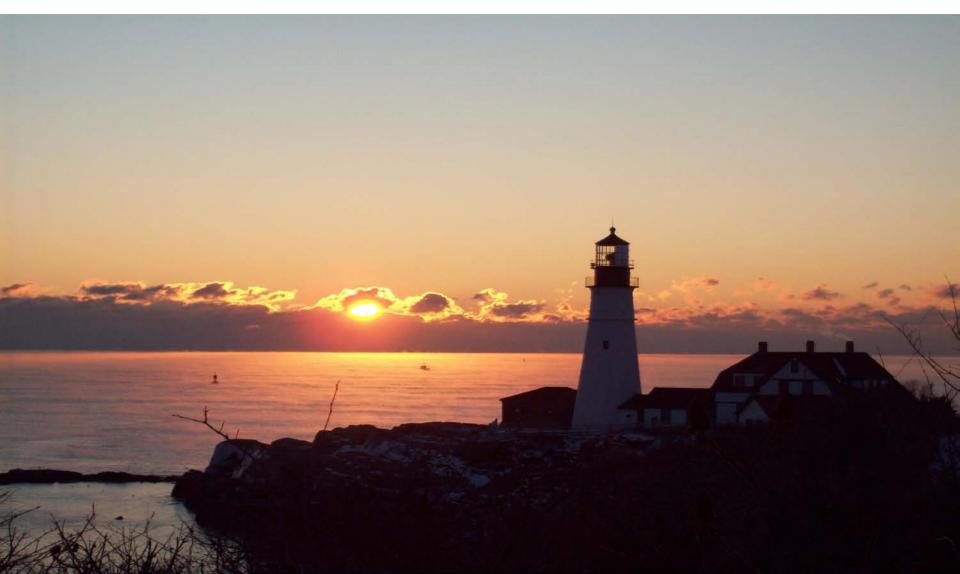
State Assistive Technology (AT) Programs and Funding Options for AT

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Welcome to Maine!!!



Today's Objectives



- Learn about the federal AT Act
- Define and Review AT
- Learn about AT State Program Services & Resources
- Review Funding options
- Q & A

Kathy's Bio

- Occupational Therapist
- Certified AT Professional (RESNA.org)
- 35+ years of practice in Maine
- Serves on:
 - Maine OT License Board, Chair (just ended 2 terms)
 - Maine AgrAbility Project Advisory Council
 - Maine AT Consortia
 - Maine Medicaid Advisory Committee
 - KVCC OTA Program Advisory Council
 - Southern Maine Transition Committee
 - State IT Advisory Committee

Important Maine Facts

- Borders NH, Canada and the Ocean
- Population 1.3 million people
- 16 Counties
- 22 Cities
- 424 Towns
- York, America's First Chartered Town in 1641
- 3,500 Miles of Coastline
- 6000 Lakes & Ponds
- Mt. Katahdin is the End of the AT @ 5268 ft above sea level
- 17 Million Acres of Forest
- 65 Lighthouses
- Acadia National Park
- 120 Million Lbs Annual Lobster catch
- 104 Million Lbs Blueberries annually



Some Laws that Impact AT

- Rehab Act of 1973/Section 504
- IDEA, amended in 2004
- AT Act of 1989, amended in 2004





WIOA: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

Maine CITE



- Maine's State AT Act Program
- Created by the Federal AT Act in 1989 (amended in 2004)
- There are AT Act Programs in every state
 - www.ATAPorg.org
 - www.at3center.net
- Visit <u>www.mainecite.org</u>
 - Webinars recorded on our site
 - "Apps as AT" page
 - Paying for AT & Funding Resources
 - AT Providers in Maine

The Mission of Maine CITE

To improve <u>access to & the acquisition</u> of AT by people of <u>all ages, all disabilities</u> in the areas of:

Education Employment Community Living IT & Telecommunications

AT Act Program Services Include:

- Public Awareness, Outreach, Information and Assistance
- Device Demonstrations
- Device Loans --- try before you buy ...save \$\$\$
- Device Reuse --- discount buying of used AT, DME
 - AT Exchange and AT Recycling
- AT Training --- workshops, conferences, webinars
- Technical Assistance on AT
- State Coordination and Collaboration --- State AT Consortia
- State Financing
 - Alternative Financing Cash Loans, \$\$\$ to buy AT
 - AT Buying Co-ops

Maine's AT Partners

- State Collaboration is essential in Maine
- Maine CITE has supported the *AT Consortia* since 1990s
- Meets quarterly
- Meetings Showcase new AT, training events & providers

Spurwink- ALLTECH **Pine Tree Society** CARES **UM** Farmington **AgrAbility Maine mPower** Financial Loan Program **IRIS Network** State BRS Alpha One, CIL

Assistive Technology is.....

 An AT Device is any item, device, system, piece of equipment, or product -- acquired commercially or customized -- that is used to increase, maintain or improve the functional capabilities of a person with a disability

 AT Services help people learn about AT options & decide if the AT will benefit them

Technology is Universal in our Lives!!

The Benefits of AT..... Using AT can facilitate, maintain, increase, maximize learning, safety, function, success & self esteem, work productivity, mobility, independence, social & community connections.....

AT Enhances Function....

- Learning new tasks
- Physical interaction with environment
- Communication
- Independence & safety
- Participation & social interaction
- Vocational potential & productivity @ work
- Simplification of work tasks
- Organization skill, Concentration & cognition
- Endurance & stamina

Maine CITE Resources - check then out!

• <u>www.mainecite.org</u>

Maine AT Info source

www.at4maine.org

Maine AT Inventory for Demo and Loan services

• www.getatstuff.com

Regional AT Exchange

• <u>www.maine-aem.org</u>

Maine Info on Accessible Educational Materials

Maine CITE Training Events

www.mainecite.org/training

- Driver Assessments
- AT: Empowering People to Live at Home
- AT to Support Independent Living
- Adapted Telephone/telecommunications
- Smart Home Remote Monitoring
- AT for Medication Management
- Apps for Blind and Low Visions Users
- AT for People with Brain Injury
- Keep Farming Using Technology Solutions
- UD on the Farm: Maine AgrAbility Program

AT Reuse & Recycling



Donate, Buy & Sell used AT www.getATstuff.com

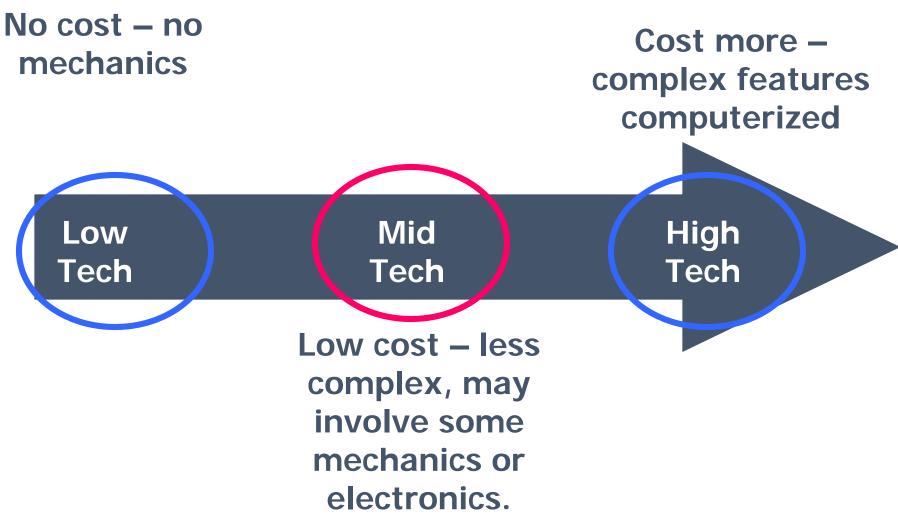
more recycling of AT...

Refurbishing/Reusing/selling AT ALLTECH, 892 Riverside St, Portland Phone 207-535-2017

- www.alphaonenow.org
- Uncle Henrys..."senior solutions"
- towns, churches, civic groups
- <u>www.passitoncenter.org</u> (national list)



AT can be Low Tech >>> to High Tech



There are endless AT Devices!!

- Smart Devices: phones, tablets
- Computer hardware & software
 - adapted switches/access aids
- Alerting devices
- Braille & Low Vision devices
- Prosthetics & orthotics
- Standing & walking aids
- Manual and power wheelchairs (power rim device)
- Communication devices, SGD devices
- Adapted sports/recreation equipment

More AT

- Adapted cars vans with lifts
- Home access/mods
 - ramps, lifts, stair glides, elevators, walk in shower, flooring
- Smart home automation
- Wearable tech
 - Hearing aides & glasses
 - Fitness devices
 - Smart watches
 - Tracker devices



What AT do you or your clients use?

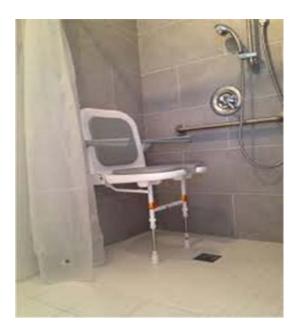
What Apps are you using as AT?

AT for Managing Medications

- Pill box / med cassette
- Organizers with Alarms
- Alternative medication container caps
- Magnifiers for reading labels Large print
- Dispensers with remote monitoring
- Smartphone & smart watch reminders











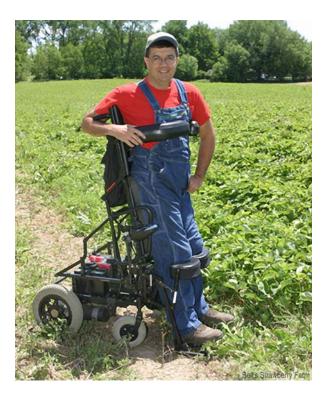




















Funding....."it's all about the money"



- Funding is the <u>key issue</u> for the consumer!!
- Professionals need to work with consumers to help find purchasing/funding options for AT
- Funding is <u>the</u> challenge!

...more on Funding!

- *Beware!...* AT Funding is always changing
- Funding decisions are based on each individual's need & eligibility
 - Health insurances, state Medicaid = medical necessity
 - Veterans
 - Special Ed
 - Vocational Rehab
- Learn about the documentation requirements for each funder— *do your homework*!

Paying for AT

- Social Security Administration Programs
 - PASS Plans
 - 1619B Program
 - Ticket to Work
- State Vocational Rehab Services
- Special Education....ages 0 thru 20
 - Must Consider AT....Document AT in the IEP
 - Must have a Transition plan for students leaving HS
- Health Insurances....Medicaid (Maine Care)
 - must document medical necessity
 - OT Policy (Maine Medicaid Section 68)



Maine has Medicaid Waivers

- All states can create Waivers- work with federal CMS
- Enables people with disabilities to live in the community (avoid more costly nursing homes) \$\$\$
- Funding for AT used at home for safety & independence
- Funding for home based AT & remote monitoring
- Maine CITE is working to develop more providers of AT services

Homeward Bound Program Federal "Money Follows the Person" Program

http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/oads/trainings-resources/initiatives/homeward-bound.html

- Maine program that funds services for people to plan & move out of a nursing home >>> back into the community
- Pays for AT, AT training & home monitoring
- In the last 4 yrs, more that 115 people have moved home
- > 90% of these people use some type of AT

• Financial Cash Loans/personal financing

- Maine's *mPower* Loan Program <u>www.mpowerloans.org</u>
- The Digital Credit Union <u>www.dcu.org</u>
- Financial Loan Programs in the States: 43 of them!
 - www.at3center.net/stateprograms
- Muscular Dystrophy Association
- MS Society
- IL Grants thru Alpha One CIL
- Robbie Foundation (ME)
- Travis Roy Foundation (SCI)
- DiDanato Foundation (ME)



AT Resources....

- <u>www.extension.umaine.edu/agrability</u>
- www.agrability.org
- www.at3center.net
- <u>www.fctd.org</u> family center for technology and disability
- www.wheelchairnet.org
- www.abledata.org
- www.assistivetech.net
- www.afb.org
- <u>www.atia.org</u>

AT Resources

- <u>www.jan.wvu.edu</u>
- www.Disabilityinfo.gov
- www.usbln.org
- www.RESNA.org
- www.abledata.org
- www.passonline.org
- www.workrerc.org

Job Accommodation Network

Business Leadership Network

Rehab Engineering Society N. America

lists thousands of AT devices

details on PASS program

Rehab Engineering Research Center on Workplace Accommodation

Take Aways.....

- AT is universal is our lives, why not the lives of our clients?
- AT can impact safety, independence & productivity
- The AT market is always changing
- AT is available & affordable, "off the shelf"
- AT Resources are always developing
- Keep Exploring Smart Home technologies as AT
- Collaboration is Key!!

Thank you!



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