Welcome to the Tools for Life Town Hall Meeting 2006
Technology for People with disAbilities

Georgia Assistive Technology Project, Tools for Life
Department of Labor/Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Program/Assistive Technology Unit
1-800-497-8665

www.gatfl.org
info@gatfl.org
Agenda

11:00 Welcome & Introductions – Carolyn
11:05 Tools for Life – a Brief History – Joy
11:15 Exploring the AT Act of 2004 and the GA AT State Plan
11:30 AT Direct Service Activities – Liz P
  ● Tech-Able & ReBoot-ATRC – Joe Tedesco & Joanne Willis
  ● Your Assistive Technology Resource Center
  ● ReBoot – Computer and AT Reutilization Program – Joanne Willis
  ● Credit-Able – Jackie Wilks-Weathers
  ● AT Co-OP - Carolyn
  ● Dollars & Sense – Liz
  ● G-Trade – Liz
12:05 AT State Leadership Activities – Carolyn & Liz
  ● Touch the Future and Transition 2006 Conference and Expo
  ● Public Awareness Activities – Liz Persaud
  ● Partnerships and Collaborations

12:20 We Need YOUR Input! (Facilitated Small Groups) - 1:00
  Report Back from Small Groups – 1 Representative - Tom
1:45 Wrap-up –
12:50 Lunch and Learn
  ● Education and Action - ATRC & ReBoot Consortium
Why Are We Here Today?

- To Discuss Tools for Life and to:
  - Educate folks about Assistive Technology
  - Educate You and Your Community about how to get Assistive Technology

- AND – Get YOUR Ideas about how to do these 2 things more effectively.
Defining Assistive Technology

- Assistive technology – “Any item, piece of equipment, product system, whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.”

- Assistive technology service – “Any service that directly assists an individual with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device.”

Public Law 108-364
Georgia’s AT Act Program

Why Assistive Technology?

- For a person without a disability, technology makes things easier.
- For a person with a disability, technology makes things possible.
9 Meetings throughout Georgia
January – July 2006
Georgia’s AT Act Program

Guiding Principles

- We – Collectively – are Brilliant & Can find an Innovative Path and Create Brighter Futures

- We must Think, Live and Act from a place of Abundance – We Have enough time, money, resources…

- We Must Focus on Abilities!

- YOU have the Power to make the Difference!
  - Change vs. Progress (Bob Phillips)
Georgia’s AT Act Program

1988 Tech-Act and Georgia’s 1991 Program

- Congressional Findings:
  - Power of AT to change lives – but many barriers!
  - Programs needed at state level to address barriers – all ages, all income levels, all agencies

- Georgia’s 1991 Program:
  - 7 Assistive Tech Resource Centers
  - Information & Referral: funding and resources for AT
  - Public Awareness and Outreach Initiatives
Defining Program Priorities - Consumers!!!

- Advisory Group of consumers and agencies began working on the program in early 1989
- 7 public forums in 1990 – Initial priorities
- Other public forums identified new priorities:
  - Affordable access to computers ⇒ ReBoot
  - Affordable ways to finance AT ⇒ Credit-Able
  - Want ads for AT ⇒ G-Trade, On-Line Exchange
Georgia’s AT Act Program

Significant Accomplishments – Defined by User Satisfaction Data

- Helping consumers acquire appropriate AT
  - Dollars $$$ And Sense – 1992 and beyond
  - AT lending libraries
  - Working with agencies that pay for AT
  - ReBoot Computer Recycling Program
  - Credit-Able Loan Guarantee Services

*Every TFL customer told 3 or more people about TFL!*
Significant Accomplishments

- Changes in policies, laws, funding infrastructures to increase access to AT devices and AT services
  - Medicaid coverage of AAC Devices
  - Establishment of ATRC/Reboot Consortium for AT & State Funding
  - Impacts on AWT, DOL and other agencies
AT Training Impacts

- Touch the Future Conference & Expo
  - 1986 – First TTF Conference – 200 people!
  - 11 Touch the Future Conference & Expos
- Transition Conference 2003 & 2005
- Workforce Development Conference 2006

- All Training – TF, One-to-One & Group
  - AT Awareness, Knowledge, Skills and GOALS!
Where We Are Going…

Tools for Life: A Closer Look at the AT Act 2004 and Georgia’s State Plan for Assistive Technology

www.gatfl.org
Guiding Principles of AT Act

- Over 54,000,000 individuals in the United States have disabilities that affect their ability to:
  - see,
  - hear,
  - communicate,
  - reason,
  - walk, or
  - perform other basic life functions.

Public Law 108-364
Guiding Principles of AT Act

- 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
Over the last 15 years, the Federal Government has invested in the development of comprehensive statewide programs of technology-related assistance, which have proven effective in assisting individuals with disabilities in accessing assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.

Public Law 108-364
Georgia’s AT Act Program

♦ Georgia’s Three-Year Plan for AT

Designed to Increase Access to AT & Acquisition of AT

Georgia’s AT Solution Site: www.gatfl.org
Georgia’s AT Act Program

♦ Georgia’s Three-Year Plan for AT

Focused on: Education, Employment, Community Living and IT/Telecommunications

Georgia’s AT Solution Site: www.gatfl.org
Georgia’s AT Act Program

♦ Georgia’s Three-Year Plan for AT has:

♦ Two Distinct Activities to Accomplish Plan

♦ Direct AT Service Activities

♦ State Leadership AT Activities

Georgia’s AT Solution Site: www.gatfl.org
Georgia’s AT Act Program

Direct AT Service Activities:
- AT Loan Library
- AT Evaluations & Training
- AT Demos – Promote Choice
- Resource and Referral

We Need YOUR Ideas!

Georgia’s AT Solution Site: www.gatfl.org
Your Local ATRCs

& You!
Your Local ATRC

Let’s Get Started!

Initial Interview → Consumer

Information & Referral → Demonstrations → Loan Library

Assessments & Training
Your Local ATRC

Lifelong Learning Lab

Computer stations with AT hardware, ergonomic and software solutions. Teaching computer skills with AT, collaborating with Post Secondary Education and other agencies.

New AT Equipment & Software

AT products sold in GA at a cost savings! Assist with finding both the device and the best price.

Refurbished Equipment

ADL adaptive devices, AT electronic equipment, such as Hand Held Computers, CCTV’s, switches and Computers.

Staff Specialties

ATP, Occupational Therapist, JAWS Trainer, Speech Therapy Consultant, Engineer, Certified Computer Technicians, Computer Software Education Specialist
Tech-Able

Computer Classes
Distribution

Helping close the digital divide (Outreach)

Tech-Reach

Training and AT Service Program

Products

Switch Adapted Mice & Switches

Funding

Credit-Able more on that later!!!
DC is…

- Non-Residential Center for Independent Living
- Private Non-Profit Organization
- Serving People of All Ages with All Types of Disabilities
- Serving a Twelve County area in Middle Georgia (IL Services) & Assistive Technology serving the Southwest Quadrant of Georgia
- Consumer Controlled

Georgia’s AT Solution Site: www.gatfl.org
Five Core Services:

- **Information and Referral** – Making sense of information and community resources that relate to disability.
- **Peer Support** – Connect people with disabilities together with peers who share their own valuable life experiences.
- **Advocacy** - Empower individuals to advocate in their own lives and advocating for the rights of all people with disabilities.
- **Independent Living Skills Training** – Give people with disabilities the knowledge and skills to lead a more productive and independent life.
- **Nursing Home Transition** – Assist people to relocate from nursing homes and other institutions into their own community.

Georgia’s AT Solution Site: www.gatfl.org
HOME MODIFICATIONS:

- Ramps
- Bathroom Modifications
- Kitchen Modifications
- Widening Doorways

Georgia’s AT Solution Site: www.gatfl.org
DC Tech

A Tools for Life Technology Resource Center

- Assistive Devices for Loan
- Computer Skills Training
- Computer Recycling Distribution
- Scholarship for Assistive Devices
- AT Assessments & Training

Georgia’s AT Solution Site: www.gatfl.org
Walton Options
For Independent Living

Mission:
Empowering persons of all ages with all types of disabilities to reach their highest level of independence, including community inclusion and employment.

Georgia’s AT Solution Site: www.gatfl.org
Walton Options for Independent Living

Walton Options is...

- Non-Residential, Consumer Controlled Center for Independent Living
- Private Non-Profit Organization
- Serving People of All Ages with All Types of Disabilities
- Providing IL and BPAO Services in 30 counties in Georgia and 10 counties in Western South Carolina
- Providing Assistive Technology services to Eastern Georgia

Walton Options for Independent Living: www.waltonoptions.org
Walton Options for Independent Living

Five Core Services:

- **Information and Referral** – Making sense of information and community resources that relate to disability.

- **Peer Support** – Connecting people with disabilities together with peers who share their own valuable life experiences.

- **Advocacy** - Empowering individuals to advocate in their own lives and advocating for the rights of all people with disabilities.

- **Independent Living Skills Training** – Giving people with disabilities the knowledge and skills to lead a more productive and independent life.

- **Nursing Home Transition** – Assist people to relocate from nursing homes and other institutions into their own community.

Walton Options for Independent Living: www.waltonoptions.org
Walton Options for Independent Living

HOME MODIFICATIONS:

- Ramps
- Bathroom Modifications
- Kitchen Modifications
- Widening Doorways

Walton Options for Independent Living: www.waltonoptions.org
Walton Options for Independent Living

Tools for Life Technology Resource Center

- Technology Demos, Tours and Loans
- ReBOOT
- AT Assessments & Training
- AT Re-use Loan Closet
- Older Blind Services

State Plan for AT
Direct Service
State Leadership
We Need YOUR Ideas!

Walton Options for Independent Living: www.waltonoptions.org
Our Programs / Services continue to GROW because of ideas and comments from those we meet!
ReBoot is a nonprofit, statewide, collaborative effort dedicated to actively promoting independence for people with disabilities through Assistive Technology & computer recycling.

- 7,200 recycled computer systems with people throughout Georgia and the United States.
ReBoot
How We Recycle

- Acquires Equipment
- Evaluate Equipment
- Repair / Load Software
- Distribute & Train
- Start

ReBoot–ATRC: www.reboot-atrc.org
Tax receipt for charitable donation

Request a recycling donation of $10 per system

Assures that items are kept out of our landfills

ReBoot-ATRC: www.reboot-atrc.org
Many Options to Suite Many Needs!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Package</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pkg A</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>300-450 MHz, no sound, no modem, 98 OS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pkg AG+</td>
<td>$35</td>
<td>300-450 MHz, sound, speakers, no modem, 98 OS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pkg B</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>500-700 MHz, 5-10 GB Hard Drive, 64 RAM, A Drive, CD ROM, sound, speakers, modem, 2000 Pro OS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pkg BV</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>500-700 MHz, 6+ GB Hard Drive, 256 RAM, A Drive, CD ROM, sound, speakers, modem, 98 OS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pkg C</td>
<td></td>
<td>Custom built to your needs. Price starts at $250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laptops</td>
<td></td>
<td>Available based on supply. Price starts at $150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pkg D</td>
<td></td>
<td>New System built to your request. Price quoted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ReBoot-ATRC: www.reboot-atrc.org
Be an individual with a disability (any age), or be a senior, or an agency providing disability services

Give 20 hours of volunteer time to a nonprofit of your choice

Complete the application, receive computer and basic training session

ReBoot-ATRC: www.reboot-atrc.org
ReBoot
Getting a Computer

ReBoot-ATRC: www.reboot-atrc.org
ReBoot - Georgia’s Computer and AT Reutilization Program

ReBoot Technical Support

• Help desk available by phone

• ReBoot & other system repairs are done at our site

• 6 month to 1 year warranties on all hardware

• ReBoot Support Training for outreach sites
ReBoot – Georgia’s Computer Recycling and Reutilization Center

384 Issued Computers

No Cost: 52%
Cost: 48%
ReBoot
Future Goals!

More Powerful Systems
Continue to upgrade computer systems as higher-end equipment becomes available

More Locations
Increase distribution locations and delivery services in GA

ISP Provider
Explore possibilities of becoming an ISP provider or providing low cost internet services

More Software
Increase enhancements to systems with AT software at low or no cost

ReBoot-ATRC: www.reboot-atrc.org
FODAC is a statewide provider of Durable medical equipment and has given away over 16,000 wheelchairs since 1986. 45 states and 65 countries have received some equipment over those years.

FODAC is providing the physical needs of people with disabilities of all types and ages through:

- **Durable medical equipment - wheelchairs and mobility aids**
- **Ramps for Champs – home access ramps and modifications**
- **ReMount – wheelchair and scooter lifts for vehicles**
- **Disposable medical equipment – catheters, braces, liquid nutrition, etc.**

FODAC: www.fodac.org
Durable Medical Equipment

- FODAC provides wheelchairs, scooters, bathroom aids, hospital beds, walkers, quad canes, and a host of other items such as standers, corner chairs and numerous other therapeutic aids.

- FODAC has collection sites around Atlanta and nearby cities that collect used DME. FODAC picks up these donations from local rehab hospitals, DME companies, and homes. Equipment is checked out, cleaned by staff and volunteers, and issued to clients who have no benefits or who have to wait for benefits from Medicare/Medicaid.

- FODAC averages 2000 clients served each year, some with multiple items.

FODAC: www.fodac.org

Friends of Disabled Adults and Children, Too!
Ramps for Champs

- Home access ramps
- Bathroom modifications
- Kitchen modifications
- Door widening
- Stairlift installation
- Donated labor is used to build home access ramps in the Metro Atlanta area.
- Other home modifications are completed in collaboration with contractors and installers.
- Current and Pending contracts include:
  - Dept. of Community Affairs
  - Federal Home Loan Bank
  - Woodmen of the World
  - Gwinnett County CDBG funds
  - Cobb County CDBG funds

FODAC: www.fodac.org

We Need YOUR Ideas!
Friends of Disabled Adults and Children, Too!

ReMount

Installing donated and new adaptive equipment in vehicles for people in need.

State Plan for AT
Direct Service
State Leadership
We Need YOUR Ideas!

FODAC: www.fodac.org
Friends of Disabled Adults and Children, Too!

International

Through several partnerships, FODAC ships hundreds of wheelchairs every year to countries around the world.

FODAC: www.fodac.org
Credit-Able is a partnership between many organizations dedicated to improving the lives of Georgians with disabilities, including …

State Plan for AT
Direct Service
State Leadership
We Need YOUR Ideas!
Georgia’s Alternative Loan Program for Assistive Technology

*Credit-Able is a collaborative effort between:*

• **Georgia Department of Labor** – serving as the Lead Agency
  • Responsible for managing federal grant funds and assisting with marketing & outreach

• **Tech-Able** – serving as the Community Based Organization
  • Responsible for providing disability and AT expertise, AT lending library, and advisory & oversight

• **Georgia Credit Union Foundation & GettingAhead Association** – serving as our Financial Partner
  • Responsible for ensuring the link with credit unions and managing the loan guarantee fund

• **Other Partners** –
  • Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund
  • Georgia Department of Community Affairs
Acceptable Assistive Technology:
- Credit-Able loan guarantees can ONLY be used to purchase Assistive Technology, home modifications or vehicle modifications

Other Criteria:
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate the ability to repay the loan.
Georgia’s Alternative Loan Program

Direct AT Service Activities:

◊ Provides loan guarantees to grant Georgians with disabilities access to affordable financing for Assistive Technology, home and vehicle modifications
Credit-Able
Alternative Financing Program

Eligible Applicants:
- Georgia residents with a disability, their family members, or legal guardian
- Employers who want to accommodate their worksite for an employee with a disability
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Loan Type</th>
<th>Loan Amount</th>
<th>Interest Rate</th>
<th>Term (Years)</th>
<th>Monthly Payment</th>
<th>Interest Paid</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traditional Financing</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>$500.53</td>
<td>$11,038.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit-Able Financing</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$315.31</td>
<td>$5,629.69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With a Credit-Able loan, the monthly payment is reduced by $185.22 and total interest paid is reduced by $5,408.31.
Georgia’s AT Act Program

Direct AT Service Activities:

State financing activities

♦ Creating an AT Co-Op
Georgia’s AT Act Program

Direct AT Service Activities:

Dollars and Sense Guide

- Web-based Technical Assistance
- “Navigating the Funding Streams”

The Dollars and Sense Funding Guide is a resource for locating funding sources for AT devices and services. This guide was developed to make the funding process easier and to assist consumers in getting the assistive technology they need.
Direct AT Service Activities: Dollars and Sense Guide

- Simple to use!
- Possible funding sources are listed by assistive technology categories
- All possible funding sources are new and updated
Georgia’s AT Act Program

Direct AT Service Activities: G-Trade
Georgia's Assistive Technology Online Equipment Exchange Program

- Web-based

- FREE resource for finding and exchanging assistive technology (AT) devices online

- Place an ad requesting items for sale, donation, or needed
Direct AT Service Activities: G-Trade

- gTrade and Tools for Life encourages members to offer AT devices and information for sale or by donation to others who may benefit from using technology and equipment no longer in need by others.
- This online equipment exchange program was developed to make AT devices and services available and accessible to Georgians with disAbilities.
- www.gtradeonline.org
Georgia’s AT Act Program

STAR LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES (6)

- Training and technical assistance
- Transition assistance
- Public-awareness activities
- Statewide information and assistance
- Coordination and collaboration

AND

- Touch the Future & Transition Conference
  Athens, GA - November 2006!

Georgia’s AT Solution Site: www.gatfl.org
Georgia’s AT Act Program

♦ State Leadership AT Activities

♦ Training and Technical Assistance

AND

♦ Touch the Future & Transition Conference Athens GA – Oct 31 – Nov 3 2006!

Georgia’s AT Solution Site: www.gatfl.org
Georgia’s AT Act Program

Workforce Development &
Touch the Future – Transition Conference

Athens Classic Center
October 31 – November 3, 2006

Georgia’s AT Solution Site: www.gatfl.org
Georgia’s AT Act Program

♦ State Leadership AT Activities
  ♦ Information and Assistance

♦ Coordination and collaboration
  ♦ Georgia Advocacy Office

State Plan for AT
Direct Service
State Leadership
We Need YOUR Ideas!

Georgia’s AT Solution Site: www.gatfl.org
One Example of Collaboration: AgrAbility

- Assist people with disabilities employed in agriculture.
- Link the Cooperative Extension Service, Universities, Federal State and Local services to provide practical education and assistance that promotes independence in agricultural production and rural living.
- The AgrAbility Project assists people involved in production agriculture who work both on small and large operations.
Georgia’s AT Act Program

We Need YOUR Input!

We will now Break into Small Groups for a Facilitated Discussion then Report to the large group
Georgia’s AT Act Program

Topics for Small Groups:

- How can Tools for Life assist you and your community better?
  - AT Co-Op – would it help You?
  - Should ReBoot expand to reutilize more AT?
  - What AT devices would you like to see ATRCs have?

- What are the barriers to AT Access and Acquisition?

- What legislative work needs to be done in regard to Assistive Technology in Georgia?

- What is the one thing Tools For Life can do to assist Georgians with disabilities?
Georgia’s AT Act Program

Report from Small Groups

State Plan for AT
Direct Service
State Leadership
We Need YOUR Ideas!
Georgia’s AT Act Program

Next Steps

- Hold other Town Hall Meetings in GA
- Amend the Georgia AT State Plan based on your input
- Post this on the Tools for Life Web-site
- Put new aspects of the Plan in Action
THANK YOU for Your Time, Ideas and Support!

Georgia’s AT Act Program