

# Attachment A

## Professions Eligible for Authorizer Status and Documentation Required for Visual Aids – High Technology

Assistive Devices Program  
Ministry of Health

[ontario.ca/page/assistive-devices-program](https://ontario.ca/page/assistive-devices-program)

# Introduction

The information contained in Attachment A outlines:

- the health professionals eligible to apply for authorization status for Visual Aids – High Technology; and
- the documentation the applicant is required to include with their application for authorization status.

Authorizers are the gatekeepers to the ADP and play a significant role in:

- providing Ontario residents with accurate information about the ADP;
- assessing Ontario resident's needs for assistive devices;
- confirming the Ontario resident's eligibility for funding assistance; and
- completing the application form to request funding assistance.

A healthcare professional must be registered as an ADP authorizer before they can:

- recommend ADP-approved assistive devices to eligible Ontario residents; and
- complete the ADP application form for eligible Ontario residents.

## Visual Aids – High Technology

Authorizers **who completed** Post-Secondary and Educational Programs in Vision Loss Rehabilitation

- 1) Must work for an ADP-designated Regional Assessment Centre (RAC). State clinic number on the application form.
- 2) Must submit proof of completion in **one** of the following Post-Secondary and Educational Programs in Vision Loss Rehabilitation or equivalent accreditation
  - University of Montreal; Visual Impairment and Rehabilitation, Orientation and Mobility or Low Vision Master's Program
  - Salus University; Vision Rehabilitation Therapy Certificate, Blindness and Low Vision Studies
  - University of British Columbia; Certificate in Orientation and Mobility
  - Dr. Stephen Whittaker, Vision Education Seminars; Low Vision Therapy
  - Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP)

Authorizers **who have not completed** the Post-Secondary and Educational Programs in Vision Loss Rehabilitation

- 1) Must work for an ADP-designated Regional Assessment Centre (RAC). State clinic number on the application form.
- 2) Must submit a letter from an established (active) ADP registered CCTV authorizer who has fulfilled the role of mentor and advisor to the applicant in achieving the qualifications and can verify that the applicant has achieved the requirements listed below:

- ✓ At least 2 years' experience working with people with physical disabilities, preferably those who are visually impaired or blind.
- ✓ Knowledge of eye conditions resulting in serious vision loss as well as resources and services available to assist blind and visually impaired persons.
- ✓ Ability to work collaboratively with other professionals who perform assessments, recommend visual aids and/or provide training to the visually impaired or blind within and outside of the scope of ADP.
- ✓ Knowledge of low technology and optical aids as alternatives or enhancements to high technology devices.
- ✓ Sound working knowledge of and experience with current adaptive sight enhancement and sight substitution technology for the visually impaired and blind including: software for the blind and visually impaired (e.g., screen reading, screen magnification and braille translation software), hardware speech synthesizers, optical character recognition (OCR) software and hardware, note takers/personal information managers, braille embossers, refreshable braille displays, playback machines for digital audio books (e.g., DAISY readers) and optical enlargement systems/closed circuit television systems (CCTVs).
- ✓ Experience installing, testing and demonstrating computer or other high technology sight enhancement/substitution equipment to people of differing age, capability and background.
- ✓ Ability to analyze pre-assessment information; identifying needs and problems related to different daily tasks carried out in different environments such as: home; school; work, community/leisure; and recommending the most appropriate and cost effective technology solutions.

- ✓ Ability to prepare written assessment reports and recommendations for clients in appropriate/accessible format.
- ✓ SEEPAC training on CCTV assessment protocols and CCTV ordering system.
- ✓ **For temporary High Technology authorizer status:** hands-on experience with five (5) CCTV assessments, 5 high technology sight enhancement assessments and five (5) high technology sight substitution assessments.
- ✓ **For permanent High Technology authorizer status:** minimum 80 hours of practical hands-on experience performing assessments in the ADP high technology sight substitution and sight enhancement visual Regional Assessment Centre.