

2004 Assistive Technology Act
and Georgia
Tools for Life Program
Technology for People with disAbilities

www.gatfl.org

info@gatfl.org



Georgia's AT Act Program

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.





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



Georgia's AT Act Program

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



Georgia's AT Act Program

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



Georgia's AT Act Program

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



Georgia's AT Act Program

Guiding Principles of AT Act

- ★ Over the last 25 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.



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 ATRC Service Activities:

- ◆ AT Loan Library
- ◆ AT Evaluations & Training
- ◆ AT Demos – Promote Choice
- ◆ Resource and Referral



State Plan for AT

Direct Service

State Leadership

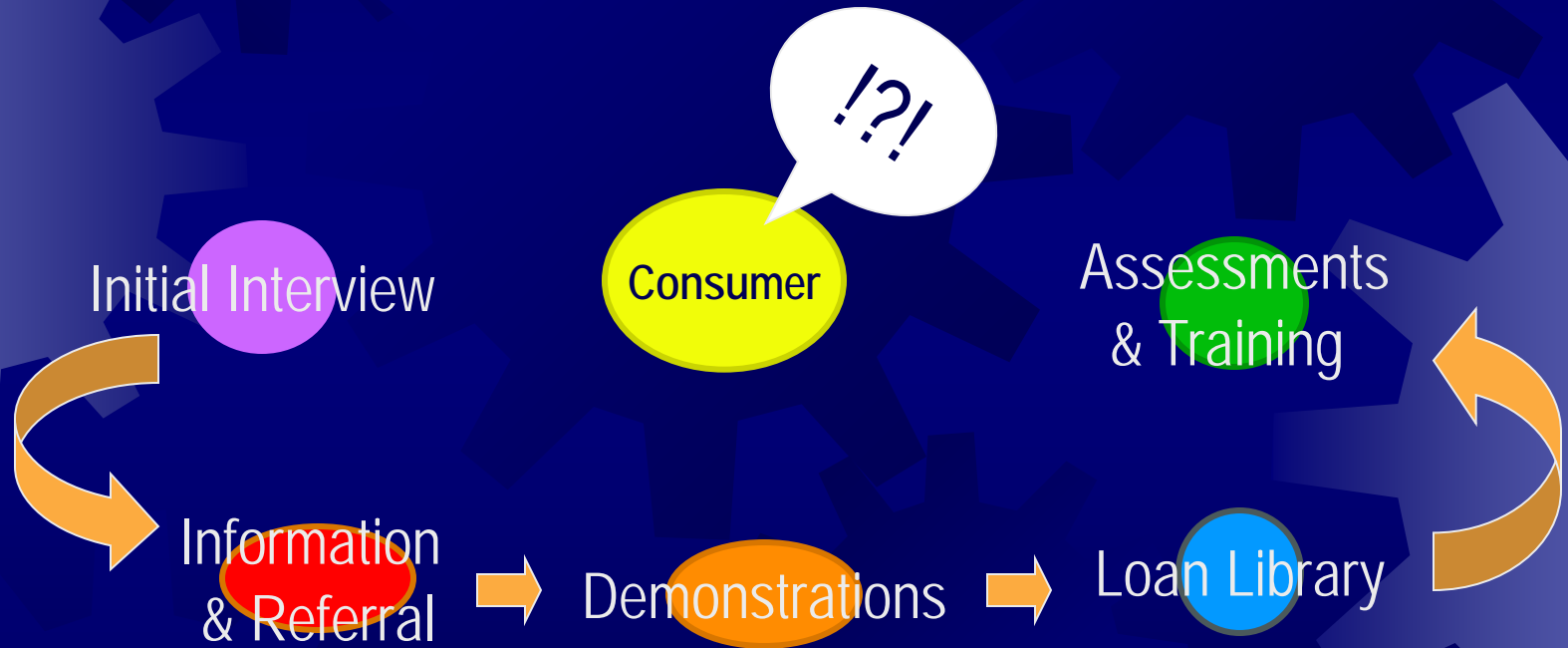
We Need YOUR Ideas!

Georgia's AT Solution Site: www.gatfl.org



Your Local ATRC

Let's Get Started!





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

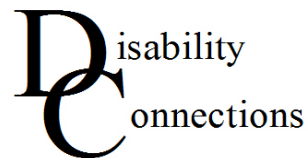
AT products sold in GA at a cost savings! Assist with finding both the device and the best price.

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



Disability

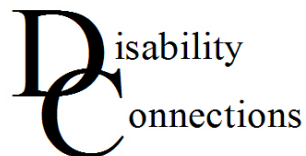
Connections

The Middle Georgia Center for Independent Living, Inc.

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



Disability

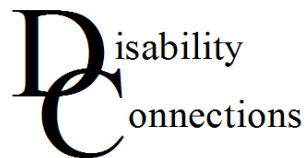
Connections

The Middle Georgia Center for Independent Living, Inc.

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



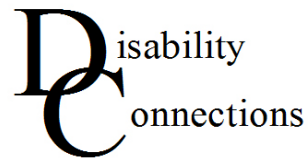
The Middle Georgia Center for Independent Living, Inc.

HOME MODIFICATIONS:

- ◆ Ramps
- ◆ Bathroom Modifications
- ◆ Kitchen Modifications
- ◆ Widening Doorways



Georgia's AT Solution Site: www.gatfl.org



Disability
Connections

The Middle Georgia Center for Independent Living, Inc.

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.

State Plan for AT

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We Need YOUR
Ideas!

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**

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Ideas!



Walton Options for Independent Living

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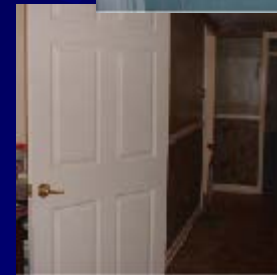
Walton Options for Independent Living: www.waltonoptions.org



Walton Options for Independent Living

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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

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Sock Puller



Friends of Disabled Adults and Children, Too!



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.**

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FODAC: www.fodac.org



Friends of Disabled Adults and Children, Too!



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.

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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

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FODAC: www.fodac.org



Friends of Disabled Adults and Children, Too!

ReMount



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

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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.



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Georgia's Alternative Loan Program

Credit-Able is a partnership between many organizations dedicated to improving the lives of Georgians with disabilities, including ...

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Georgia's Alternative Loan Program for Assistive Technology

Credit-Able began as 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 & Getting Ahead 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



Credit-Able

Alternative Financing Program

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**

What your loan might look like:

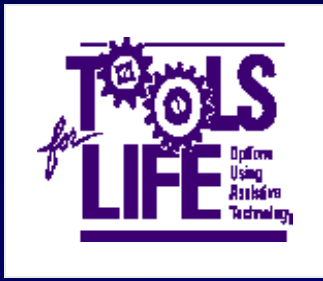
Traditional Financing

- ☀ \$25,000
- ☀ 12.9% interest
- ☀ 6 year term
- ☀ Monthly payment = \$500.53
- ☀ Interest Paid = \$11,038.46

Credit-Able Financing

- ☀ \$25,000
- ☀ 4.9% interest
- ☀ 8 year term
- ☀ Monthly payment = \$315.31
- ☀ Interest Paid = \$5,629.69

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

- ◆ AT Co-Op: AT Depot
- ◆ AT Co-Op: AMAC Download Center
- ◆ Last Resort Fund



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.



Georgia's AT Act Program

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***



Georgia's AT Act Program

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 to make AT devices and services available and accessible to Georgians with disAbilities
- ◆ www.gtradeonline.org



Georgia's AT Act Program

◆ State Leadership Activities (6)

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

AND

- ◆ IDEAS Conference
- ◆ GATE Conference
- ◆ GaSHA

State Plan for AT

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Georgia's AT Act Program

- ◆ **State Leadership AT Activities**
 - ◆ **Information and Assistance**
 - ◆ **Coordination and collaboration**
 - ◆ **Georgia Advocacy Office**

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Georgia's AT Act Program

THANK YOU for
Your Time,
Ideas and Support!