

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **DES Announces Funding Available to Reimburse Family Caregivers for Equipment Used to Help Loved Ones Live More Independently**

**PHOENIX – (August 11, 2020)** The Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) announced funding is available through a reimbursement program for family caregivers who provide care for their loved ones in the comfort of their own homes. Family caregivers can be reimbursed 50% (up to \$1,000 for each qualifying family member) for qualified home modifications and other equipment used to help their loved ones live more independently.

“Family caregivers dedicate their time, resources and energy to care for their loved ones,” said DES Director Michael Wisehart. “This program is intended to help individuals live safely and comfortably within their own homes. By providing reimbursement for expenses necessary to make this happen, we can continue to help people live independently, even in the midst of a global pandemic.”

The Family Caregiver Grant Program was established as a result of legislation for individuals who have qualifying expenses during a calendar year to care and support a qualifying family member in their home.

Examples of qualifying expenses include, but are not limited to:

- Ramps/low inclined walkways
- High-rise toilets with handrails
- Hearing aids
- Bed handles
- Wheelchairs
- Vehicle wheelchair lift
- Medical alert devices

Deductibles for hearing aids, dentures and other qualifying expenses may also be eligible for reimbursement.

To apply, applicants can call the Caregiver Resource Line at (888) 737-7494. Pre-screening questions will be asked. If pre-screening is passed, applicants will be mailed a copy of the application, Medical Need Verification Form and W-9. Other documents are required as listed on [azcaregiver.org](http://azcaregiver.org).

Applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis upon submission of an application. Funding is limited and is distributed as first-come, first-served. Family caregivers who receive reimbursement are not eligible to apply again for three consecutive calendar years.

The family caregiver must be the qualified family member's spouse, child, grandchild, stepchild, parent, stepparent, grandparent, sibling, uncle or aunt, including half blood or by adoption. The qualified family member is defined as 18 years or older who has a family member who requires help with one or more activities of daily living as certified by a licensed physician, registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant.

Home modifications and/or purchases for assistive care technology (hearing aids, computer software/hardware, etc., for example) must occur within the same calendar year. *For reimbursement for more than \$600, a 1099 tax form will be issued by DES to the family caregiver as it is considered taxable income.*

For further information and more examples of qualifying expenses, please contact the Arizona Caregiver Coalition at (888) 737-7494 or visit [azcaregiver.org](http://azcaregiver.org).

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