



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.

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Basic Webinar Instructions

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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

Case Study Examples on the Benefit of Collaboration Between AT Act Programs and AgrAbility



Presenters

- Kim Karwal, MS, CRC, ATP Assistive Technology and Rural Rehabilitation
Easterseals Iowa
- Laura Plummer, MA, CRC, ATP Assistive Technology Program Coordinator
Department of Health Services

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)

Easterseals Iowa

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



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



RS Story or Video



RS Story or Video



Contact

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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](#)