



HEAVEN PREVIEW FOUNDATION

THE AUTOPILOT PROGRAM

How much do you enjoy driving your Honda or Lamborghini? If an accident or a degenerative disease would steal **tomorrow** your ability to fully use your arms and legs, would you still be able to drive yourself to your office or to the beach? Today's technology enables thousands of people to drive with adaptive equipment--at **staggering costs** very few can afford. The **Autopilot** Program of the Heaven Preview Foundation offers grants to disabled people for purchasing electronic driving systems and for covering the cost of the required driving training.

A Car or a Space Shuttle

If you ever enter the vehicle of a disabled person, your first impression will be that you are on a NASA space shuttle ready to take off to the moon. The primary controls (steering, gas, and brake) are activated with minimal muscular effort through a mini-wheel (W-series), a lever (L-series), or with a joystick (J/Aevit 2.0 systems as shown in the picture on the right). The secondary controls, such as turning signals, P/R/D, and headlights, are simply icons on a touchpad screen of a computer. EMC (Electronic Mobility Systems) provides detailed information on available types of equipment on their website at www.emc-digi.com



The Cost of Freedom

Only a few makes and models of vans and minivans lend themselves to adaptations for a disabled driver: Dodge, Ford, Chrysler, Honda, and Toyota. These vehicles are always factory special orders, and they come with a high price tag anywhere from \$50,000 to \$65,000. The next step is to install a \$30,000 lift or ramp in the vehicle through a specialized dealer. Then, with EMC as

the only manufacturer in the U.S. and only two or three authorized dealers per state, the costs of purchasing and installing an electronic driving system in your vehicle range from \$45,000 to \$85,000. The more severe your disability is, the more you pay for your freedom!

A specialized rehabilitation trainer will charge anywhere from \$300 to \$650 per hour for 20 mandatory hours to evaluate your ability to drive with adaptive equipment. Without his/her signature, you cannot legally order and purchase your driving system. Another 60 hours of driving training with such an expert are then required in order to assess if the equipment has been properly installed and to teach you how to use it.

The total cost of driving for a disabled person: somewhere around \$200,000!

Available Financial Assistance

There are a few extraordinary people who cannot move their arms and legs enough to drive a regular car, but who can produce sufficient income to afford driving a fully adapted vehicle. But most do not!

The only **two organizations** in the U.S. that provide financial assistance for vehicle adaptations and driving training (but not to purchase the actual vehicle) are **Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)** and the **Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)**. VR requires that your gross annual income be under **\$14,000**, which would make it impossible for someone to afford even purchasing the vehicle in the first place. With both organizations, the paperwork will drag for months and the whole process may take even up to a year.

When it comes to assistive equipment, banks simply do not have that option to

check on the loan applications. In the state of Georgia, for example, you can only get a Credit-Able loan through CFII (Center for Financial Independence and Innovation, Inc.) at an interest that promises to be low, but it is always higher than the average car loan interest. Moreover, even if this is advertised as a loan for the equipment, if you happen to have the vehicle already, they will turn you down stating that they provide a loan for vehicle and equipment together, so that they can hold your new vehicle as collateral.

Autopilot Grants

The Heaven Preview Foundation understands that many disabled people cannot afford purchasing the vehicle they could drive, and for them, our **Autopilot** Program provides the **Shuttle Grant**. For those who already have a vehicle, we offer various **Pilot Grants** for purchasing the adaptive equipment and for paying the driving training.

Turnaround Time

All applications for **Autopilot** grants are reviewed and processed within 30 days from receipt. Grant payments are made to dealers or trainers within 3 business days from approval or on any later date requested by the grantee.

Amounts

Most **Autopilot** grants range from **\$500** to **\$10,000**. However, we are making efforts to offer in the future full grants that would cover the entire cost of a vehicle, equipment, and training.

Eligibility

Applicants for our **Autopilot** grants must present, along with their application, supporting documentation for the following: (1) a neuro-muscular or skeletal disability diagnosis; (2) the signed approval of a driving trainer (for

equipment grants); (3) a gross income ranging from \$0-\$100,000/year; (4) use of an authorized dealer and a certified driving training specialist; (5) residence in the U.S. (immigration status not required).

Your Donation:

Someone's Passport to Freedom

Some people buy a used car for \$500 and pay \$25 for their first driving license. Others never go short of a Lamborghini! Yet disabled people have to pay the price of a Lamborghini for what is an indispensable means of transportation

to a job that may pay them the minimum wage. When you donate as little as **\$1** for an **Autopilot** grant, you are adding one more letter to writing their passport to freedom. Let your able hands set someone free **today!**

