

BSW 737 Services: Vehicle Modifications

February 3, 2021

DEFINITION

Vehicle modifications are modifications made to a personal vehicle that will allow the member to be more independent. This service also includes consultation on the modifications and/or training on the use of the vehicle modifications. Modifications must be completed by a qualified provider who meets state business requirements for automotive repair/services.

SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

Vehicle modifications must be specified in the service plan as necessary to enable the member to more fully integrate into the community and to ensure their health, safety, and welfare. This service covers modifications including, but not limited to:

- Vehicle lifts, ramps, lowered floors, and other modifications to allow for wheelchair access.
- Driver-specific adaptations.
- Remote-start systems.

Modifications can be purchased for new or used vehicles. Vehicle modifications can be already installed in a vehicle.

The modification of used vehicles or the cost of modifications in a used vehicle will only be allowed if the vehicle meets all the following additional criteria:

- The vehicle must be structurally sound and in working order, without need of major mechanical repairs and able to support/accommodate the needed adaptation.
- The vehicle must not have any rust or deficiencies in the areas to be modified or in the areas already modified.

Used modification devices are sometimes available for purchase. To ensure the greatest safety and performance, used equipment will only be approved if it is purchased from licensed businesses dealing in the sale of vehicle equipment.

When a member purchases a used vehicle with modifications already installed, the price of the modifications will be calculated by subtracting the Kelly Blue Book value of the vehicle and the estimated depreciated value of the vehicle modifications from the sales price, with the remainder equaling the cost of the modifications the Big Sky Waiver will cover.

This service also includes consultation on the modifications and/or training on the use of the vehicle modifications.

LIMITATIONS

~~This service does not include adaptations or improvements to the vehicle that are of general utility and are not of direct medical or remedial benefit to the member.~~

~~This service does not include regularly scheduled upkeep and maintenance of a vehicle except upkeep and maintenance of modifications.~~

~~This service does not include the purchase or lease of a vehicle and/or partial purchase of a vehicle already modified.~~

~~PAYMENT TO LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS~~

~~Payment for this service may be made to legally responsible individuals, if program criteria are met. Refer to BSW 604-1.~~

COMPETITIVE BID REQUIREMENT PRIOR AUTHORIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Members needing Vehicle Modifications costing \$5,000 or more must make a reasonable effort to obtain two estimates or bids.

~~Vehicle Modifications in excess of \$5,000 must be prior authorized by the Regional Program Officer; refer to BSW 403. The prior authorization must include at least two estimates or bids. All bids must include an estimate of the costs to include a detailed list of the amount of materials, the labor (number of hours to complete the project and amount charged per hour), and other miscellaneous costs; these estimates should accompany the prior authorization.~~

Provider costs of submitting an estimate or bid are not payable by the Big Sky Waiver program. In general, the lowest bid must be accepted; however, a member may choose a bid that is within 10% difference of the lowest bid may be accepted at the member's choice. If two bids cannot be obtained, documentation must be present to show what efforts were made to secure multiple bids. ~~Situations involving one bid require review and approval by the Regional Program Officer.~~

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Regional Program Officers must prior authorize Vehicle Modifications costing \$25,000 or more.

~~A prior authorization for Vehicle Modifications cannot be authorized or given to the provider prior to the member receiving the service; the service must be received by the member prior to payment by Big Sky Waiver. A Vehicle Modification cannot be separated into multiple referrals or multiple prior~~

authorizations; all supplies and labor costs for one Vehicle Modification must be included in one referral and one prior authorization.

SERVICE LIMITATIONS

This service does not include adaptations or improvements to the vehicle that are of general utility and are not of direct benefit to the member.

This service does not include regularly scheduled upkeep and maintenance of a vehicle except upkeep and maintenance of modifications.

This service does not include the purchase or lease of a vehicle.

PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS

Modifications must be completed by a qualified provider who meets state business requirements for automotive repair/services.

PAYMENT TO LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS

Individuals who are legally responsible for members may provide Vehicle Modification services if they meet program criteria. Payment for this service may be made to legally responsible individuals, if program criteria are met. Refer to BSW 604-1.