Tools for Life: Your Assistive Technology Program in Georgia
During our time together today we will cover:

- TFL core activities
- Accessing the TFL Network and community partners
- Review funding resources
- Assistive technology strategies, and
- Training and outreach activities
- AT Demonstrations
CIDI creates practical solutions that work, with a focus on utility, ease of use, and high quality.

- Accessibility Consulting
- Braille Services
- Captioning and Described Audio Services
- Professional E-Text Producers
- Certified Assistive Technology team

For more information, please visit http://www.amacusg.org/
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.
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
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.
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
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.
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.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Low/No-tech</th>
<th>Mid-Tech</th>
<th>High-Tech</th>
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<td>• text to speech</td>
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<td>• slant board</td>
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<td>• highlighters, tape</td>
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<tr>
<td>• read to out loud</td>
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<td>• picture schedule</td>
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<tr>
<td>• strategies for memory</td>
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<td>• proof readers</td>
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<td>• note taker</td>
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<td>• apps over $100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• dry erase board</td>
<td>• apps under $100</td>
<td>• apps over $100</td>
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Team Approach

• The 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
Comprehensive AT assessment

Certified AT team

$450

• Written report and recommendations

Area of focus:

• Workplace
• Ergonomics
• Hardware/Software
• Strategies
Free of charge!
Learn about devices
What will work best?

• Assist in making informed choices
• Consumer’s choice in devices
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 Resources

Georgia’s Assistive Technology and Funding Guide

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

- Georgia’s alternative financing program for assistive technology
- Thanks to a partnership between Center for Financial Independence and Innovation and Tools for Life
Eligibility Criteria

Be a resident of Georgia

A person with a disability or A family member/guardian of a person with a disability or An employer 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/repair credit
- Can be used for anything
- 4% interest
- $1,000 max
- 18 months max term
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!
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!
What questions do you have for us?

Please visit with the TFL team members at the AT demonstration tables!
The Tools for Life Team

Liz Persaud  
Program and Outreach Manager  
liz.persaud@gatfl.gatech.edu

Martha Rust  
AT Access Team Manager  
martha.rust@gatfl.gatech.edu

Danny Housley  
AT Acquisition Manager  
danny.housley@gatfl.gatech.edu

Ben Jacobs  
Accommodations Specialist  
ben.jacobs@gatfl.gatech.edu

Caroline Phillips  
Director, Tools for Life  
carolyn.phillips@gatfl.gatech.edu

Rachel Wilson  
AT Specialist  
rachel.wilson@gatfl.gatech.edu

Sam Peters  
Program Specialist  
speters37@gatech.edu

Sarah Endicott  
Research Scientist  
sarah.endicott@design.gatech.edu

Tori Holder  
Outreach Specialist  
tori.holder@gatfl.gatech.edu

Ciara Montes  
AT Specialist  
ciara.montes@gatfl.gatech.edu

Annabel Joyner  
Graphic Design Intern  
ajoyner8@gatech.edu

DeeDee Bunn  
Speech-Language Pathologist  
dbunn6@gatech.edu

Ben Satterfield  
Research Associate  
rsatterfield8@gatech.edu

Carolyn Phillips  
Director, Tools for Life  
carolyn.phillips@gatfl.gatech.edu

Rachel Wilson  
AT Specialist  
rachel.wilson@gatfl.gatech.edu

Sam Peters  
Program Specialist  
speters37@gatech.edu

Sarah Endicott  
Research Scientist  
sarah.endicott@design.gatech.edu

Tori Holder  
Outreach Specialist  
tori.holder@gatfl.gatech.edu

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AT Specialist  
ciara.montes@gatfl.gatech.edu

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Graphic Design Intern  
ajoyner8@gatech.edu

DeeDee Bunn  
Speech-Language Pathologist  
dbunn6@gatech.edu

Ben Satterfield  
Research Associate  
rsatterfield8@gatech.edu

Carolyn Phillips  
Director, Tools for Life  
carolyn.phillips@gatfl.gatech.edu

Rachel Wilson  
AT Specialist  
rachel.wilson@gatfl.gatech.edu

Sam Peters  
Program Specialist  
speters37@gatech.edu

Sarah Endicott  
Research Scientist  
sarah.endicott@design.gatech.edu

Tori Holder  
Outreach Specialist  
tori.holder@gatfl.gatech.edu

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ciara.montes@gatfl.gatech.edu

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Graphic Design Intern  
ajoyner8@gatech.edu

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Speech-Language Pathologist  
dbunn6@gatech.edu

Ben Satterfield  
Research Associate  
rsatterfield8@gatech.edu
Tools for Life, Georgia’s Assistive Technology Act Program

Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation (formerly AMAC Accessibility)

College of Design | Georgia Institute of Technology

1-800-497-8665

www.gatfl.gatech.edu

info@gatfl.gatech.edu

facebook.com/gatoolsforlife

@tools4life_at

@tools4life_at

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