

Assistive Technology: Programs and Partners for Making Technology Happen

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Background



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Learning Objectives

- Participants will be able to outline the state level activities available through AT Act programs
- Participants will be able to list three assistive technology solutions for individuals with physical disabilities
- Participants will be able to list three assistive technology solutions for people with hearing or vision loss

Overview

- AT definitions
- Assistive Technology Act
- Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Programs (TEDPA)
- Independent Living Centers
- Statewide Programs
- Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA)
- Makers Movement

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

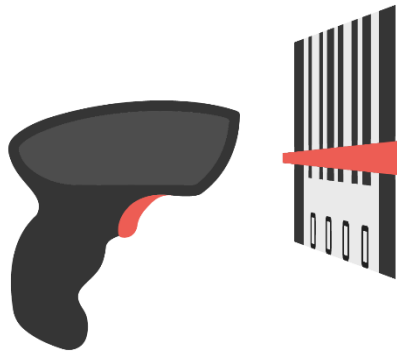
AT services include:

- 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

Examples of AT: Farmer with Low-Vision



Examples of AT: Farmer with Hearing Loss



Examples of AT: Farmer with One Hand



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 Requirements

- AT Advisory Council
- State leadership activities (training, public awareness, information and assistance, technical assistance)
- State level activities (loan, demo, reuse, alternative financing)
- State Plan (3 year plan)—governs all activities and program budget

AT Act Program Information

Links to programs
AT Act information
Resources
Events



WisTech

- Primary partners are Independent Living Centers
- Provides all four state level activities (device demonstration, device loan, device reuse, and state finance)
- Program development to build capacity and meet consumer needs



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

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
- Offices for Deaf and hard of hearing
- Offices for Blind and low vision
- Education departments
- Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC)
- Area Agencies on Aging

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

Resources

- [AT resources](#) listing (vendor site)
- [AT3](#) and [ATAP](#)
- [ATIA](#)
- [IL Centers](#)
- [TEDPA](#)
- [iCanConnect](#)

Questions

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