Funding suggestions for AAC devices, apps and voice banking

The following suggestions may be able to help adults with communication needs to obtain funding for an AAC device or a banked voice.

## Apply for an individual funding request (IFR) from the Integrated Care Board (ICB)

NHS clinicians can apply, on behalf of their patient, for AAC equipment which will not be funded by NHS England. For more information please visit the link below: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/individual-funding-requests-for-specialised-services-a-guide-for-patients/>

**Approach charities relevant to your patient’s condition**

Examples of charities that will consider applications for grants for equipment/voice banking include the Motor Neurone Disease Association or the (MNDA), or the Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Association (PSPA)…

For up-to-date information and advice about whether a specific charity will be able to help please contact them directly.

## Approach other organisations who may be able to help with loans or equipment funding:

Some examples of charities and organisations who might be able to help include:

* The Jankie Saye Foundation: [Jankie Saye Foundation website](https://www.jankisaye.org/)
* The Sequal Trust: [Sequal Trust website](https://www.thesequaltrust.org.uk/)

## The Association for Rehabilitation of Communication and Oral Skills (ARCOS): [ARCOS website](https://www.arcos.org.uk/)

## Independence at Home: <https://independenceathome.org.uk/>

**Consider the individual circumstances of your patient:**

* Disabled student allowance: <https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa>
* Access to work: <https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work>
* Approach their employer/previous employer for example the armed services or a large corporation.

**Please note that all organisations have their own criteria, they may be means tested and will require a lot of information. It can take a while for funding to be approved.**

## Other options to help you source funding for equipment and voice banking:

* Download this useful factsheet: <https://abilitynet.org.uk/factsheets/finding-funding-adapted-computer-system>

## Visit the website: <https://grants-search.turn2us.org.uk/>

* Talk to the AAC equipment supplier or voice banking company who may be able to make helpful suggestions regarding funding.
* Consider crowd funding.

Some applications for funding require written evidence from a relevant health professional to support the application. In this instance please support the patient’s application.

If you have any questions please [email the KM CAT service](mailto:acat.service@nhs.net) for advice.

*If you are aware of other organisations in Kent or Medway that offer help in funding communication devices, please let the* [*KM CAT service*](https://www.ekhuft.nhs.uk/health-professionals/services/kmcat-for-professionals/) *know.*