

A Guide To Applying For A Textphone

You will need to take three steps to rent a textphone from the Government:

1. Read Eligibility Criteria
2. Read and accept Rental Agreement
3. Complete Application Form

Ministry of Economic
Development



Manatū Ōhanga



Eligibility Criteria

1. Are you Deaf, deaf-blind, or have a hearing, speech or other communication impairment and cannot communicate using a standard telephone or amplified telephone headset?

Yes/No

If you answered "Yes" and your health professional agrees, you are eligible to rent a subsidised textphone from the Government.

If you answered "No" you are not eligible to rent a subsidised textphone from the Government.

2. Is your income within the income thresholds to qualify for a Community Services Card?

Yes/No

If you answered "Yes" you are entitled to rent a single textphone free of charge.

The gross annual income thresholds for the Community Services Card as at 1st April 2006 are:

Family Size	Income Threshold
Single - sharing accommodation	\$20,916
Single - living alone	\$22,157
Married or civil union couple without children	\$33,083
2 person family	\$39,633
3 person family	\$47,085
4 person family	\$53,138
5 person family	\$59,050
6 person family	\$65,743
For families of 7 or more, the income limits increase by \$5,962 for each additional person.	

If you answered "No" you can rent a single textphone for a charge.

If you do not have a Community Services Card you may still be eligible for free rental if your family income meets the criteria indicated in the above table.

You will need to supply proof of your earnings. If you have a spouse/partner who earns an income you will need to provide proof of their earnings.

You will also need to tell us the number of dependent children you have.

3. Do you receive a War Disablement Pension for hearing loss or speech disability?

If you answered "Yes" and you do not qualify for free textphone rental, you may be able to be reimbursed for your textphone rental costs. You may also qualify for free call alert equipment for your textphone.

If you are not entitled to rent a textphone free of charge or you require the use of additional equipment please contact:

Case Management Service
Veterans' Affairs New Zealand
PO Box 5146
Wellington

Freephone 0800 483 8372
Fax (04) 495 2080
E-mail: veterans@xtra.co.nz

The Case Management Service will assess your needs and assist you in determining whether you qualify for the reimbursement of your textphone rental costs and/or additional equipment.

Please note that if you rent a textphone from the Government you are still required to pay for your telephone line rental.