



Tools for Life: Your Assistive Technology Act Program

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Tools for Life

Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation | College of Design

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Your Presenters Today



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Agenda



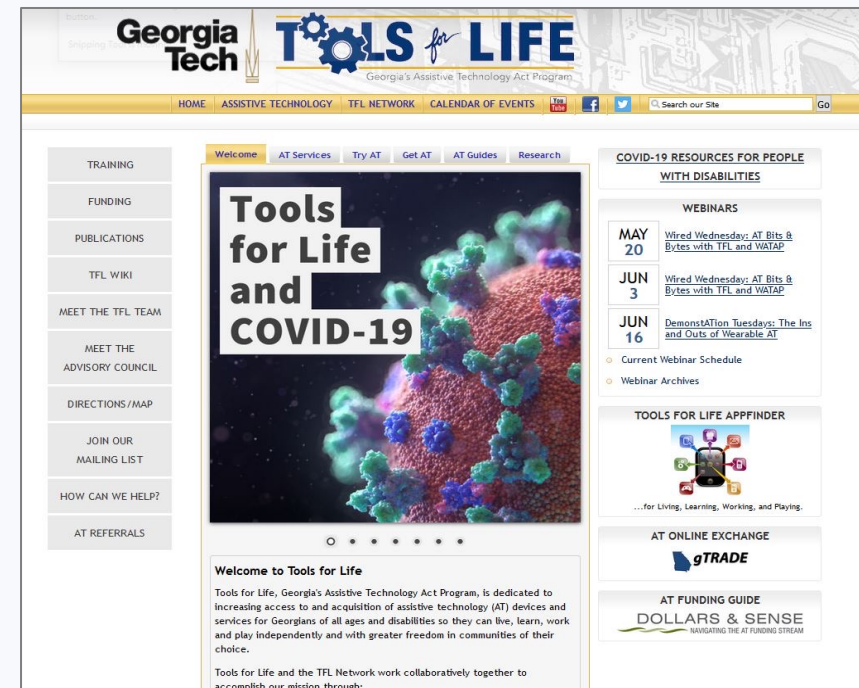
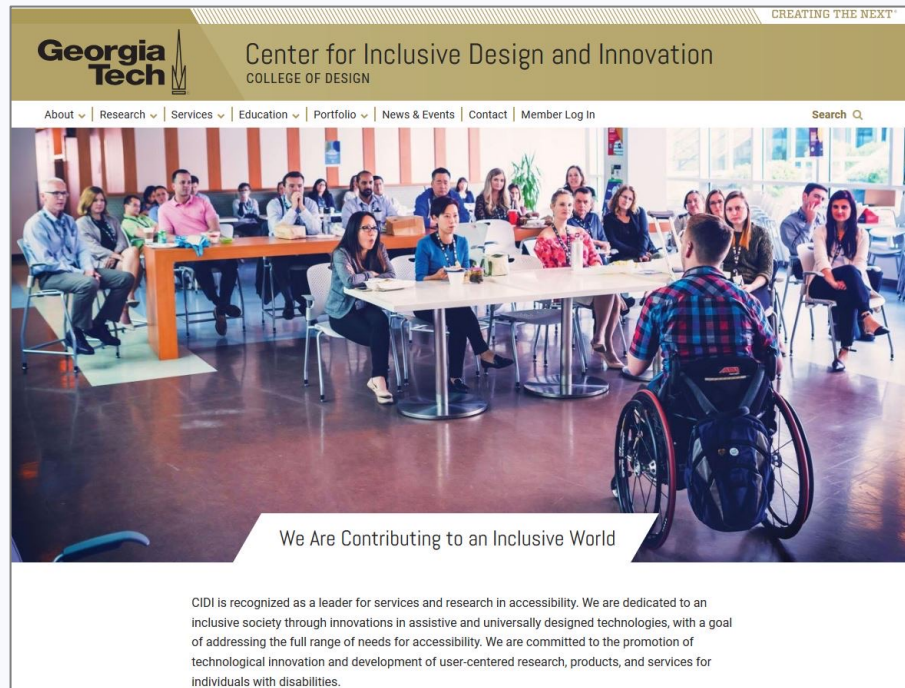
- ✓ Introduction to the Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation and Tools for Life
- ✓ Guiding Principles
- ✓ Assistive Technology Strategies, Solutions, and Resources
- ✓ Q&A

Georgia Tech: CIDI and TFL



The Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation (CIDI) focuses on services and research in the world of accessibility. Research initiatives focus on accessible education, accessibility in the workplace, assistive technology, technology and aging, and much more. Services include Braille production, captioning and described media, digital accessibility, E-text, and assistive technology services (TFL).

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



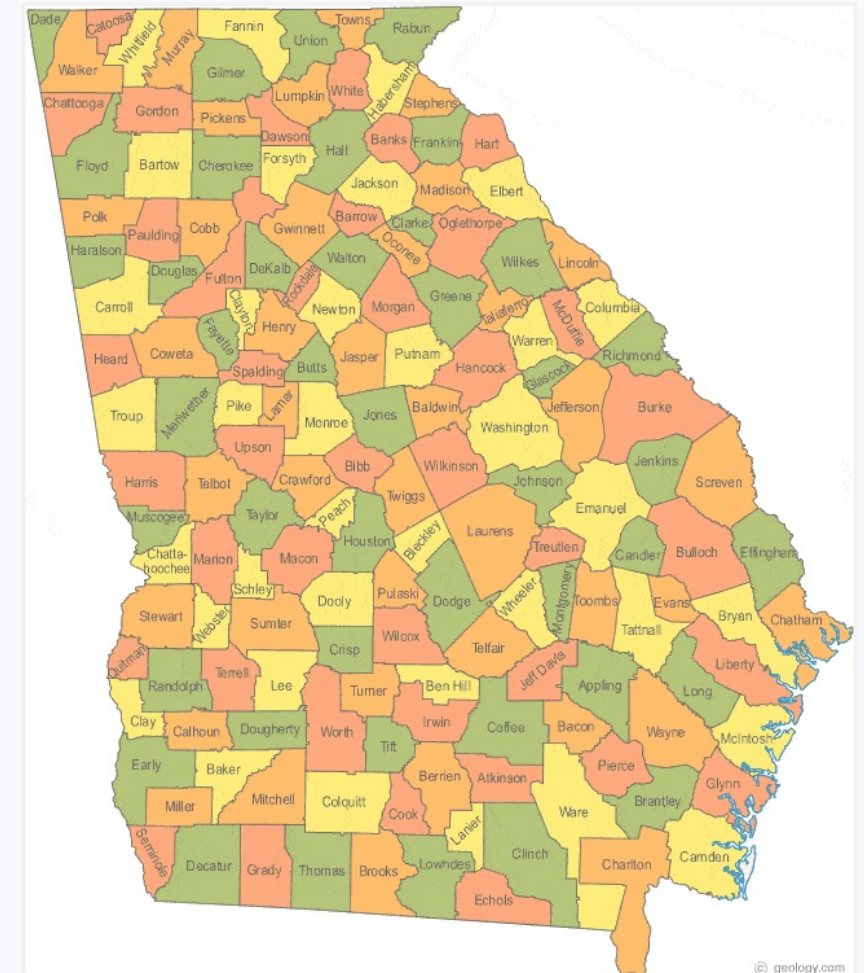
Accessibility Made Smart at CIDI



- [Braille Services](#) – produces customized projects as both print materials and electronic text with cutting-edge technology, including partial book and chapters or graphics
- [Captioning and Described Media](#) – makes classrooms, meetings, labs, and other audio environment fully accessible those who are deaf and hard-of-hearing, and provides audio descriptions of videos and other visual media for those who are blind or low-vision
- [E-Text Production](#) – provides high-quality e-text in many formats, such as PDF, DOC, DAISY, and HTML
- [Digital Accessibility Consulting](#) – focuses on organizational accessibility needs with evaluation, technical assistance, customer support, and website accessibility solutions
- [Certified Assistive Technology](#) – provides assessments and demonstrations, trainings, and technical assistance for education, work, and daily living environments

Tools for Life Network

- Assistive Technology Resource Centers
- Outreach Centers
- Centers for Independent Living
- Aging and Disability Resource Centers



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



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.

Public Law 108-364



Assistive Technology Strategies, Solutions, and Resources

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.



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.



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



AT Demos and Lending Library



AT demos

- Free of charge!
- Learn about different devices
- What will work best?
 - Consumer's choice
 - Assist in making informed choices



AT lending library

- Try before you buy!
- Loans are usually 3 to 4 weeks
- Training on items before borrowed, if needed



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

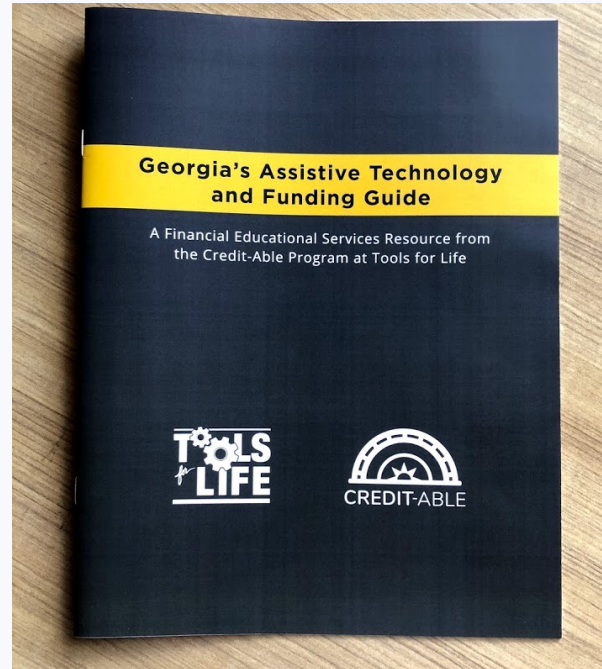
High-Tech

- 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

Funding Resources



- Georgia's Assistive Technology and Funding Guide
- gTRADE and EdTRADE
 - Direct exchange between users
- Dollars & Sense
 - Online resource for developing a funding strategy



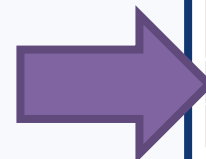


Training and Outreach

Information, Assistance, and Training



- 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
 - Demos
 - Funding resources
 - Trainings

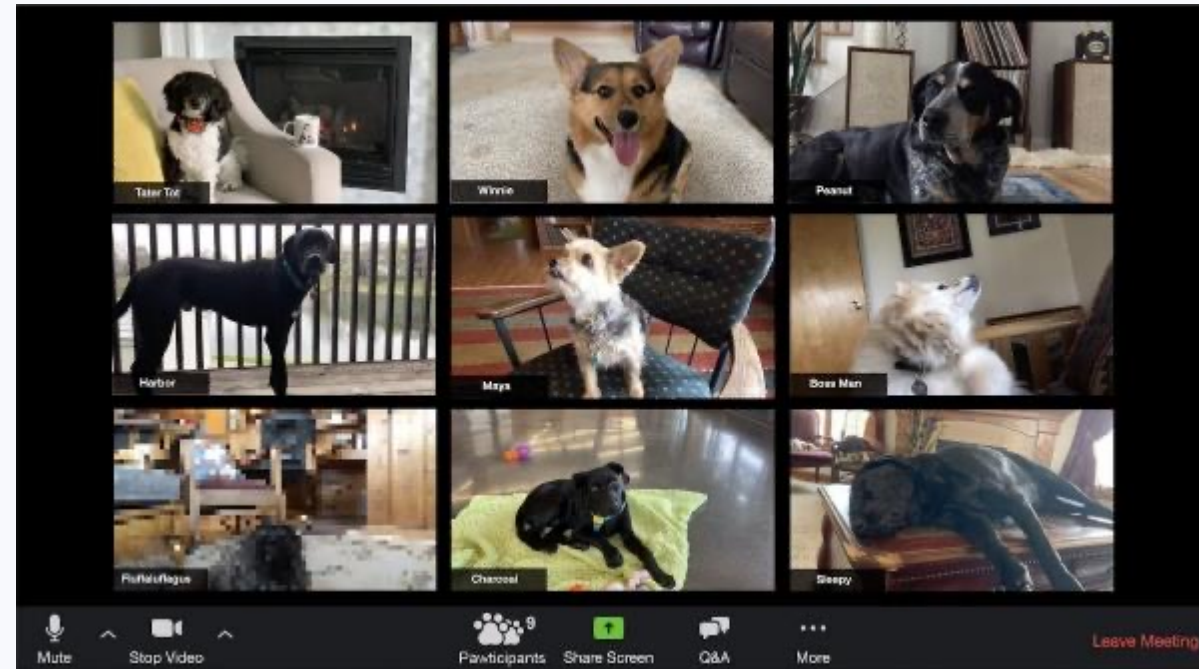


We're Always Online

We have been actively working on translation of in person trainings, tours and conferences to virtual.

The benefit that we always offer some online component for each of our trainings. Accessibility!

- Tours of the AT, Access, and AAC Labs
- Conferences with breakout sessions
- Virtual exhibit hall



Assistive Technology strategies and solutions can help support individuals with a variety of disabilities in the workplace. AT helps to bridge the gap and provide solutions to problems with:

- ✓ speaking
- ✓ hearing
- ✓ seeing
- ✓ moving around
- ✓ getting places
- ✓ memory
- ✓ cognition (thought processes and understanding)
- ✓ daily living activities, such as dressing and preparing meals
- ✓ socializing

Questions?



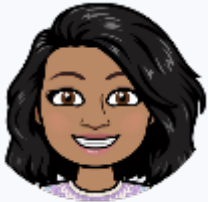
The Tools for Life Team



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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.