Overview of the 56 State Assistive Technology Act Program

Opportunities to Work Together

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ACL
Administration for Community Living

Today's Speakers

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Agenda

- What is the 56 State Assistive Technology Act Program?
- Common Goal and Opportunities for Partnership
- What do State Assistive Technology Act Programs do?
- How can I find my State Assistive Technology Act Program?
- Resources
- Questions and Answers

What is the State Assistive Technology Act Program?

- Administered by the U.S. Administration for Community Living, an operating division in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Authorized under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998
- Funded at approximately $32 million annually
- Available in all 56 States and territories; states receive formula grants
- Serves people of any age with a disability (temporary or permanent) to
  - Become aware of assistive technology and how to acquire it
  - Learn about assistive technology options and how to use them
  - Try the technology through short term loans before purchasing
  - Acquire gently used refurbished assistive technology through state AT reuse programs

We All Share Common Program Goals

- Common goals to promote the ability of individuals with functional limitations of all ages, state and territory-wide, for community engagement and integration.

- Possible Partnership Opportunities:
  - Increasing awareness of assistive technology
  - Connecting people to the assistive technology that works for them through demonstrations and short term loans
  - Training on assistive technology
  - Technical assistance

- To find the Assistive Technology Act program in your state or territory, go to https://www.at3center.net/stateprogram on the AT3 Center website.

Device Demonstration Programs

In-person or virtual demonstrations provide individuals the opportunity to learn about what device works for them with guidance from an AT specialist.

Finding out about features of tablets, computer input devices and other AT is essential for persons with disabilities to access on-line services such as telehealth, vaccine/testing registration and social engagement services.
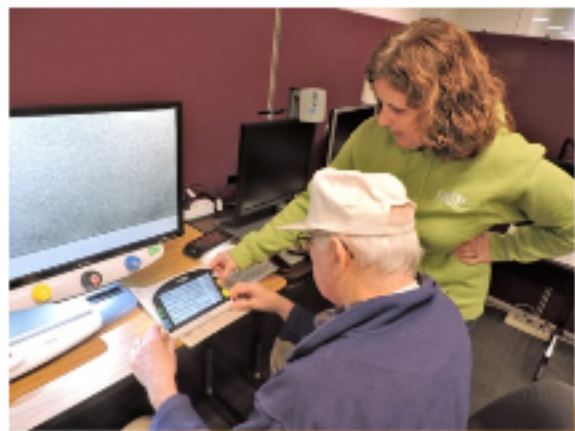
AT Device Loan Programs

- Individuals and organizations may borrow devices to try out or as an accommodation.
- For example, a low-tech speech generating device or hearing amplification device could be borrowed for use at a vaccination site or telehealth visit.
- Lending inventories consist of a variety of devices.
- Generally multiple devices may be borrowed for a several week period.
- Most programs have a device loan website where you can find devices in the loan inventory.

Reutilization

Devices that are no longer needed by an individual are refurbished and made available.

- Wheeled mobility, aids for daily living, communication devices, and others.
- Revised sanitization procedures to protect health and safety.
- Some are available at no cost, while others may have a cost that is a fraction over purchasing new.

State Financing Activities

– Financial loan programs with favorable terms for AT is one resource for most types of AT and home access modifications.

– Many state AT programs also administer other activities to acquire AT such as adaptive telecommunication equipment programs. They may also know of other resources in the state that can help with obtaining needed AT devices.

Assistive Technology Act Programs

AT3 Center

Contact your State AT Program:

https://www.at3center.net/stateprogram

Program Directory - Find Your State Program

List of Resources for Telehealth Communication Platforms and Applications

- Zoom (https://zoom.us/) provides a useful way to electronically check-in and share information and resources.
- Skype (https://skype.com) is a free app that works well for both one-on-one and group (up to 50 people) video and audio calls.
- WebEx www.webex.com is another video conferencing option with captioning that has a free personal plan.
- Google Meet (https://meet.google.com) is Google's video conferencing service that connects up to 25 people.
- Google Hangouts (https://hangouts.google.com) is free and works well for individual or group meetings up to 100 people.
- GoogleChat is another way to communicate and can be set up in Gmail (www.gmail.com).
- Facebook live broadcasts are another way to connect with people who are on Facebook. More information is available at https://www.facebook.com/facebookmedia/solutions/facebook-live.
- FaceTime is a video and audio calling service for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, or Mac to call others using one of those devices.
- BlueJeans (https://www.bluejeans.com) offers secure webinars, conference calls, and online meetings.
- GroupMe (https://groupme.com) is a group messaging application that works on every device and over SMS.
- StreamText (www.streamtext.net) provides for real-time captions for any platform or device with Internet access. WhatsApp (www.whatsapp.com) is free and allows users to send text messages and voice messages, make voice and video calls, as well as share images, documents, user locations, and other media.

Training & TA on the Use of Remote Technologies

- A summary of different web conferencing and video chat features and programs is available at: http://telecomtoolbox.ri.umt.edu/communication/video-chat-and-web-conferencing/

- Many platforms have accessibility features, but they may not work for everyone or may not be sufficient. The Partnership on Employment & Accessible Technology (PEAT) developed a website to guide organizations in selecting accessible platforms

- The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Technology Rehabilitation Center has developed a step-by-step guide on embedding interpreters in Zoom

- AT3 prepared a resource document on How to Prepare for a Telehealth Visit: https://at3centerblog.com/2020/04/23/how-to-prepare-for-a-routine-telehealth-visit/

- AT3 posted recordings of several webinars and materials at: https://www.at3center.net/repository/EmergencyManagement#AT3Covid19Webinars, including The CAST Technology Selection Tools and Resource; Captioning Video Meetings and Trainings; Using Zoom to Conduct Remote Training; Virtual AT Demonstrations; Managing Social Isolation; Operating in a Remote Environment; and Protection & Advocacy During the Pandemic.

Connect with AT Act Programs @ ACL

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