

# Assistive Technology Act Programs



## Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs

State and Territory Assistive Technology (AT) Act Programs, receive formula grant funding under the Assistive Technology (AT) Act of 2004 and are authorized under Section 4 of the Assistive Technology Act. There is an AT Program in all 50 states, four US territories, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The focus of the AT Act is on improving the provision of AT through comprehensive, programs that are consumer responsive. The goal of these programs is to increase access to and acquisition of AT through the state level and state leadership activities authorized under the AT Act.

Assistive technology (AT) is any item, device, or piece of equipment used to maintain or improve the functionality of people with disabilities, allowing them to be more independent in education, employment, home and community living activities. AT can address many functional limitations, which may include mental health issues stemming from social isolation and may help a person to age safely in place.

State and Territory AT Programs enable individuals with disabilities to learn about, access, and acquire assistive technology needed for education, employment, and community living. Staffed by knowledgeable and experienced personnel, AT State and Territory Programs are able to match appropriate assistive technology with a consumer's needs and preferences, provide the consumer with a device demonstration, loan a device, and provide training and support for the consumer for the use of the device.

Assistive technology helps people with disabilities address needs associated with functional limitations, whether it is an existing or a new need. For this reason, considering AT is a crucial person-centered step to identifying solutions. Whether the needs regard the challenges of being schooled at home, working in a remote environment, or minimizing risk factors associated with being socially isolated, assistive technology offers options for dealing with unique situations due to COVID-19 that negatively impact independent functioning. One example is a 97-year old great grandmother isolated due to COVID-19 and living in a nursing facility, unable to have visitors and unable to independently use the phone. AT Program services, including short-term device loans, can help determine what AT might best help her keep in touch with her family. The senior's needs may not be met by simply providing a tablet. She may need to interact with a variety of tablets, laptops, desktop systems, amplified or captioned phones, handheld magnifiers, or other kinds of AT that match her needs and preferences. With the proper assistance and understanding of the functional limitations of older adults, the AT Program can recommend the appropriate devices and services.

[Here you can find the list of the direct contact information for your State and Territory AT Program.](#)

State and Territory AT Programs are prepared to contract with your state-based organizations to aid with such services and supports that help get the proper assistive technology into the hands of the consumer.

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### Contact your State Assistive Technology Act Program for technical assistance and to learn more about available AT services that:

Support the decision making process and purchase of AT by providing services such as device demonstrations and assessments to identify AT and related services that will help consumers do the things they need and want to do, in their current environments;

Provide training and support on the use of AT devices to consumers and their families for devices distributed; and

Provide a short-term, long-term or open-ended loan of a device through the duration of COVID-19 restrictions and beyond.

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