

# NJ Children's System of Care

Administered by PerformCare

## ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE

### For Youth Eligible for Developmental Disability Services

Assistive Technology is designed to increase the functional skills of a youth with a developmental disability and enhance their ability to navigate their environment. The Division of Children's System of Care (CSOC) assists families in obtaining, or customizing assistive technology that promotes the safety and well-being of youth.

An **Assistive Device** is an item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of youth; assistive technology cannot be solely therapeutic.

**Vehicle Modifications** include assessments, adaptations or alterations to an automobile or van that is the youth's primary means of transportation in order to accommodate the special needs of the youth, and that are necessary to enable the youth to integrate more fully into the community.

Examples of vehicle modifications include: motorized lifts.

**Environmental Modifications** are structural modifications to the private residence of the youth or his/her family that are necessary to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the youth or that enable the youth to function with greater independence in the home.

Examples of environmental modifications include: widening of doorways, ramps, vertical platform lifts, grab-bars, and their installation.

#### **Benefits**

*Filling requests is based on available resources and level of need; and is not an entitlement.*

Items *unable* to be supplied under this category include purchase of a modified vehicle or vehicle to be modified, augmentative/alternative communication devices, including tablet computers, and any item that restrains the child, including door locks, fences, and vehicle restraints. Assistive Technology requests are one-time requests and will not cover on-going monitoring or usage costs. An assistive device, vehicle or environmental modification that can be paid by another source such as Medicaid, private insurance, another State division, or the school district/Local Education Authority cannot be authorized.

#### **How to Apply for Assistive Technology**

1. Apply for the device through your private insurance first. **If denied**, then call PerformCare at **1-877-652-7624** and request to complete a Family Support application. PerformCare is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
2. Your application will be reviewed. An in-person assessment may be authorized to gather further details on the scope of the request.
3. If approved and resources are available, an authorization letter will be mailed to your home.