What if ORS won’t pay for the AT I requested?
ORS should give you a written decision if it will not help you obtain an AT evaluation, device or service. You have the right to appeal this denial.
For more information on how to appeal a denial of AT from ORS, contact the Disability Law Center.
There are several different ways to appeal the decision, and we would be happy discuss them with you. We may even be able to represent you on your appeal.

Where can I get more information about my rights as an ORS client?
For more information about your rights at ORS, you can read our “Consumers Guide to Vocation Rehabilitation Services” available in the publications section of our website:

www.drri.org

Disability Rights Rhode Island is the private non-profit law office that receives federal funding to advocate for Rhode Islanders with disabilities.
We are available to help people with disabilities, their family members and providers learn more about ORS services. We also can advocate for individuals to obtain ORS services and/or help them in their relationships with ORS, other rehabilitation service providers and employers.

For more information or assistance please contact us!

Disability Rights Rhode Island
33 Broad Street, Suite 601
Providence, Rhode Island 02903
401-831-3150 Voice
401-831-5335 TTY
www.drri.org

Did you know: ORS can help cover the cost of Assistive Technology Devices?
What is ORS?
The office of Rehabilitative Services (“ORS”) is the state agency that helps people with disabilities learn about their employment options, train for employment and find suitable, competitive employment. ORS is funded and regulated by the federal and state government.

What is Assistive Technology?
Assistive technology (also known as “AT”, or “rehabilitation technology”) is any item, piece of equipment, software program, or product system that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of persons with disabilities. It can be as low tech as a magnifier, or higher tech like a computerized system.

What kind of Assistive Technology does ORS help pay for?
ORS can help pay for AT devices that would help you train for a job, look for a job or perform the functions of a job. The AT must be related to your vocational training or goal, but this can include many things such as: technology that would help you to perform your job duties, home modifications if needed for you to independently participate in training or work, or modifications to the vehicle that you will use to get training or to work.
ORS can also pay for an evaluation to help you find the right device and training on how to use it.

How do I know what device to ask for?
VR can help you obtain an evaluation to see if AT could help you. This evaluation is called “rehabilitative engineering evaluation” or an “AT Evaluation”. If the evaluation recommends that you could use AT, VR can help you get the AT device that you need. VR can also help you obtain any training you need in order to learn to use the device.

How do I ask for AT?
You can start the process by asking for an AT evaluation. An AT evaluation will help you determine how AT might help you with your needs and which devices will best meet your needs.
If you are sure of the device you need, you can ask ORS to help pay for the device without an evaluation; however, you may still want to have an evaluation, as you might learn about new devices or needs through the evaluation.

How much of the cost of the AT will ORS cover?
ORS provides AT evaluations to all consumers free of charge.
Depending on your income, ORS may pay for all or part of your AT. Even if you already have a device, ORS may still be able to pay for training in order for you to use your device for work, job searching or training.
Although other benefits such as Medicaid, Medicare may cover the cost of your AT, ORS cannot require you to use those benefits to pay for the AT instead of ORS.