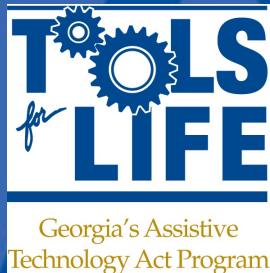


Policy to Practice: Assistive Technology Legislation & Funding

Carolyn Phillips, Danny Housley and Tori Holder
Tools for Life | AMAC | Georgia Tech
August 30, 2017



www.gatfl.gatech.edu



AMAC Accessibility



AMAC Accessibility is a social change organization on a mission to create affordable services for governmental, private and non-profits organization working with individuals with disabilities. Services include e-text, braille, captioning, assistive technology, office management software and consulting.



Why Assistive Technology?

- For a person without a disability, technology makes things easier....
- For a person with a disability, technology makes things possible.





Administration for Community Living
Center for Integrated Programs
Office of Consumer Access and Self-Determination
Assistive Technology Act Program



Assistive Technology Act Program

What is the mission of the program?	The mission of the AT Program is to serve people with all types of disabilities, of all ages, in all environments, and provide a wide array of activities to meet AT needs.
What is the legislative authority for the program?	Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as Amended (Public Law 108-364)
What are the goals for the program?	The goal of the AT Act Program is to increase access to and acquisition of AT through state-level and state leadership activities.

Assistive Technology Act Program

Who are the grantees and is it mandated to go to certain entities?	56 State Lead Agencies designated by the Governor.
How do we perform oversight on the grantees?	ACL monitors the program through the review of state plans, annual financial reports and annual performance reports.
How do we assist the grantees?	ACL assists grantees by managing the development of state plans, submission of annual programmatic and financial data, and the provision of technical assistance and training to the state AT programs.

Assistive Technology Act Program

Describe “success” for this program.	Success for Assistive Technology Act state programs means that individuals with disabilities, including those who are aging, are able to access and acquire assistive technology devices and services to maintain or improve their independence in their communities, obtain or retain employment, or benefit from education (K-12 as well as post-secondary).
What performance measures do you use? GPRAMA Measures? Other Metrics?	<u>Return on Investment</u> : 56 State AT Act programs return close to \$65 million in savings and benefits with a \$26.5 federal investment in State AT programs. <u>Leverage funding to provide services</u> : \$16,945,835 is leveraged from federal, State, local and private sources by state AT programs to maximize critically needed AT services. Over 750,000 individuals received direct services from their State AT programs in FY 2016.

Welcome

Welcome to the new Assistive Technology Act Technical Assistance and Training (AT3) Center web site. Please be patient as we build and grow this website to support quality implementation of the Assistive Technology Act. The AT3 Center is responsible for providing training and technical assistance for all AT Act Section 4 grantees, known as State AT Programs, including supporting all authorized state level and state leadership activities. A separate technical assistance provider, the National Disability Rights Network, is responsible for providing training and technical assistance for the AT Act Section 5 grantees as part of their overall technical assistance to Protection and Advocacy agencies. The AT3 Center will also establish and curate a national public AT internet resource portal to make general AT information available to the public and other stakeholders.

The AT3 Center is a sponsored project of the Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP) operated under a five year grant (2016 – 2021) from the Administration for Community Living [ACL](#), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

AT3 News

For initial communication and information dissemination, the AT3 Center has established the About AT listserv for all interested individuals. Please click on the following link to request to be added to this listserv - [About AT listserv](#)

Additional Community of Practice (CoP) groups with associated listservs will be established in the near future to

Current Legislation

Examples: hr5, sres9, "health care"



Home > Legislation > 115th Congress > H.R.2465

Print Subscribe Share/Save Give Feedback

H.R.2465 - Steve Gleason Enduring Voices Act of 2017

115th Congress (2017-2018) | [Get alerts](#)

BILL Hide Overview

Sponsor: [Rep. McMorris Rodgers, Cathy \[R-WA-5\]](#) (Introduced 05/16/2017)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means

Latest Action: 05/19/2017 Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. ([All Actions](#))

Tracker:

Introduced Passed House Passed Senate To President Became Law

More on This Bill

[Constitutional Authority Statement](#)

[CBO Cost Estimates \[0\]](#)

Subject — Policy Area:

Health

[View subjects »](#)

Summary (1)

Text (1)

Actions (5)

Titles (2)

Amendments (0)

Cosponsors (78)

Committees (2)

Related Bills (1)

Cosponsors: H.R.2465 — 115th Congress (2017-2018)

[All Information](#) (Except Text)

Sponsor: [Rep. McMorris Rodgers, Cathy \[R-WA-5\]](#) | Cosponsor statistics: 78 current - includes 11 original

Hide Filters



* = Original cosponsor

Sort by First to Last



Cosponsor

Date Cosponsored

Tools for Life Mission



We're here to help Georgians with disabilities gain access to and acquisition of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services so they can live, learn, work, and play independently in the communities of their choice.




[TRAINING](#)
[FUNDING](#)
[PUBLICATIONS](#)
[TFL WIKI](#)
[MEET THE TFL TEAM](#)
[MEET THE
ADVISORY COUNCIL](#)
[DIRECTIONS/MAP](#)
[JOIN OUR
MAILING LIST](#)
[SCHEDULE A TOUR](#)
[Welcome](#)
[AT Services](#)
[Try AT](#)
[Get AT](#)
[AT Guides](#)
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CUSTOMIZED AT TRAINING
for Individuals or Groups



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

2015 IDEAS CONFERENCE

**JUN
1**

Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island

2015 GATE SEMINAR

**DEC
4**

Georgia Tech Student Center

WEBINARS

- Current Webinar Schedule
- Webinar Archives

TOOLS FOR LIFE APPFINDER



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

AT ONLINE EXCHANGE



AT FUNDING GUIDE

DOLLARS & SENSE
NAVIGATING THE AT FUNDING STREAM

TFL's Solution Website



The screenshot displays the Georgia Tech Tools for Life website. The header features the Georgia Tech logo and the 'TOOLS for LIFE' logo, with the tagline 'Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program'. A navigation bar includes links for HOME, ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY, TFL NETWORK, and CALENDAR OF EVENTS, along with social media icons and a search bar. A left sidebar lists various resources: TRAINING, FUNDING, PUBLICATIONS, TFL WIKI, MEET THE TFL TEAM, MEET THE ADVISORY COUNCIL, DIRECTIONS/MAP, JOIN OUR MAILING LIST, and SCHEDULE A TOUR. The main content area has a 'Welcome' tab and a large banner for 'Learn More about AT through Hands-On Demonstrations'. Below the banner is a 'Welcome to Tools for Life' section. To the right, there are sections for 'IDEAS CONFERENCE' (JUN 2), 'WEBINARS' (MAY 28, JUN 25, JUL 30), 'TOOLS FOR LIFE APPFINDER', and 'AT ONLINE EXCHANGE' featuring the gTRADE logo. A green arrow points from the banner to the appfinder section.

Georgia Tech **TOOLS for LIFE**
Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program

HOME ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TFL NETWORK CALENDAR OF EVENTS   Search our Site Go

TRAINING
FUNDING
PUBLICATIONS
TFL WIKI
MEET THE TFL TEAM
MEET THE ADVISORY COUNCIL
DIRECTIONS/MAP
JOIN OUR MAILING LIST
SCHEDULE A TOUR

Welcome AT Services Try AT Get AT AT Guides Research

Learn More about AT through Hands-On Demonstrations

Welcome to Tools for Life

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

IDEAS CONFERENCE

JUN 2 Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island

WEBINARS

MAY 28 [Georgia's Leadership Model for Increasing Accessible ICT in State Government](#)

JUN 25 [Learn More and Do More: Exploring Accessibility and Apps for Android](#)

JUL 30 [Position for Work: A Closer Look at Workplace Accommodations & Assessments](#)

Current Webinar Schedule
Webinar Archives

TOOLS FOR LIFE APPFINDER


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

AT ONLINE EXCHANGE



Join us for Webinars and Visit our Archives!



Tools for Life Online Professional Development

- Tools for Life offers online professional development to help you learn more about assistive technology strategies and solutions as well as the most recent information on AT devices and disability related issues and trends.
- Webinar content and materials are developed and presented by one of the Tools for Life team members along with other regional and national leaders in the assistive technology community.
- To join the TFL mailing list to receive our email announcements, visit www.gatfl.gatech.edu



TFL AT Demo Lab



- Tablets
- Vision & Hearing
- DME
- Communication
- Games
- Software
- Switches
- Keyboards
- More!





Georgia's Assistive
Technology Act Program



C4ATX

Center4ATExcellence

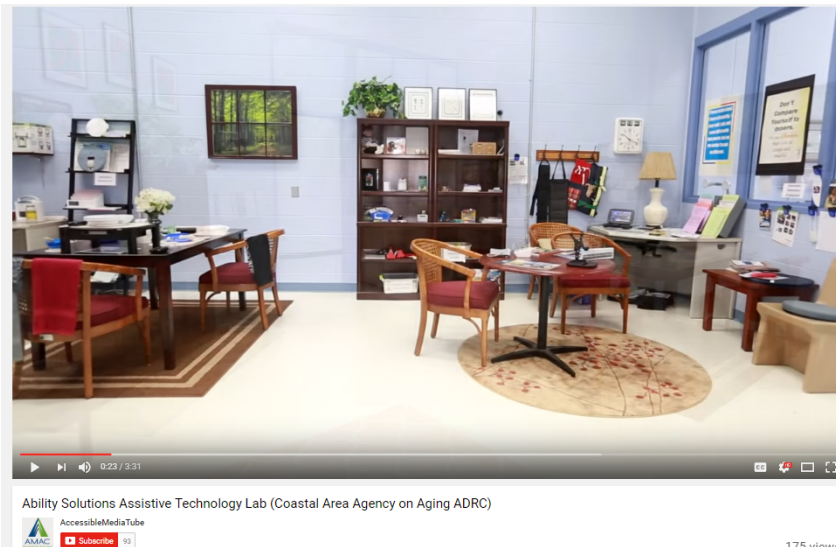


The Middle Georgia Center for Independent Living, Inc.



AT and DAS – Expanding AT Access

- **Lead to AT Tool Kits in all AAA /ADRCs**
 - AT from all areas to support people with disabilities and the natural aging process
- **AT Solution Lab at MFP and Aging-related Conferences**
- **AT Solution Lab at the Coastal Area Agency on Aging Georgia**
 - Coastal AAA/ADRC Won the *2016 AIRS Distinguished Service Award* for their work with the AT Lab.
 - Presented at the Awards Luncheon at the 2016 AIRS Conference in St. Louis.
 - AIRS is the premier professional membership association for community I&A with over 5000+ national and international members





Design, Technology & Aging

From Problem to Product

Brian D. Jones

Director, Aware Home

Senior Research Engineer, Interactive
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TechSage, Wireless RERC

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TechSAge

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Technologies to Support Successful Aging with Disability

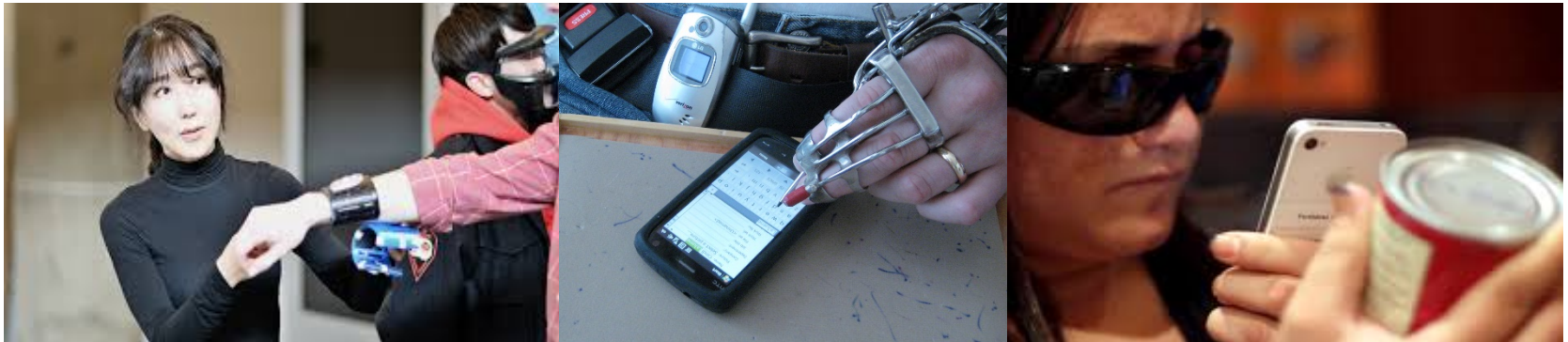
TechSAge research is funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR grant number 90RE5016-01-00). NIDILRR is a Center within the Administration for Community Living (ACL), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).



Our Mission

Promote a transformative future where individuals with disabilities achieve independence, improved quality of life, and enhanced community participation.

User-Centered R&D • Accessible Solutions • Policy & Outreach



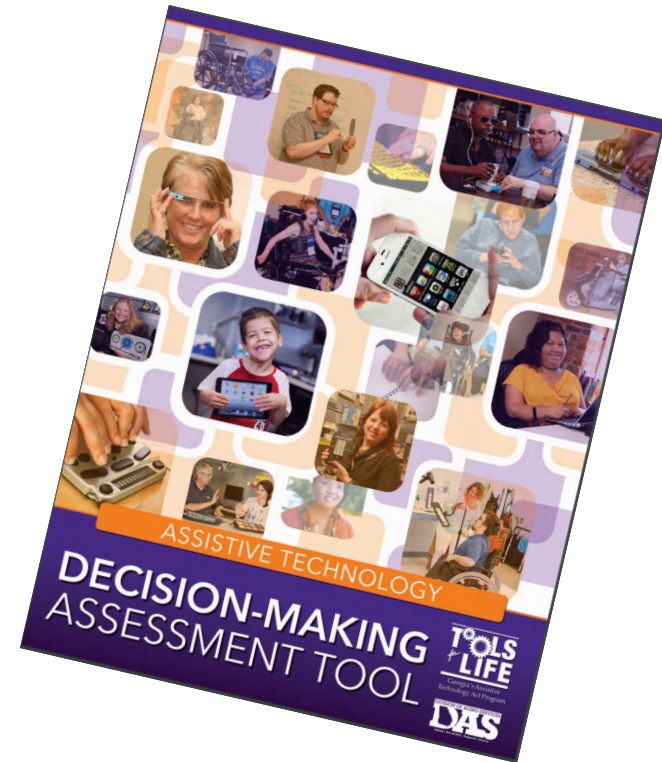
In the Shadows - Mainstream



- Tim Cook, Apple Chief Executive
- 2013 speech at Auburn University
- ...people with disabilities are "in a struggle to have their human dignity acknowledged."
- "They're frequently left in the shadows of technological advancements that are a source of empowerment and attainment for others."

Development of National AT Decision Tool/Algorithms

- **Real-time Tool to Share What Works**
 - Learning from each other
 - AT solutions, strategies, resources
 - When to call in a professional
- **Smart-Sourcing Approach**
- **Hosted 2 Workshops – Georgia**
- **Hosted National Workshop at ATIA in 2017**
- **Growing into Specific areas – Dementia, Mental Health, etc.**



AT Acquisition!

- Tools for Life endeavors to break down the barriers which prevent individuals with disabilities, their families, and service providers from acquiring and effectively using Assistive Technologies to gain greater independence.
- To insure that AT products are available to Georgians with disabilities
- Eliminate Funding Barriers





Your National Pass It On Center (PIOC)

- Assistive Technology (AT) Reuse continues to grow as a national priority. Over 220 AT Reuse programs have been established to assist people with disabilities, their families, and circles of support to exchange or refurbish AT that they no longer use. Other individuals that lack insurance or don't qualify for traditional funding solutions are seeking affordable, used assistive technology, including durable medical equipment, to meet their needs. Pass It On Center is working with an established network of AT Reuse Programs to discover promising practices, define indicators of quality and promote safe and effective reuse of equipment.

Was born of ‘the perfect storm’

- **Reauthorization of the Assistive Technology Act**
- **New Freedom Initiative**
- **Interest from OSERS’ leadership**
- **Hurricane Katrina**





- We are developing an emergency response system based on an existing network of Assistive Technology (AT) Centers across the United States.

Goal of Reuse Initiative



To increase the availability of assistive technology (AT) through promoting and supporting the appropriate, effective reuse of AT devices at the state and local level.

What Is 'Appropriate' Reuse?



- **Appropriate reuse:**
 - Is safe for consumers and reusers
 - Results in positive outcomes for consumers
 - Is environmentally friendly

What Is 'Effective' Reuse?



- **Effective reuse:**

- Meets the needs of consumers
- Produces cost savings
- Is sustainable
- Has a positive or neutral effect on the AT field

RESPONDING TO REIMBURSEMENT CUTS

Presented by
Jeffrey S. Baird, Esq.
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INTRODUCTION

- The DME industry, as we know it today, has been around for about 40 years. It is a young industry.
- For the first 30 years of its existence, there was little government oversight on the DME industry.
- This has changed. Over the last 10 years, it feels like the government is making up for lost time.

INTRODUCTION

- Let's look at competitive bidding.
- On 7/1/16, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) July Fee Schedule went into effect.
- The rates encompass the expansion of competitive bid rates to non-CBAs.

INTRODUCTION

- The cuts range between 45% to 59% on common respiratory products, but reach 82% on TENS units and Enteral IV Poles.
- Said another way, the rates are ugly.

INTRODUCTION

- Competitive bidding (“CB”) has created a two-tier system.
- Those on the lower end of the socio-economic scale likely have no choice but to accept whatever it is that Medicare pays for.
- Those on the higher end of the socio-economic scale will be inclined to pay cash for “higher end” products (Cadillac vs. Cavalier.)

INTRODUCTION

- Some DME suppliers will implement “economies of scale” that will allow the suppliers to succeed in the Medicare fee-for-service (“FFS”) arena.
- However, these suppliers will be the exception. Most DME suppliers can no longer build their business model on Medicare FFS.
- The successful supplier needs to go outside its comfort zone and look for new sources of business.
- Said another way, the supplier needs to lessen its dependence on Medicare FFS.

INTRODUCTION

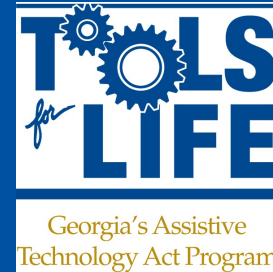
- There are 78 million “Baby Boomers.”
- They are retiring at the rate of 10,000 per day. While the 23 million of the “Greatest Generation” expected Medicare to pay for everything, Boomers understand that they will be required to pay out-of-pocket for a portion of their health care expenses...including DME.
- From a Boomer’s standpoint, the most important asset s/he has is time.

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION RULE

- The Age Discrimination Act of 1975 generally prohibits age discrimination under any program receiving federal financial assistance.
- CMS has a specific anti-discrimination rule that states that CMS can terminate a DME supplier's PTAN for a number of reasons, including if the supplier "places restrictions on the persons it will accept for treatment and it fails either to exempt Medicare beneficiaries from those restrictions or to apply them to Medicare beneficiaries the same as to all other persons seeking care." 42 C.F.R. 489.53.

Finding the Fun(ding)!

or,
“How to get that thing!”



Danny Housley
*AT Funding and Resource
Specialist, Tools for Life*



Pass It On
C E N T E R

... the National AT Reuse Center



Questions?



Georgia's Assistive
Technology Act Program

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