

Utah Council of the Blind Technology Grant Policy

1. Any equipment which the UCB considers for purchase through a grant must be related to meeting specific "blindness" or "low vision" needs. In other words, it cannot simply be equipment that anyone, anywhere could purchase for any reason. The equipment must be specifically related to meeting needs of "blind" or "low vision" people. The UCB may help buy computers if they are to be used with a voice or vision enhancement program. Starting January 2025, each equipment recipient has a limit of 1,000 dollars during three consecutive years from the UCB. After the 3 years, the recipient may apply again for new technology.
2. A qualifying applicant may receive no more than \$1000 equipment assistance at any one time or up to \$500 towards a smart phone with voice.
3. All money amounts and percentages that are specified in this document may vary from time to time in the future, depending on how much money the UCB has available for buying equipment at any given time--and on how many people happen to want equipment assistance at any given time.
4. Every application will be reviewed by the Technology Committee. The Technology Committee will be responsible for determining eligibility of applicants who have either an individual income of less than \$32,000 annually or a combined household income of less than \$50,000 annually. If an applicant's income is greater than the above amounts (but the applicant is otherwise qualified to receive funds), the Technology Committee may choose to present the equipment application to the UCB Board of Directors for further consideration. (Verification of income shall be made by either last year's Tax Return for the individual or the family in question, or by submitting a recent statement from Social Security or SSI, verifying those two sources of income. Child Support will not count as income against any applicant for equipment from the UCB.)
5. If technology is to be purchased for a child with vision impairments, child support or SSI can be used.
6. For those who qualify for the program, assistance may cover the following: supplemental cords, drives, maintenance agreements (cell phone care plans are excluded), updates, and upkeep of equipment. It may also include repairs on existing equipment.
7. For any assistance received, applicants who qualify must pay at least one-fourth of the price for the item being requested, and the UCB will pay up to three-fourths or no more than \$1,000 for equipment and \$500 for smart phones with voice.
8. For assistance with acquiring a smart phone, the client must first apply for financing through their phone carrier. Carrier rates are generally interest free and payments as low as \$25 a month. If financing has been declined through their phone carrier, the client may apply for a smart phone device. Smart phones may be granted up to \$500.00. The client will be responsible for any amount above the approved amount. The client will also be responsible for any care plans or accessories and taxes.

9. The applicant must pay his/her portion of the expense of the technology to the UCB "Up front" first or prove that at least that amount is to be paid by someone else. The UCB will then order the equipment or provide the agreed upon amount to the purchasing entity. In calculating expense, the applicant must include taxes and postage on any equipment being purchased.

10. Applicants must prove that they have received or will receive training on the equipment for which they seek assistance and indicate how it will be used.

11. Should a member of the Technology Committee ever request equipment, then, a member of the UCB Board of Directors shall temporarily replace that individual on the Technology Committee, so that an unbiased decision can be made. When a piece of technology is purchased through the UCB grant, the UCB is not responsible for its function, quality, nor is it responsible for its return or replacement. The recipient is totally responsible for it at that time.

12. When the grant is approved, ordering and payment for the technology will be arranged. A refund of the recipient's portion will only be made if the technology is never purchased after it is rendered to the UCB. Refunds will not be possible under any other condition.