Assistive technology can get very expensive and many items are not covered by insurance. This often leaves low-income Iowans with disabilities without the equipment or accommodations they need to live independently.

This led a dedicated team from Iowa Program for Assistive Technology (IPAT) to establish the Able Up Iowa in 1993.

**Able Up Iowa was founded to help low-income Iowans with disabilities get access to assistive technology by providing affordable loans.**
Able Up Iowa defines assistive technology as any product, equipment, system, or accommodation that enhances learning, working, and daily living for persons with disabilities.

Types of assistive technology loans Able Up Iowa offers include

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home Modification</th>
<th>Vehicle Modification</th>
<th>Assistive Tool</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Max Amount: $15,000</td>
<td>Max Amount: $20,000</td>
<td>Max Amount: $15,000</td>
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Examples include ramps, roll in showers, grab bars and safety poles, accessible sinks, walk in tubs, platform lifts, stair glides, accessible shelving, lowered countertops, slip resistant flooring, user-friendly handles, railings, steps and more

Examples include wheelchair lifts, swivel seats, reduced effort braking systems, electronic or portable hand controls, motion control systems, pedal extensions and more

Examples include hearing aids, screen readers, wheelchairs, computer or electrical assistive devices, specialized handles and grips, adaptive switches and utensils, prosthetic devices, screen enlargement applications and more

Available to all Iowans with a disability, diagnosis, or long-term condition, Iowans who are ages 55+, and their families
To meet the needs of Iowans more holistically, Able Up Iowa has expanded its services to complement our assistive technology loans.

Over the past two years, Able Up Iowa has implemented the following program enhancements:

- New loan options
- Expanded Financial Empowerment program
- Lower interest rates
- United loan and empowerment programs
- Credit building opportunities
- Access to emergency funding
- Forgivable Loans
New Loan Options

**Home Repair**
- Max Amount: $5,000
- Fixing, mending, or replacing a part of a home that is not functioning properly
- Examples include roofing, flooring, plumbing, and any essential appliances such as repairing a furnace

**Vehicle Repair**
- Max Amount: $5,000
- Fixing, mending, or replacing a part of a vehicle that is not functioning properly
- Examples include replacing tires, battery replacement, break work, engine tune up and more

**Vehicle Purchase**
- Max Amount: $15,000
- Acquiring a vehicle as well as any expenses related to acquiring a vehicle such as registration fees

**Service & Support Animal**
- Max Amount for Service Animal: $25,000
- Max Amount for Support Animal: $2,500
- Funding for the acquisition of the animal, its training, and up to one year of supplies/care

**Education Equipment**
- Max Amount: $10,000
- Physical hardware or software used to facilitate learning and improve education performance
- Examples include laptops, tablets, and any software programs that are shown to increase learning capacity

**Employment Equipment**
- Max Amount: $15,000
- Products or workspace accommodations needed to gain or maintain employment
- Examples include modifying farm equipment, purchasing a sewing machine

Available to all Iowans with a disability, diagnosis, or long-term condition, Iowans who are ages 55+, and their families
Through Able Up Iowa’s Financial Empowerment Program, we provide financial coaching, resource counseling, credit coaching, and benefits planning. These services are available to any Iowan who applies for a loan.
To better serve our members, we have lowered our interest rates and are offering our lowest rates to the Iowans who have the most financial need.

This is opposite of the model applied by most traditional lending institutions.

Able Up Iowa is not a competitor with banks or credit unions. If an applicant can be approved through a traditional lending method, we encourage them to apply there first. We are an alternative funding option to support Iowans in becoming bankable.
All Iowans approved for loans can have their interest rate lowered by participating in our Financial Empowerment program.

Each member who participates for 3 months automatically earns a 5% interest reduction!

Each member who earns the reduction can continue to participate in the program beyond 3 months if they want to.
One of the core parts of Able Up Iowa’s mission is ensuring our members know what credit is and how to use it wisely.

**In 2003, Able Up Iowa began offering Credit Builder loans. We have continued to develop this loan option over the years. Credit Builder loans are targeted toward helping Iowans establish or improve their credit.**

A Credit Builder loan is a great alternative to a payday loan or a credit card.

Able Up Iowa’s Credit Builder loans are anywhere from $300 to $1,000 and are paid back in one year. Credit Builder loans are unsecured, and the interest rate is 10%.

All Credit Builder loan recipients are expected to participate in credit coaching for the duration of the loan (1 year).

The Credit Builder loan is available to all Iowans (with or without a disability).
The intention of the Back on Track loan is to provide a positive, long-term benefit to a person’s financial wellbeing while also providing financial relief to an immediate need.

Access to Emergency Funding
Back on Track Loan

Life can throw unexpected curve balls. To support our members through unforeseen obstacles, Able Up Iowa is now offering Back on Track loans.

Reasons a person might get a Back on Track loan include but are not limited to:

- Job loss: Needs funds to cover one month of expenses
- Unexpected travel emergency
- Sudden move
- Medical emergency

Back on Track loans can be anywhere from $300 - $1,000 and are paid back in a maximum of two years. A recipient of the Back on Track loan starts with a 15% interest rate but can have it reduce it to 5% by participating in the Financial Empowerment Program for 6 months.

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Any person who is approved for a forgivable loan can have the balance on his or her loan either partially or fully forgiven by participating in Able Up Iowa’s Financial Empowerment Program.

Currently, this option is only available to Iowans who are applying for home modifications, vehicle modifications, and assistive equipment. Able Up Iowa’s forgivable loans are not available for home repair, vehicle repair, vehicle purchase, education / employment equipment, or support / services animals.
How can I apply for a loan?

1. Fill out a loan application
   You can apply on our website at ableupiowa.org or if you would like a hardcopy, call our office at 515-292-2972 and we can mail one directly.

2. Send us documentation
   For every application, we need the following documentation:
   - Two forms of ID
   - Verification of income (paystubs, SSI, SSDI, etc.)
   - Verification of expenses (bank or credit card statements, receipts, etc.)
   - Quote for the piece of equipment / project

3. Complete an Alternative Funding Call
   Every application is reviewed by our Financial Empowerment Director. She will discuss the loan with you and suggest alternative funding options that may be available to you besides a loan.

4. Complete an Application Review
   After the Alternative Funding Call, you will have another call with our Loan Officer to review your application and the documentation you sent in.

5. Wait for a Lending Decision
   Following the Application Review, the Loan Officer will send your loan request to our Loan Committee who will make the lending decision.
How long does it take to receive the money?

It typically takes one week for us to process an application and one week to disburse the funding once a loan has been approved.

However, this timeline completely depends on the applicant. We cannot process an application until we have received all necessary information and we cannot disburse funds until we have received signed loan documents. It is the applicant’s responsibility to provide us with this information.
More is to come!

More enhances to our programs are coming in 2021. Be sure to keep up with our latest news by following our Facebook page and regularly checking our website. Always feel free to call our office if you have any questions.

Follow us on Facebook!

ableupiowa.org

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