

# **ATAP** Assistive Technology Act Programs

Assistive technology (AT) helps people who have difficulty speaking, hearing, seeing, typing, writing, remembering, pointing, walking, learning and many other things. It can refer to devices that enable someone who is gaining with an activity that may have become more difficult for them over time.

All 50 states, four US territories, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have an assistive technology program under the Assistive Technology Act of 2004. The focus of the AT Act is on improving the provision of AT through

statewide programs that respond to the needs of the consumer. AT Act program services help people access and obtain the assistive technology they need.

The AT programs serve people of all ages and in any setting - in the community, employment, or education. All types of limitations or disabilities are included. The programs are required to carry out a series of specified activities. Below are some of the kinds of help and activities AT Act programs often provide:

## **1** Assistive Technology Demonstration Programs

provide opportunities for people to learn about and become familiar with different kinds of AT by comparing the functions and features of devices through hands on exploration.

Instruction is provided by knowledgeable AT professionals in an environment that does not favor one company or manufacturer.

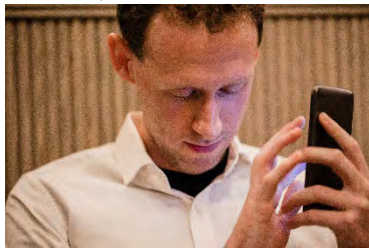


## **3** Assistive Technology Device Reutilization Programs

support the reuse of assistive technology that is no longer needed or used by its original owner. Recipients usually obtain equipment at

significantly lower cost or o cost. There are several options for reutilization including reassignment of used AT, device exchange (typically online) and long-term device loans

where the borrower keeps the device as long as needed.



## **2** Assistive Technology Device Loan/Borrowing Programs

allow individuals to borrow - for a limited time - devices for use at home, school, work or in public spaces such as a movie theater, beach or park. Device loans allow

borrowers to try out devices in their own environments to determine if a device will meet their needs before a purchase is made. Device loans also can provide

loaner AT while a device is being repaired, while a consumer is waiting for funding approvals, or to use for training or professional development purposes.



## **4** State Financing Activities

help individuals purchase/obtain AT through a variety of initiatives.

Financial loan programs provide consumers with affordable, flexible borrowing options. Other programs provide AT directly to consumers at no cost using dollars from non-AT Act sources or save consumers money when purchasing AT.



How do I find out more about the Assistive Technology program and services in my state? Go to the webpage at <https://at3center.net/state-at-programs/>. For more general information or if you have questions, please contact ATAP at [www.ataporg.org](http://www.ataporg.org).