

Guideline assessing funding applications for psychiatric assistance dogs in The Netherlands

.....

What is this guideline about?

This guideline concerns the most important factors in assessing funding applications for (guidance in training of) psychiatric assistance dogs in The Netherlands. The recommendations in this guideline are based on scientific research.

.....

Who does this guideline concern?

This guideline is set up for whomever makes a decision about funding for (guidance in training of) a psychiatric assistance dog, hereafter called assessor.

.....

Recommendations

- 1 Whether a psychiatric assistance dog can improve the quality of life for someone with a mental health condition or disability always requires an individual assessment.
 - 2 Request supporting information from the relevant expert(s) designated by the applicant. These may include mental health professionals, for example.
 - 3 A psychiatric assistance dog does not have to be a last resort, but it is preferably not the first option. Based on the applicant’s intervention history (what has already been tried and with what result), they can argue the potential benefits of an assistance dog.
 - 4 There are various assistance dog organizations. Ask the applicant why they have chosen a specific organization. This may be due to their expertise in a particular mental health condition, for example.
 - 5 Make use of the expertise and experience of the assistance dog organization where the applicant has submitted a request for a psychiatric assistance dog. Ask them on what basis they are willing and able to support the applicant.
 - 6 The short-term costs of a psychiatric assistance dog should always be weighed against the long-term benefits.
 - 7 Research shows that applicants for psychiatric assistance dogs often have a negative experience with the funding application process. It helps if the assessor approaches the conversation with genuine interest and agrees on a realistic decision timeline that is achievable.
-

Want to know more?

You can find the complete guideline on <https://psychiatrischeassistentiehonden.nl/>

