

Prepare for Success!:
Exploring Successful Transition
Practices with Assistive
Technology

Tori Holder, Outreach Specialist

Tools for Life | Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation | College of Design |
Georgia Tech CREATING THE NEXT

Goals for this Session



Today session will cover updated details about the Tools for Life program here in Georgia. During our time together we will discuss:

- TFL core activities
- Accessing the TFL Network and community partners
- Review funding resources
- Assistive technology strategies, and
- Training and outreach activities.

Accessibility Made Smart



Accessibility Consulting focuses on organizational accessibility needs with evaluation, technical assistance, customer support, and website accessibility solutions.

Braille Services produces customized projects from both print materials and electronic text including partial books and chapters or graphics only using cutting-edge technology.

Captioning and Described Audio Services makes classrooms, meetings, labs and other audio environments fully accessible for deaf or hard-of-hearing and providing audio descriptions of videos and other visual media for those who are blind or have low-vision.

Professional E-Text Producers provide high-quality e-text in many formats such as PDF, DOC, DAISY, and HTML.

Certified Assistive Technology team provides on-site and remote assessments, demonstrations, training and technical assistance for education, work, and daily living environments.

Tools for Life (TFL)



Tools for Life (TFL), Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program, provides Georgians of all ages and disabilities the opportunity to gain access to and acquisition of assistive technology devices and service so they can live, learn, work, and play independently in the communities of their choice.



Tools for Life Core Services



As the Assistive Technology Program in Georgia, we are charged with core activities:

- 1. Information & Assistance
- 2. AT Assessments
- 3. AT Demonstrations
- 4. AT Equipment Lending
- 5. Training (Individuals and Groups)
- 6. Funding Education & Solutions
- 7. AT Reuse

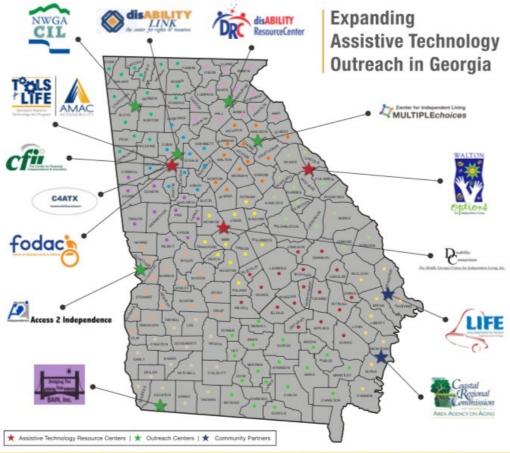
Tools for Life Website





Tools for Life Network

Assistive Technology Resource Centers, Outreach Centers, Community Partners and Affiliates



GEORGIA'S AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTERS

- Atlanta Regional Commission Aging Division

 Otherstee, Claytor, Gotts, Devalt, Dougle, Payette, Futon, Germen
- Coastal Georgia Area Agency on Aging 5 Bryan, Bullick, Conden, Challesin, Effinghan, Gynn, Liberty, Lon Mid-Hash
- CSRA Area Agency on Aging

 Burke, Columbia, Gascock, Hercock, Jefferson, Jeffers, Lincoln, McCuffe, Richmond, Screwer, Salaters, Warsen, Washington, William
- Heart of Georgia Area Agency on Aging
 Applied Besties Cander, Dadas Branusi Evens, Jeff Davis, John-
- Legacy Link Georgia Mountains Area Agency on Aging Bisho, Dawner, Fornyth, Franklin, Hoberstein, Hall, Hart, Langkon,
- Middle Georgia Area Ag ancy on Aging
 Dathers, Bits, Craeford, Plaston, Jones, Morros, Peach, Pulseli
 Putram, Tergas, Wildhom
- Northeast Georgia Area Agency on Aging
 Bisros, Clarks, Ebert, Greens, Jackson, Jasper, Medicin, Morgan
 Needon, Occores, Optothorps, Walton
- Northwest Georgia Area Agency on Aging

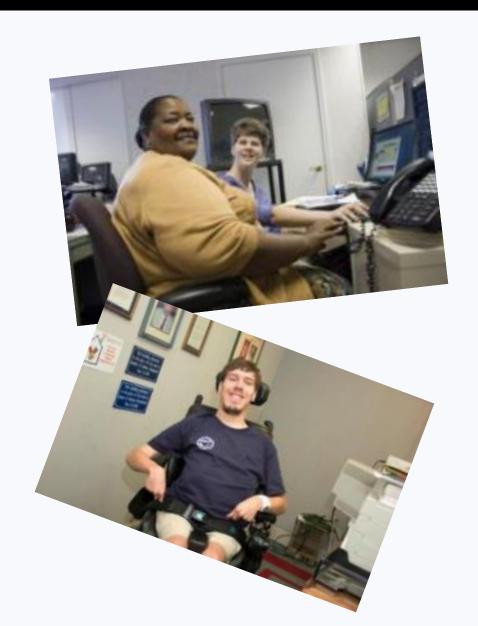
 Barton, Catoma, Chattega, Dade, Farvin, Playd, Girver, Gordor Haration, Murray, Paulding Pickers, Polk, Walker, Whitfield
- River Malley Area Agency on Aging
 Ostfahoodes, Oay Ostp. Dody, Harts, Micon, Marion, Masocges,
 Datron, Destrict, Science Science Softer Materiae
- Southern Georgia Area Agency on Aging

 Aktrison, Boon, Berlind, Berlin, Erantiny Brooks, Charlon, Clinch,
 Cothe, Cook, Echele, Invin, Jamie, Lawdes, Perce, Tift, Turner Was
- SOWEOA Council on Aging Southwest Georgia Area
 Agency on Aging
 Solor, Colour, Colguit, Decelur, Douglerly, Sarly, Gody, Lee, Wile
- Three Rivers Area Agency on Aging Butts, Carrol, Cowins, Heard, Larror, Menterthie, Flox, Spoid Total, Toup, Upon



Who Are We Serving? Every 1 in 5





People with disabilities are the largest minority group in America

This group cuts across racial, ethnic, religious, gender and age boundaries

Anyone can become a member of this minority group at any time

Guiding Principle and Public Law



Disability is a natural part of the human experience and in no way diminishes the right of individuals to:

- A. live independently;
- B. enjoy self-determination and make choices;
- C. benefit from an education;
- D. pursue meaningful careers; and
- E. enjoy full inclusion and integration in the economic, political, social, cultural, and educational mainstream of society in the United States.

Why Assistive Technology?



For a person without a disability, assistive technology makes life easier.

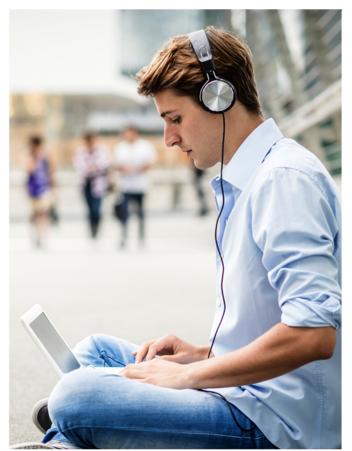
For a person with a disability, assistive technology makes life possible.

Tip: USE AT! We have yet to meet a successful person who doesn't use any AT.











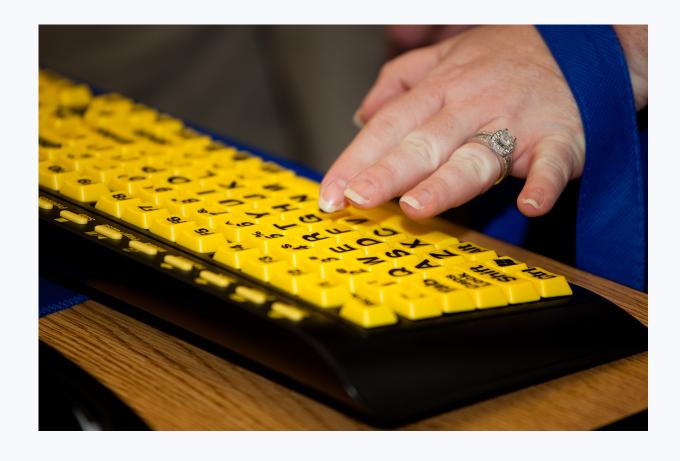
Assistive Technology Services and Strategies



What is Assistive Technology?



Assistive Technology (AT) is any item or piece of equipment that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of life, including at school, at work, at home, and in the community.



Assistive Technology Continuum



Observations and "Hanging out with Intent"

Assistive
Technology is a
continuum of
tools, strategies,
and services that
match a person's
needs, abilities,
and tasks.

Low/No-tech

- pencil grip
- adapted books
- slant board
- highlighters, tape
- magnifiers
- color coding
- read to out loud
- picture schedule
- strategies for memory
- colored transparencies
- proof readers
- note taker
- dry erase board

Mid-Tech

- word prediction
- text to speech
- speech to text
- spell checkers
- talking calculators
- digital recorders
- organizers
- e-books
- adapted keyboard
- adapted mouse
- adapted toys
- CCTV
- apps under \$100

High-Tech

- computer/laptops
- tablets/phablets
- smartphones
- smart pens
- OCR scanner/software
- magnification software
- speech output devices
- switch, joystick access
- scanning access
- voice recognition
- environmental control devices
- apps over \$100

Team Approach



Person with the disability

Circle of support/Family of choice

Teachers

Case Managers

Technologist

Occupational Therapist

Speech-Language Pathologist

Physical Therapist

Engineer

Neighbors

Bus drivers



The "FAST" Track



Frustration

Anxiety

Stress

Tension

AT Assessments



Comprehensive AT assessment

Certified AT team

\$450

Written report and recommendations

Area of focus:

- Workplace
- Ergonomics
- Hardware/Software
- Strategies



AT Demonstrations



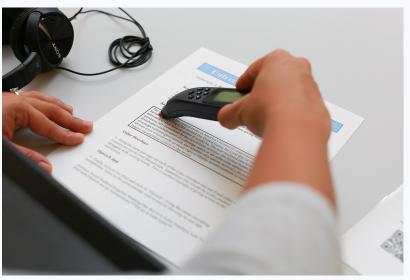
Free of charge!

Learn about devices

What will work best?

- Assist in making informed choices
- Consumer's choice in devices





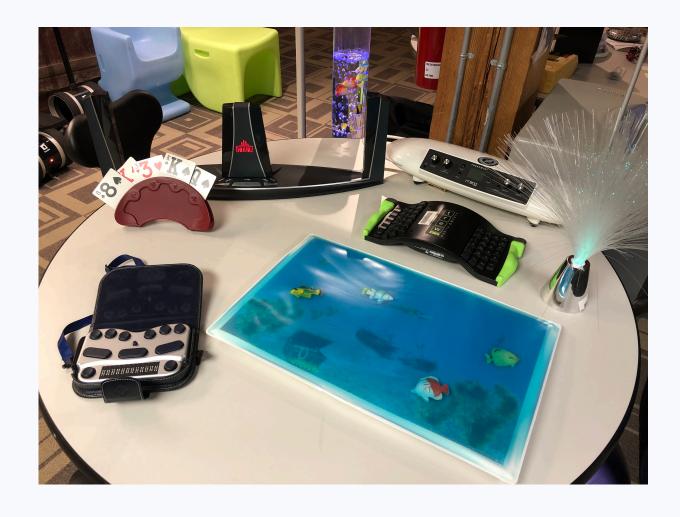
AT Lending Library



Try before you buy!

Loans are usually for 3 to 4 weeks

Training on items before borrowed, if needed



TFL AT Solution and Access Labs



Tablets

Vision items

Durable Medical Equipment (DME)

Communication devices

Gaming solutions

Software

Switches and Keyboards

Aids for daily living

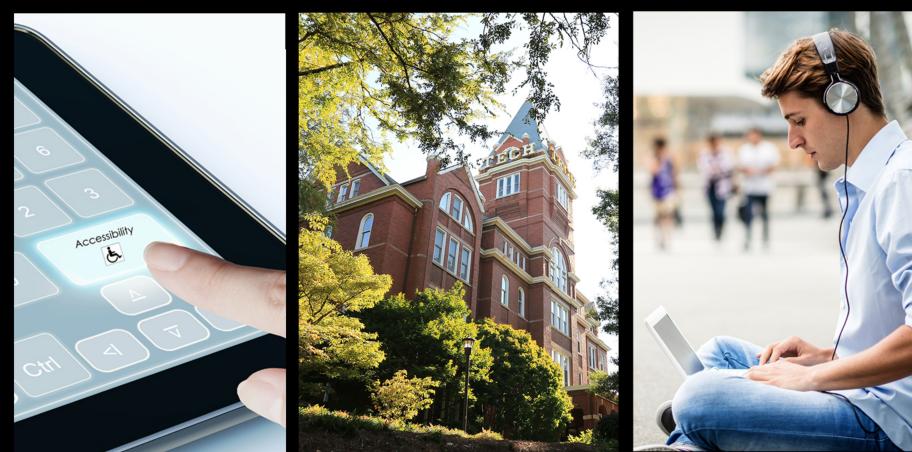
Environmental Control/Internet of Things

3D printed technology













Funding Solutions and Resources



Credit-Able



Georgia's alternative financing program for assistive technology (AT)

Thanks to a partnership between Center for Financial Independence and Innovation (CFII) and Tools for Life



Why Credit-Able?



Flexibility

Personal

More accessible

Build/re-build credit

You save money



Eligibility Criteria



Be a resident of Georgia

AND

A person with a disability

or

A <u>family</u>
<u>member/</u>
<u>guardian</u> of a
person with a
disability

or

An <u>employer</u> of a person with a disability

Able to pay back the loan

AND

Using the loan for AT

First \$TEP Program





For Georgians with disabilities

Small low interest loans to establish or repair credit

Can be used for anything

4% interest

\$1,000 max

Max term of 18 months

Funding Resources

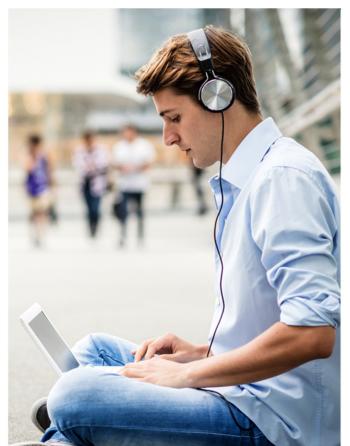
Georgia's Assistive Technology and Funding Guide

- Centers for Independent Living (CIL)
- Aging & Disability Resource Centers (ADRC)
- Area Agencies on Aging (AAA)











Training and Outreach



Info and Assistance



Phone

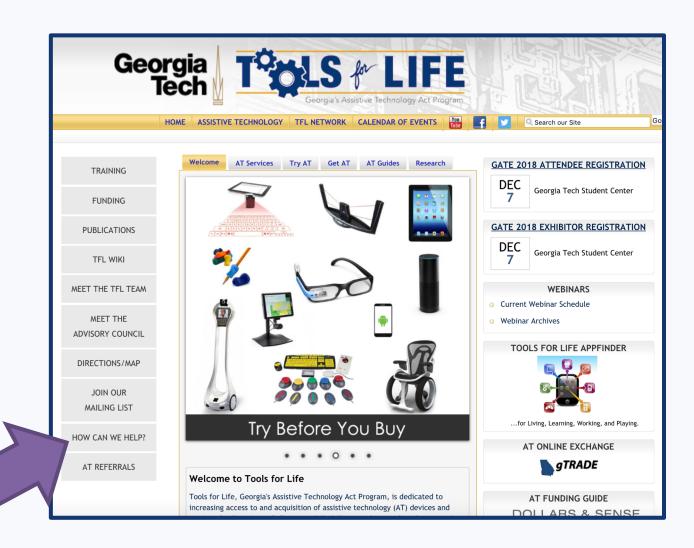
• 404-894-0541

Email

• info@gatfl.gatech.edu

How Can We Help?

- Online form
- Gives us information on what kind of assistance is requested



Outreach Materials

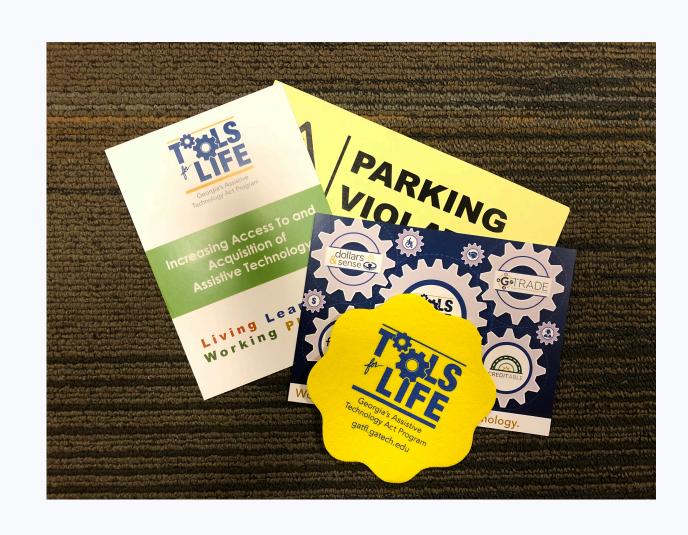


Take-home information

- Services
- Resources
- Contact

Useful swag

- Parking violation
- Jar gripper
- ★We think about accessibility on all levels



Smart and Accessible Design



Simple Accessibility Tips:

Typeface

- Use Sans-Serif
- Letters are clearer

Grid

- Align text and images to a grid
- Reading order is simpler, no jumbled layout

Contrast

- Light on dark, or Dark on light
- Benefit those with low vision, color blindness, or other visual disabilities

Welcome to Tools for Life

Tools for Life, Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program, is dedicated to increasing access to and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) devices and services for Georgians of all ages and disabilities so they can live, learn, work and play independently and with greater freedom in communities of their choice.

Tools for Life and the TFL Network work collaboratively together to accomplish our

mission through: AT Demonstration
AT Evaluations and Assessments
AT Funding Options &

Education

Access to the TFL AT Lending

Libraries

AT & Durable Medical Equipment Reuse

AT Training (Individual)

AT Training (Groups)

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Social Media

TOLS for LIFE

Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program

Relevant news

Emerging AT

Conference and webinar announcements

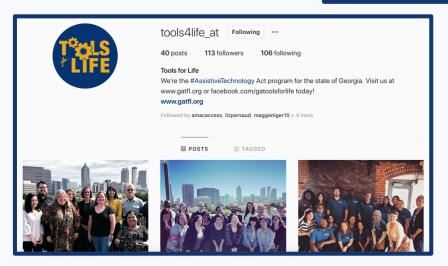
Photos of events and group visits

*Accessibility is important

Alt text now available across all platforms!







Training



Training activities include but are not limited to:

- In person or virtual trainings
- Webinars
- Internal and external partner trainings

Variety of Topics:

- Assistive Technology (specific for disabilities)
- Funding
- Emerging Tech/Trends
- Disability awareness

More!









Tours



All tours are scheduled Small or large (up to 60) groups What you see:

- AT Solutions and Access Labs
- Braille production
- Captioning & Described Media Services
- E-text
- 3D Printing

Variety of groups visiting:

- Disability service organizations
- Government agencies
- FEMA
- Office of Civil Rights
- Statewide assistive technology programs
- School Systems Cobb County Schools in January 2019!







TFL AT Labs on the go!



Tools for Life has hosted 17 AT Labs in Georgia and across the country!

AT Labs provide an on-site experience for event participants

On site, one on one demonstrations of equipment

Provide presentations in the Lab

Learning Disabilities Association of America (LDA)

Coalition On Adult Basic Education (COABE)

Abilities Expo

Institute Designed for Educating All Students (IDEAS)

HCBS







IDEAS and **GATE**



Coordinate vendors in the exhibit hall

Building relationships

Exhibitor registrations

Design exhibit hall floor plan

Design conference signage

Organize sponsorships

Apply for and coordinate continuing education credits (CEUs and CRCs)

Provide trainings/presentations

Organize awards

IDEAS 2019 – June 4-7, 2019!









The Tools for Life Team





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