



Staying Connected with Tools for Life, DAS and the Cares Act

Tools for Life, Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program
Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation

May 2021

Agenda



- Welcome and Introductions
- Tools for Life- Your Assistive Technology Program
- Overview of the DAS Cares Act with Tools for Life
- Review of the DAS Portal
- Questions



Department of Human Services
Division of Aging Services



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 Demonstrations
3. AT Equipment Lending
4. Group Training
5. Funding Education & Solutions
6. AT Reuse

Tools for Life Website





Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program

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TRAINING
FUNDING
PUBLICATIONS
TFL WIKI
MEET THE TFL TEAM
MEET THE ADVISORY COUNCIL
DIRECTIONS/MAP
JOIN OUR MAILING LIST
HOW CAN WE HELP?
AT REFERRALS

WelcomeAT ServicesTry ATGet ATAT GuidesResearch



Discover Your AT Solutions

COVID-19 RESOURCES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

WEBINARS

JUN 9

[Wired Wednesday: AT Bits & Bytes with TFL and WATAP](#)

JUL 14

[Wired Wednesday: AT Bits & Bytes with TFL and WATAP](#)


AUG 11

[Wired Wednesday: AT Bits & Bytes with TFL and WATAP](#)

Current Webinar Schedule

Webinar Archives

TOOLS FOR LIFE APPFINDER

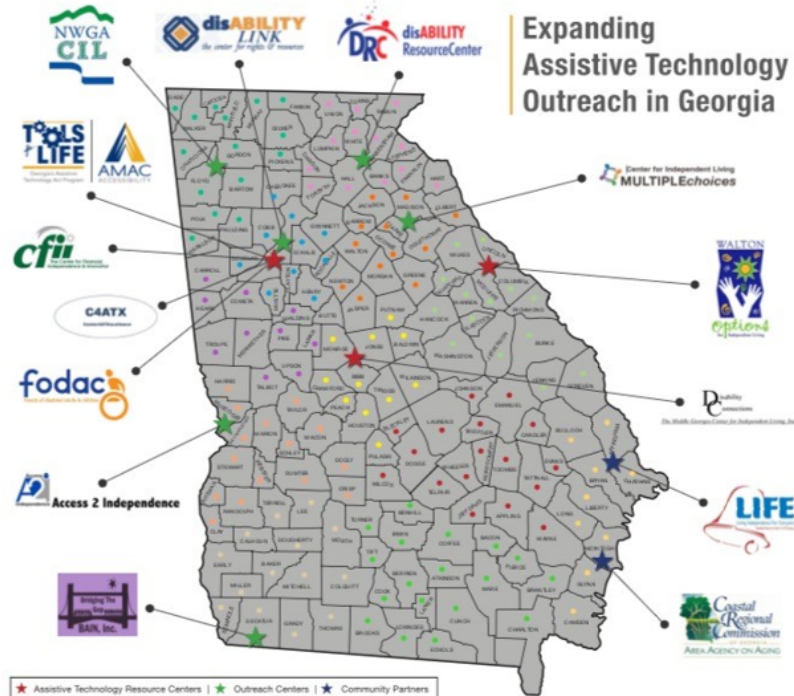


...for Living, Learning, Working, and Playing.

AT ONLINE EXCHANGE

TOOLS for LIFE
Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program

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



GEORGIA'S AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTERS

- [illegible]

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.

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



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





A Few TFL Initiatives

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Search 

GT Home



RERC on Technologies to Support Aging-in-Place for People with Long-Term Disabilities

An interdisciplinary collaboration with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Technologies to Support Aging-in-Place for People with Long-Term Disabilities (RERC TechSAge) is a collaborative grant center based at the Georgia Institute of Technology and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Founded in 2013, TechSAge features multidisciplinary research, development, and training projects that are dedicated to understanding the needs of, and developing supportive technologies for people aging with long-term disabilities.

COVID-19 Accessible Resources



<https://cidi.gatech.edu/covid>



CREATING THE NEXT™

Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation
COLLEGE OF DESIGN

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COVID-19 Accessible Resources



COVID-19 Guidance & Resources

Our goal is to increase access to information about COVID-19. This project was made possible with funding from the CDC Foundation. Resources on this site are adapted and accessible versions of CDC's COVID-19 guidance. For CDC's full guidance, please visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

Resources by Accessibility Type

What is Social Isolation?



Stay Connected: Using AT to Reduce Social Isolation



[Stay Connected: Using AT to Reduce Social Isolation](#)

Social Isolation vs. Loneliness

Social isolation – structural indicator – absence of social connections, interactions, feeling needed by others.

Loneliness- functional indicator – feeling of isolation, not belonging, lacking companionship



SI Exacerbated By COVID-19



- 7 in 10 adults said the pandemic has made it more difficult to connect with family and friends
- 1/3 said this was longest they had gone without interacting outside household or workplace
- 83% of caregivers report a decrease in help and support and often are isolated
- Isolated at home or in community residential settings
- Normal activities have been interrupted
- Family events limited
- Paid and informal caregiver routine have been interrupted by fear of infection

Results of Social Isolation

- As damaging as smoking 15 cigarettes a day
- Worse for health than obesity
- Increase in premature death from all causes
- Higher in those who live alone, men, low education/low income
- 50% less motivated
- 41% more anxious than usual
- 37% depressed
- 36% felt sicker



Caregiver Impact

- 83% report increased loneliness since pandemic
- Often neglect their own health and selfcare
- Report high levels of depression, cardiovascular issues
- Pandemic fears limited outside assistance/connection from other family and friends, outside services





DAS/ TFL Cares Act

Overview of CARES ACT Funding:



- Tools For Life, in partnership with Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) Division of Aging Services (DAS) funded with COVID-19 Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) Rapid Response and the ADRC No Wrong Door (NWD) funding
- **Goal** is to address and improve Social Isolation/Connectedness and Activities of Daily Living for older adults and people with disabilities
- **Assist 39 consumers** with assessing need, procuring and providing setup/training/support of AT
 - At least 3 in each of Georgia's 12 Area Agency on Aging (AAA)
- **Provide assessments to 16 consumers** and identify AT solutions
 - Maximum of 1 in Atlanta area
 - At least 1 from each of the 12 AAA

Contract period- April 5, 2021- September 30, 2021

TFL Objectives:



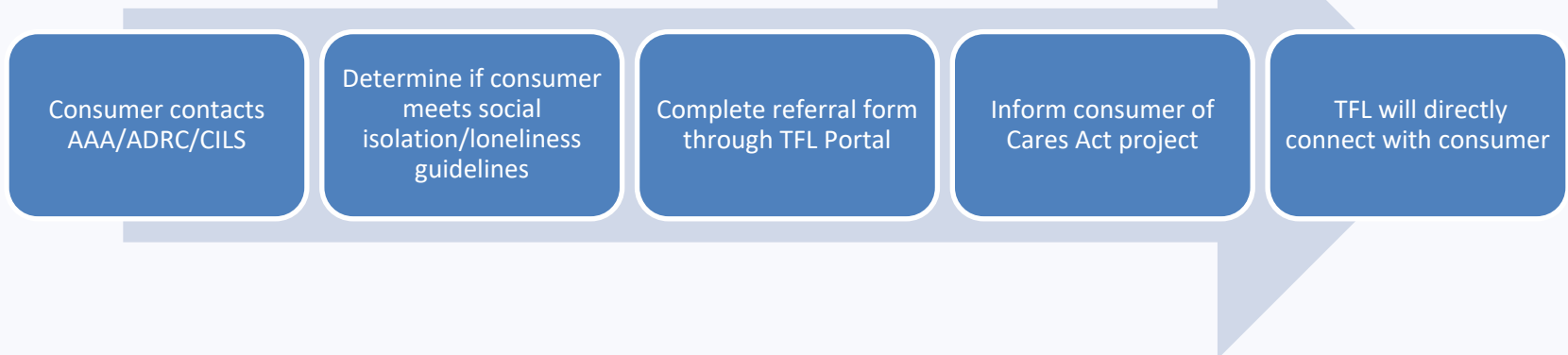
The Pandemic amplified an existing problem of social isolation and loneliness, which has been known to exacerbate health problems and contribute to poor quality of life. With this project, we have the ability to address these concerns and offer options to improve these situation through AT!

TFL will:

- Provide 4 trainings for DAS Staff/Counselors to best equip everyone with knowledge of AT to make referrals to TFL
 - May 20th
 - June 23rd
 - July 22nd
 - August 19th
- Work directly with consumer to determine appropriate AT that will assist in connecting with family, friends and/or community
- Assess AT needs to improve Activities of Daily Living of consumers
- Provide training, setup, and support of AT with consumer

Referrals: Who, what, where, when??

- AAA/ADRC/CILS will determine if a consumer meets the Social Isolation/Loneliness scale guidelines
- Designated staff/counselors will have access to enter referral into the secure TFL portal
- Fill out the referral form to provide the necessary information for TFL to contact consumer
- PLEASE inform and receive permission from consumer/care provider to participate in project
- PLEASE let consumer/care provider know that TFL will be contacting them via telephone
- Referral is now Open! We need 39 (+16 assessment only)= 55 in total **by September 30, 2021**



Who Needs Access to Portal?

- Staff/Counselors who will be putting in the referrals
- Need your names by **May 26th!**
- Please send Names and Email Addresses to:
 - **Martha Rust-** martha.rust@gatfl.gatech.edu
 - **Rachel Wilson-** rachel.wilson@gatfl.gatech.edu



DAS/ Cares Act Portal

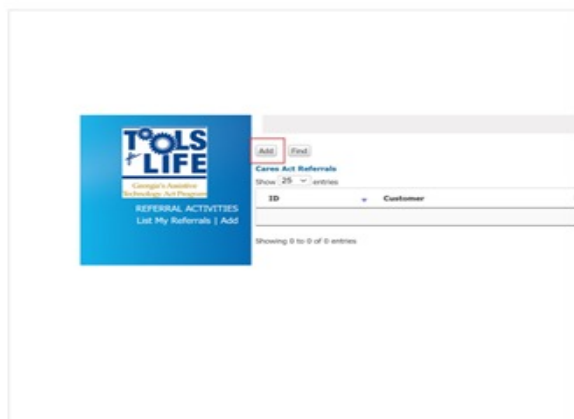


- <https://gatfl.gatech.edu/sri/users/login>

A screenshot of a web browser window showing the login page for 'TFL SRI Users'. The browser's address bar displays the URL 'gatfl.gatech.edu/sri/users/login', which is highlighted with a red rectangular box. On the left side of the page, there is a blue vertical banner containing the 'TOOLS for LIFE' logo and the text 'Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program'. The main content area of the page has a white background. At the top of this area, the text 'Access denied.' is displayed in a bold, dark red font. Below this, the word 'Login' appears in a blue font. There are two input fields: 'Username' with the text 'mrust8' entered, and 'Password' with a series of dots. A 'Login' button is positioned below the password field. At the bottom of the form, there is a link that says 'Forgot your password?'.

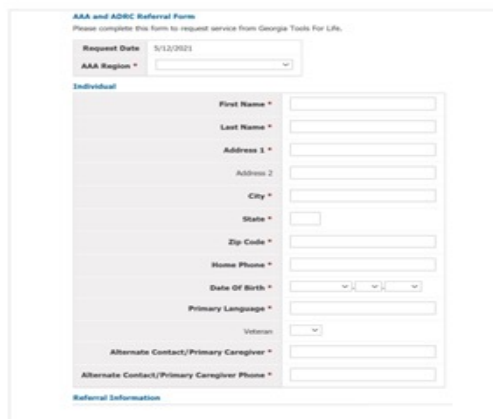
DAS/ Cares Act Portal Directions

DAS/Cares Act Portal



1

Log into Your DAS Portal
<https://gatfl.gatech.edu/sri/users/login>
and Click Add



2

Complete the form. Items with an asterisk must be completed before the form can be submitted



3

After Form is Completed; Click Submit

Live Demo



<https://gatfl.gatech.edu/sri/users/login>

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.



AT can assist with Aging in Place

- ✓ Maintaining Independence
- ✓ Familiar Settings and Routines
- ✓ Healthier and Safer Environment
- ✓ Better Mental Health
- ✓ Cost-Savings Living at Home



How can we Help?



Picture Phones



- Programmable for one touch calling to eliminate the need for remembering numbers
- Program for emergency services
- Apps for Smartphones
 - QuickContact- One Touch Call
 - Cool Photo Speed Dial



Adaptive Clothing

Ease of Dressing

Our VELCRO® Brand fly pants make dressing easier and promote increased independence.

SHOP VELCRO®
FLY PANTS



- Magnetic closures
- Velcro fasteners
- Elastic shoelaces
- Non-slip shoes or socks

Easing the Mind with AT

Ease the mind, anxieties or confusion with:

- Simple Music Player
- Weighted vest or blanket
- Fidgets
- Adult coloring books



AT to Stay Engaged

- Puzzles: 63 piece
- Provides structure
- Age appropriate
- Talking points designed to prompt memories
- Adaptive Gardening



Managing Medications



- Organize medications
 - MedCenter
 - LiveFine Automatic Pill Dispenser
- Dispense
- Send alerts and notifications
- Auto-refill



Robotics and Artificial Intelligence

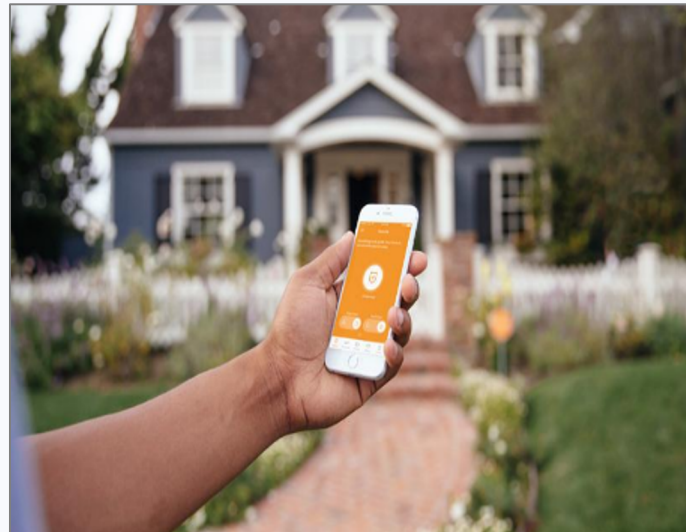
The future is now with Companion Pets and Robots



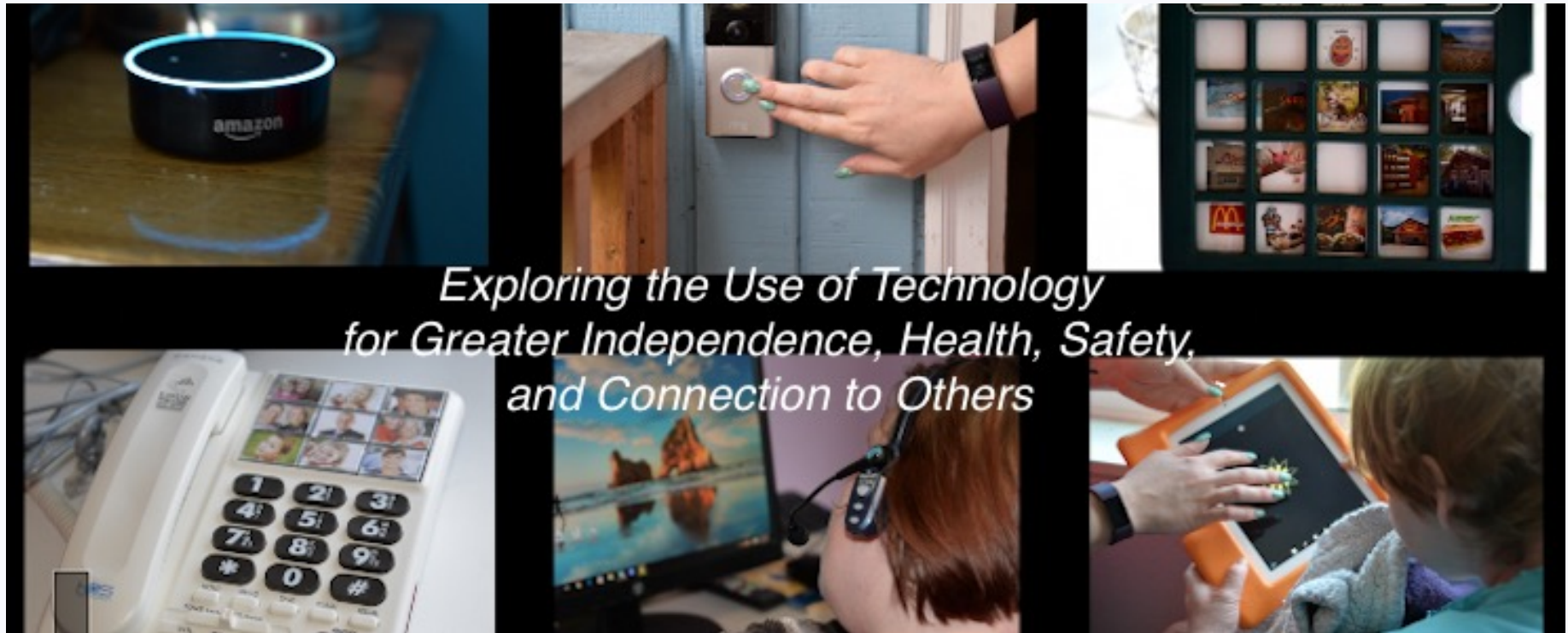
Smart Home Technologies

Smart home is a term that refers to homes that have appliances, lighting and/or electronic devices that can be controlled remotely by the owner, often via a mobile app.

- Convenience
- Access
- Independence
- Safety
- Health
- Care provider access



AT to Make Life Possible!



Questions?

We hope you learned
something new today!
What questions do you
have for us?



Friendly Reminder!!!

Please send us Names and Emails of the person(s) who will enter referrals into portal to:

Martha Rust- Martha.rust@gatfl.gatech.edu

Rachel Wilson- Rachel.wilson@gatfl.gatech.edu



Resources

- Companion Pets - <https://www.alzstore.com/alzheimers-companion-pet-therapy>
- AT for engagement - <https://www.active-minds.org/uk/>
- Clarity Picture Phone: <https://clarity.factoryoutletstore.com>
- Hero: <https://herohealth.com/>
- LiveFine: <https://www.livefineproducts.com>
- MedCenter: <https://www.medcentersystems.com>
- Birdsong: <https://birdsonglife.com/>
- GrandPad: <https://www.grandpad.net/>
- Amazon Show: <https://www.amazon.com/echo-show-10>

The Tools for Life Team



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Disclaimer: Produced by Tools for Life (TFL), which is a result of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended in 2004. TFL is a program of the Georgia Institute of Technology, College of Design, Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation (formerly AMAC Accessibility) and was made possible by Grant Number H224C030009 from the Administration for Community Living. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HHS.