

North Dakota Alternative Financial Loan Program (AFLP)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

■ Who is eligible?

Any North Dakota resident with a disability who needs assistive technology (AT). Family members may apply on behalf of children or other family members with disabilities, as long as the device or service is for the use of the person with the disability. He or she must demonstrate the ability to repay a loan and that the loan will be used to purchase AT devices and/or services.

■ What is assistive technology?

Assistive technology is any device that helps a person with a disability achieve a more independent and productive life.

Loans may be used to purchase assistive technology devices and services, including but not limited to:

- Modified vehicles
- Home modifications (must own home)
- Computers and adaptive hardware/software
- Mobility items such as wheelchairs & walkers
- Environmental control devices such as voice activated appliance controls
- Augmentative Communication Devices
- Recreational/Leisure items such as adaptive fishing equipment
- Used AT Equipment (Loans will be granted only if accompanied by a written evaluation from an AT professional as to the value and condition of the device)
- AT Assessments
- Training on AT Devices
- Device repair and warranties

■ What is assistive technology service?

Assistive technology services are those services that help with the selection, acquisition or use of an assistive technology device. Services may include evaluating the needs of a person with a disability, training to use a particular device, maintaining and repairing a device (excluding vehicle maintenance), designing and building a device, or providing technical assistance for family members, personal care attendants, or employers.

■ How much can I borrow?

You may request loans between \$500 and \$50,000. Your ability to repay the amount requested will affect the approval of your loan.

■ What is the interest rate on these loans?

The rate changes from time to time, and is approximately 1% under prime.

■ How much time will I have to pay off a loan?

Re-payment terms are based on the expected useful life of the assistive technology device.

■ **How do you make decisions about my application?**

When the AFLP receives your application with supporting documents, we will first review it to make sure it is complete. We may request additional information. Once your application is complete, we will present it to Alerus Financial for a credit check

If the bank is confident that you can repay your loan, your application will be approved within two weeks. Loan documents will be sent to you within a week after approval.

If the bank is concerned about your ability to repay your loan, it will ask the AFLP to guarantee your loan.

Whenever the bank requests the guarantee, the AFLP Review Committee must review your application and credit status and vote on whether to provide the guarantee. The nature and extent of your credit problems as well as the total dollar amount of the loan requested determine if the guarantee will be awarded. If the Review Committee approves the guarantee, your loan will be processed and documents will be sent to you within a week after approval of guarantee. All information you provide us will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

■ **How long will it take?**

If the bank does not request access to the guarantee, we can usually process your completed application within two weeks of receipt. If the guarantee is requested, it will usually take approximately four weeks.

■ **If approved, how will I get the loan documents and the money?**

Applicant will be contacted to make arrangements to pick up loan documents. You need to review the loan terms carefully before signing the documents. A check for the amount of the loan will be sent to you after Alerus Financial receives the signed loan documents, usually in less than two weeks. The check will be made out to both you and your vendor or contractor.

■ **What happens if I have trouble repaying my loan?**

The AFLP wants to help you maintain your good credit while you repay your loan. If you have unexpected financial difficulties please immediately notify AFLP for assistance.

■ **What happens if I default (don't pay my loan)?**

If you don't repay your loan it will have a negative effect on your credit rating. Your non-payment will be listed on your credit report for seven years and will make it difficult for you to qualify for other loans. In addition, your loan may be sent to a collection agency.

■ **How do I get an application or more information?**

You may contact:

NDAD: 1-800-532-NDAD (6323) or visit www.ndad.org.

IPAT: 1-800-265-4728 or visit www.ndipat.org

Protection & Advocacy: 1-800-472-2670 or visit www.ndpanda.org