

# Consumer Service Fund (CSF)

“The Fund of Last Resort”

# History

- 1992 – The Study Report of the Disability Commission recommended a “consumer service fund” which would fund unique or specialized service needs for which no other source of revenue is available.
- 1993 - The Consumer Service Fund is funded by the General Assembly and administered by DRS.
- 2003 – DRS signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority (ATLFA) for ATLFA to administer the CSF.

# Purpose

- The CSF is a “fund of last resort” which enables individuals with physical or sensory disabilities to access services that cannot be funded through existing programs. These items or services must be directly related to removing or reducing barriers created by the individual’s disability.

# Eligibility

- People of any age living in Virginia who have a demonstrated physical or sensory disability are eligible for funding if their disability-related needs cannot be met by other agencies.
- Applicants must first apply to all relevant government or insurance programs.
- Applicants are encouraged to apply for a loan or to charitable organizations.
- Consumers are required to share in the cost of requested services based on their ability to pay.

# Awarding of the fund

- A panel consisting of representatives from the Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS), Centers for Independent Living (CILs), Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI) and the Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority (ATLFA) meets quarterly to review applications.
- Funding is based on demonstration of critical need, exhaustion of all other resources, CSF priorities, provision of supporting documentation and availability of funds.

# How is the fund used?

- Items or services being requested must be directly related to removing or reducing barriers created by the individual's disability. Examples include assistive technology, special equipment or supplies, physical restoration services, home or vehicle modifications.
- The Fund is designed for the purchase of direct goods and services and is not intended to pay for ongoing living expenses like rent, paving driveways, building fences, tuition, and medical bills or for reducing pre-existing debts.

# Funding

- In 2002 the CSF was \$600,000.00. Following the budget reductions of FY03 and FY04 the funding has remained level at \$473,394.
- CSF Total Funding Requested for FY07 was \$1,266,706.82

# 2007 Summary Report

## CSF Awards Grouped By Service/Goods Category

■ Brace or Shoe Device	7	6.9%
■ Communication Device	2	2.0%
■ Hearing Device	32	31.4%
■ Home Modification	20	19.6%
■ Lift Chair/Furniture	3	2.9%
■ Mobility Assistance Devices	1	1.0%
■ Ramp	18	17.6%
■ Vehicle	2	2.0%
■ Vehicle Modifications	1	1.0%
■ Vehicle with Modifications	10	9.8%
■ Wheelchair Lift	5	4.9%
■ Wheelchair, Electric	1	1.0%