In the Field: Case Study Examples on the Benefit of Collaboration between AT Act Programs and AgrAbility

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2020 AgrAbility Virtual National Training Workshop

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Basic Webinar Instructions

Audio available through computer or phone.
Check sound via Communicate menu at top left
Closed captions: use arrow to expand or contact the Media Viewer window.
Expand/contract any of the windows in the right-hand column with the arrows.
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Questions and comments

◦ Go to the Chat option in the right-hand column. Please send to “All Panelists”. Enter message in box below TO and hit enter/return. You may enter questions about the presentation at any time.

◦ In addition, during the Q & A period, you may click the “Raise Hand” icon on the attendee list to indicate that you have a question. We will do our best to enable your microphone or phone connection.
Basic Webinar Instructions

Please let me know if more than one person is viewing at your computer.

4 quick survey questions + opportunity to share comments.

Session recorded and archived with PowerPoint files at www.agrability.org/online-training/virtualntw

Problems: use chat window or email jonesp@purdue.edu
AgrAbility: USDA-sponsored program that assists farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural workers with disabilities.

- Partners land-grant universities with disability services organizations. Currently 20 state projects
- National AgrAbility Project: Led by Purdue’s Breaking New Ground Resource Center. Partners include:
  - Goodwill of the Finger Lakes
  - APRIL (Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living)
  - Colorado State University
  - Washington State University
- More information available at [www.agrability.org](http://www.agrability.org)
Case Study Examples on the Benefit of Collaboration Between AT Act Programs and AgrAbility
Kim Karwal, MS, CRC, ATP  Assistive Technology and Rural Rehabilitation
Easterseals Iowa

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Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to list the state level activities or services provided by the Assistive Technology Act programs in Iowa and Wisconsin.

Participants will be able to identify three benefits of collaboration between AT Act programs and AgrAbility programming as it relates to agricultural services.

Participants will leave with three concrete example case studies that demonstrate collaboration between the AT Act programs and AgrAbility.
What is Assistive Technology?

Assistive technology (AT) is any product or piece of equipment used to maintain or improve the functional capabilities of people with disabilities.
AT Services

AT services include:
Evaluation, funding, design, customization, modification, maintenance, repair, training, and technical assistance.
People of all ages can benefit from services that help them with the AT they want to use at home, in school, or at work.
Examples of AT

Adaptive devices for everyday living
Sensory aids for hearing and vision
Adaptive driving controls
Wheelchairs and mobility devices
Customized seating

Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC)
Adaptive computer hardware and software
Mobile devices
Educational technology
AT Providers

AT Professional (ATP)

Assesses the needs of individuals with disabilities
Assists in selection of AT
Trains others on AT
Website: https://www.resna.org/
Actual Job Titles

Assistive technology specialist
Rehabilitation engineer
Rehabilitation technologist
Adaptive equipment specialist
Assistive technology practitioner
Independent living staff
Assistive Technology Act

Assistive Technology Act—Federally funded
Administration for Community Living
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
AT Act—Since 1991
All states and territories
AT Act Program Information

Links to programs
AT Act information
Resources
Events
AT Act Requirements

AT Advisory Council

State leadership activities (training, public awareness, data collection)

State level activities (loan, demo, training, technical assistance, alternative finance, device reuse)

State Plan (3 year plan)—governs all activities and program budget
Device Loan and Demonstration

Inventory of assistive technology devices
Broad range of assistive technology
Short term loans and demonstrations
Decision on whether AT device works or not
Accommodation while waiting funding
Device Reuse

Varies by state and type of devices available
Collection of used assistive technology
Refurbishment and repair
Donation and sale
Alternative Financing

Financial loans
Available for people with disabilities and family
Assistive technology, home modifications, and vehicle adaptations
Varies by state or program
Training and Technical Assistance

Information and assistance
Trainings for individuals or groups
In-depth technical assistance (policy work for example)
Funding resources
AT Act Program Information

https://www.at3center.net/
www.ataporg.org

Links to programs
AT Act information
Resources
Events
Telecommunications

Equipment distribution programs for telecommunications
TEDPA statewide directory
iCanConnect national program for dual sensory loss
Independent Living Centers

Consumer driven

Federal legislation

Nationwide network

Advocacy, IL skills training, information & referral, peer support, and transition

Some provide additional services
State Programs

Vocational rehabilitation
Tribal rehabilitation and social services
Office for Deaf and hard of hearing
Offices for Blind and low vision
Education departments
Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC)
ATIA

Assistive Technology Industry Association
Conference with sessions and exhibit hall
Webinars for professional development
Maker Spaces

Local or regional
Formal or informal organization
Volunteer or membership based use of facilities
Custom, unique solutions
Wisconsin Example

Farmer with vision loss

Partnership between AgrAbility and a local Independent Living Center (AT Act contractor)

On-site assessment to identify vision loss technology for farm use

Solutions: Talking barcode scanner with ear tags for livestock, screen magnification computer software, tactile and high contrast marking materials for various uses and products (home, barn, office)
Our Mission:
To provide exceptional services to ensure that all people with disabilities or special needs and their families have equal opportunities to live, learn, work, and play in their communities.
Easterseals Iowa Assistive Technology Program

- State AT Implementing Entity
- Serving all ages in all areas of Iowa:
  - Covers all 99 counties
- Provides information and referral
- Onsite Demonstration Center
- Durable Medical Equipment Loan Program
- Lending Library
- AT Exchange/ AT4ALL inventory website

Assistive Technology Center 1-866-866-8782 (Toll Free) 515.289.4069 (TTY) atinfo@eastersealsia.org (Email)
Rural Solutions Program

- Supports Iowans with disabilities living in a community of 2,500 or less in population
- Began as a service to support farmers and farm family members with a disability
- Offers a variety of services:
  - Agricultural worksite and home modification consultations
  - Peer support
  - Services for the family and support network
  - Information and referrals
  - Access to the Easter Seals Iowa Assistive Technology Center
  - Example would be a lift for an individual to gain accessibility into their workplace
Rural Solutions Program

All the farming stuff that we do, the main, quite frankly the only way I can do it is with a lot of help.
RS Story or Video
RS Story or Video

So we looked at how we can make it more mechanized and make it less strain and stress on his body.
Contact
Wisconsin Department of Human Services

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YouTube: Easterseals Iowa Assistive Technology Center
LinkedIn: Easterseals Iowa- Assistive Technology Center
Mail Chimp e-newsletter: http://eepurl.com/1DVMb
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Resources

AT resources listing (vendor site)

AT3 and ATAP

ATIA

IL Centers

TEDPA

iCanConnect