



Quality of Life Equipment Program Guidelines

Quality of Life Equipment Program: In order to access the program for funding consisting of medical or mobility equipment (equipment may be purchased new or recycled), the MS Society of Canada, will require the following:

- **Completion of the appropriate application:** The application must be completed in full, incomplete applications will not be reviewed and **will be** returned. We encourage cost sharing and request the individual/family to contribute to the cost of the equipment to the best of their ability. **Please access as many other sources of funding possible, including government sources of funding, before applying to the MS Society of Canada.**
- **A written assessment by a health care professional** (see Section H of application) supporting the need for equipment. In this assessment the health care professional must also be willing to **confirm a diagnosis of multiple sclerosis or an allied condition.**

Program specifics (please read carefully)

- **Please be aware that the MS Society does not provide funding “after the fact” for equipment.** The amount of funding available through our program is based on individual need and the resources available. Once a completed application has been received and reviewed, the applicant and health care provider will be contacted to discuss amount of funding awarded.
- Only one application per calendar year may be submitted per person, but it can contain requests for funding of multiple pieces of equipment, with the eligible **max request** being **\$1,000 per person**
- **Funding is only meant to support specific items within the year that the funding is awarded;** the MS Society is unable to provide ongoing financial assistance and may be unable to provide additional funding to maintain the equipment.
- If an application is approved funding must be used within 3 months of the approval or it will expire, and a new application will be required. **It is highly recommended that all external sources of funding have been secured before applying to MS Society.**

Eligibility Criteria

What is LICO?

The low income cut-offs (LICOs) are income thresholds below which a family or individual will likely devote a larger share of income on the necessities of food, shelter and clothing than the average family/individual. The approach is essentially to estimate an income threshold at which families are expected to spend 20 percentage points more than the average family on food, shelter and clothing.

Why is the MS Society using this measure?

The Canada Revenue Agency requires an organization to meet a number of general requirements to qualify for registration as a charity under the Income Tax Act, including the requirement that its purposes be exclusively charitable.

- A. To be charitable, an organization purpose must fall within one or more of four broad categories of charitable purpose:
 - 1. relief of poverty;
 - 2. advancement of education;
 - 3. advancement of religion; and
 - 4. certain other purposes beneficial to the community in a way the law regards as charitable;

- B. Deliver a public benefit.

As such, to preserve the charitable status of the MS Society of Canada and ensure it is providing assistance to those in need, the MS Society must use some measure of determining financial need.

However, the MS Society of Canada recognizes that LICO does not consider the full picture of a person living with MS and the added costs. Thus, the MS Society is using a variation of LICO whereby the MS Society multiplies the standard LICO set by Statistics Canada by a factor of 1.5, raising the maximum household income for eligibility in the Quality of Life Equipment program. The table below provides a comparison of LICO use by the MS Society in relation to other charitable organizations providing equipment funding programs similar to the MS Society of Canada.

2021 LICO Chart

Household Size	LICO (Stats Canada)	MS Society of Canada		Other Organizations Providing Funding		
		Yearly Income (LICO x 1.5)	Monthly Income (LICO x 1.5)	Easter Seals	March of Dimes	Ceridian Cares
1 Person	\$21,481.00	\$32,222.00	\$2,684.00	Based on a detailed info of household income, assets, liabilities & expenses, & 2 years income proof	\$22,920.00	Annual household income must be at or below the Stats Canada LICO Cut Off before tax
2 Persons	\$26,143.00	\$39,215.00	\$3,267.00		\$32,413.00	
3 Persons	\$32,554.00	\$48,831.00	\$4,069.00		\$39,698.00	
4 Persons	\$40,614.00	\$60,921.00	\$5,076.00		\$45,839.00	
5 Persons	\$46,614.00	\$69,371.00	\$5,780.00			
6 Persons	\$51,289.00	\$76,934.00	\$6,411.00			
7 Persons	\$56,331.00	\$84,497.00	\$7,041.00			

Determining Eligibility

Using the 2021 LICO Chart, determine how many people reside in your household and look across to find the corresponding Monthly Income (LICO x 1.5) for your household size. If income is above the monthly amount listed, then you would not be eligible.

Appealing Eligibility

The MS Society does understand that individuals may experience hardship and be above in income limits set. In this case you are encouraged to connect with the Specialist, Funding Programs (equipment@mssociety.ca or 647-264-0020) to discuss submitting an application based on an appeal of the income measure. The Specialist, Funding Programs will provide additional details on submitting the application along with providing additional forms/documentation that must be completed.

Please note, to ensure fairness all appeal applications are reviewed and approved or denied by a Volunteer Adjudication Committee consisting of members from across Canada who represent the MS community.

Eligible Equipment

- Bathing aids (e.g., bath lifts; bath chairs; bath benches)
- Braces and supports (e.g., leg braces; orthopedics; orthotics; splints; Walk Aide systems)
- Computers adaptations (e.g., home systems – supporting independence)
- Equipment repairs
- Hospital beds and hospital bed mattresses, including air mattresses for pressure sore relief
- Lifts and lift systems
- Kitchen aids (e.g., auto feeders; adapted utensils)
- Mobility aids (e.g., scooters; walkers; wheelchairs)

- MS-related specialized clothing (e.g., sheepskin products, cooling vests)
- Toileting aids (e.g., commodes; raised toilet seats; toilet safety frames)
- Transferring aids (e.g., belts; boards; grab bars; poles)
- Vehicle modifications (e.g., lifts; hand controls; left foot accelerators, ramps)

Funding for other types of equipment not listed may be considered in terms of the equipment's direct, positive impact on the applicant's quality of life and MS symptoms. If you are unsure if the MS Society provides funding for the equipment that you need, contact the MS Society to discuss before applying.

Ineligible Equipment (not funded)

- Home renovations
- Exercise equipment
- TENS units
- Therapy (e.g., massage, physio, etc.)
- Drugs or medication
- Incontinence supplies
- Food supplements

Questions

Please contact an MS Navigator at 1-844-859-6789 or msnavigator@mssociety.ca should you have questions about the program, application or guidelines.