources to explain the conversion process, address the risk concerns and provide competitive sources of financing. Your ADA Dealer can help you secure financing for the vehicle, conversion and adaptive equipment together, saving you time and money. In many cases they have access to extended terms not normally available to vehicle financing. They work to make it affordable to maintain your freedom. To search for your ADA Dealer [click here](#)

MEDICARE

DID YOU KNOW that Medicare is available for certain people with disabilities who are under age 65?

DID YOU KNOW Medicare coverage is the same for people who qualify based on disability as for those who qualify based on age? For those who are eligible, the full range of Medicare benefits are available. Coverage includes certain hospital, nursing home, home health, physician, and community-based services. The health care services do not have to be related to the individual's disability in order to be covered.

For information and details on how to enroll, the benefits, and the particulars, go to <http://www.medicareadvocacy.org/medicare-info/medicare-coverage-for-people-with-disabilities/>

MEDICAID

DID YOU KNOW that Medicaid provides health coverage to over 8.8 million non-elderly individuals with disabilities, including those who are working or who want to work?

DID YOU KNOW that individuals with disabilities who are eligible for Medicaid are entitled to all services that are deemed medically necessary? Many require and receive long term services and supports.

For information and details, go to:

<http://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Population/People-with-Disabilities/Individuals-with-Disabilities.html>