



Iowa's information and referral service on disability services, assistive technology (AT), AT funding resources, and AT legal advocacy.

Disability Information & Referral
Connecting People to Programs

A PROGRAM OF THE CENTER FOR DISABILITIES AND DEVELOPMENT

Iowa COMPASS News

This month COMPASS is pleased to focus this newsletter on resources available to those with multiple sclerosis (MS). By doing this we can highlight the different types of resources we provide to our callers.

Often callers have questions about financial concerns related to their disability – COMPASS frequently provides information and referral about programs such as Social Security disability benefits. In the case of those with MS, we refer to the publication "[SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY BENEFITS A Guide for People Living with Multiple Sclerosis.](#)"

The staff at Iowa COMPASS will be glad to help point you in the right direction about multiple sclerosis or other disability information and referral. Call us at 800-779-2001 or send us an email at iowa-compass@uiowa.edu.

Funding News: Multiple Sclerosis Association of America

The *Multiple Sclerosis Association of America (MSAA) – Equipment Distribution Program* offers an extensive inventory of products designed to improve the safety, dignity, mobility, and independence of people with multiple sclerosis. The products are shipped directly to the recipient at no charge. The four components are: the Manual Mobility Items Program (manual wheelchair, four-wheeled walker, and transport chair), the Personal Use Products Program (bathroom equipment, bathroom accessories, home safety products, daily living aids), the Electric Scooter Program, and the Portable Ramp Program.

The MSAA – Cooling Equipment Distribution Program provides special cooling apparel at no charge to individuals with MS.

Contact : Multiple Sclerosis Association of America, Equipment Distribution Programs and Cooling Distribution Program, 706 Haddonfield Rd., Cherry Hill, NJ 08002, 800-532-7667 Ext 102, www.msassociation.org, or email: msaa@msassociation.org

The Multiple Sclerosis Foundation (MSF) has several programs that provide help with AT funding for persons with multiple sclerosis.

- The goal of the **MSF - Brighter Tomorrow Grant** is to provide individuals with goods or services to improve their quality of life by enhancing safety, self-sufficiency, comfort, or well-being. The grant can provide up to \$1000 in goods or services per recipient. Recipients have received car repairs, ramps, wheelchairs, walkers, eyeglasses, computers, appliances, televisions, furniture, therapeutic equipment, hobby supplies, retreats, and various home modifications.
- The **MSF - Computer Grant Program** provides laptop or desktop computers for individuals on a limited or fixed income. For those who do not know how to use a computer, training may be provided. A computer, monitor, printer, keyboard and mouse are provided through the grant. Internet access and technical support will be the responsibility of the grant recipient.
- The **MSF - Assistive Technology (AT) Program** strives to educate and assist individuals across the country about the myriad of AT options available and how to access these options. This program may provide an AT product, help locate a product, or help with funding for a wide range of devices that allow individuals with MS to function more independently in activities of daily living, as well as recreational, educational, and vocational activities including: aids for daily living, communication devices, computers and computer aids and environmental control systems.
- The **MSF - Cooling program** offers a variety of items, free of charge, including the practical and popular cooling vest, along with brim hats, baseball hats, work collars, skull-pads, wristbands, bandanas, cooling pillows, and neckties.

Contact : Multiple Sclerosis Foundation, 6350 N Andrews Ave, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309, 888-673-6287, web: www.msfocus.org, or email: support@msfocus.org



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This will be the last print version of the COMPASS newsletter. If you wish to continue to receive the newsletter by email, please contact the COMPASS office at 800-779-2001 or email them at compassnewsletter@uiowa.edu. You can find the newsletter online at www.iowacompass.org/. Thank you!

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Iowa COMPASS

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877-686-0032 (toll-free, TTY)
319-353-8777 (local)

Multiple Sclerosis Resources in the DRL

The need for information will surface again and again through the stages of a chronic condition such as MS. The [Disability Resource Library \(DRL\)](#) has some basic resources to help you establish the knowledge base you need to carry out your quest for quality living. The DRL provides people with autoimmune disorders and their families a place to access health and quality of life reading materials, a library of computer programs and computer peripherals, and health research free of charge. If you cannot come to the library in person, we will send you our materials via mail. Just call us at 800-272-7713 with your request. You can also email us at disability-library@uiowa.edu.

Cooling Products for People with MS

While summer might seem a long way away, for many people with multiple sclerosis (MS), hot weather can mean an increase and/or worsening of MS symptoms and suffering. So what are some solutions to help people keep cool?

There are a large variety of personal cooling products available, including different types of vests, neck bands and headwear. View some cooling products at www.polarsoftice.com/. See the Funding News article for information on possible funding sources. Another suggestion is to try making your own "no cost" cooling therapy. It can be as simple as a cool water-soaked towel around the neck or an ice pack wrapped in an elastic bandage.

For information about more cooling items that may be available, call us at Iowa COMPASS. Or if you would benefit from any other type of product out there, our Product Search specialist is able to do a search of the internet, as well as search our own internal database, to turn up items that would meet your needs.