AMAC creates practical solutions that work, with a focus on utility, ease of use, and high quality.

- **Accessibility Consulting** focuses on organizational accessibility needs with evaluation, technical assistance, customer support, and website accessibility solutions.
- **Braille Services** produces customized projects from both print materials and electronic text including partial books and chapters or graphics only using cutting-edge technology.
- **Captioning Services** makes classrooms, meetings, labs and other audio environments fully accessible for deaf or hard-of-hearing.
- **Professional E-Text Producers** provide high-quality e-text in many formats such as PDF, DOC, DAISY, and HTML.
- **Certified Assistive Technology team** provides on-site and remote assessments, demonstrations, training and technical assistance for education, work, and daily living environments.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.amacusg.org](http://www.amacusg.org)
Mission

To help Georgians with disabilities gain access to and acquisition of assistive technology devices services so they can live, learn, work, and play independently in the communities of their choice.
Tools for Life, Georgia’s Federal AT Act Program

• TFL developed Georgia’s Plan for AT
  • We serve individuals of all ages & all disabilities in Georgia
  • Over 50,000+ thru various activities throughout the year

• TFL Network
  • Assistive Technology Resource & Outreach Centers
  • AT Lending Libraries
  • Training and Demonstrations
  • AT Reuse
  • AT Funding Education/Assistance and Resources

• Online Resources
  • www.gatfl.gatech.edu - 5,000 unique visitors a month
Your TFL Network is Growing!
Learn More about AT through Hands-On Demonstrations

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.
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.”

Public Law 108-364
**What is Assistive Technology?**

**Assistive Technology Device**
...any item, piece of equipment or product that is used to increase, maintain or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low/No-tech</th>
<th>Mid-Tech</th>
<th>High-Tech</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pencil grip</td>
<td>word prediction</td>
<td>computer/laptops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>adapted books</td>
<td>text to speech</td>
<td>tablets/phablets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slant board</td>
<td>speech to text</td>
<td>smartphones,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>highlighters, tape</td>
<td>spell checkers</td>
<td>smartpens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>magnifiers</td>
<td>talking calculators</td>
<td>OCR scanner/software</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>color coding</td>
<td>digital recorders</td>
<td>magnification software</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>read to out loud</td>
<td>organizers</td>
<td>speech output devices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>picture schedule</td>
<td>e-books</td>
<td>switch, joystick access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>strategies for memory</td>
<td>adapted keyboard</td>
<td>scanning access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>colored transparencies</td>
<td>adapted mouse</td>
<td>voice recognition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proof readers</td>
<td>adapted toys</td>
<td>environmental control devices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>note taker</td>
<td>CCTV</td>
<td>apps over $100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>apps under $100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Public Law 105-394 [29 USC 2201]
Why Assistive Technology?

• For a person without a disability, technology makes things LIFE easier.

• For a person with a disability, technology makes things LIFE possible.
AT Helps!

- Assistive Technology strategies and solutions can help support individuals with a variety of disabilities in all areas of life. 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
Hearing

- Natural deterioration
- Tinnitus
- Conversation, socialization, and communication impacted
- Ability may vary place to place
- Hearing aids often problematic
Normal Effects of Aging

- Hearing
- Vision
- Neuro-sensory system
- Skeleto-muscular
- Intellectual functioning
- Social supports

- Influenced by genetics, lifestyle and environment
Neuro-sensory and Skeloto-muscular Systems

Changes in
• Strength
• Balance
• Endurance
• Range of motion
• Sensitivity to temperature changes
• Sensitivity to pain and trauma
Intellectual Functioning

• Processing may take longer
• Long-term memory often better than short-term memory
• Motivation varies to learn and do things differently
Georgia Facts about Falls

- Georgia has the 9th fastest growing 60+ population and the 18th fastest growing 85+ population in the U.S.
- Falling is **NOT** an inevitable result of aging.
- Through evidence-based interventions, practical lifestyle adjustments, AT and community partnerships, we can substantially reduce the number of falls.

*Data represents age 60 and older population in Georgia 2010*

## Cost of Care - Setting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Georgia: (Whole state)</th>
<th>Rate Range Median</th>
<th>Median Annual Rate&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nursing Home: private room</td>
<td>$195</td>
<td>$71,175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing Home: Semi-private room</td>
<td>$183</td>
<td>$66,795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistive living: (One Bedroom – Single Occupancy)</td>
<td>$2,880</td>
<td>$34,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Health Aide</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>$41,184</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>1</sup>Median Annual Rates* are calculated based on the following:
- Nursing Home - daily rate multiplied by 365 days
- Assisted Living Facility - monthly rate multiplied by 12 months
- Health Aide Services - hourly rate multiplied by 44 hours per week, multiplied by 52 weeks

*Hourly, daily and monthly rates are rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

Cost of Care - Assistance

- Costs can vary by individual/situation
- Home Care assistance average cost:

  National Average= $20/hr (range $9-$39)

  4hrs/day x $20/hr= $80/day ($29,200 annually)
  12hrs/day x $20/hr= $240/day ($87,600 annually)
Aging in Place: Questions to Consider

- Safety
- ADLs
- Self care

- Physical barriers
- Emergency exits
- Entrance
- Hallways
- Living room
- Kitchen
- Bedroom
- Bathrooms
- Utility room
Healthy Living/ Fall Prevention

• Home modifications or adaptations can reduce the amount of care required
• Increased awareness of safety needs
• Take proactive steps BEFORE incidents occur
• Protection in place for caregiver to avoid injury, burn-out
• Increase independence of individual is empowering and a “win-win”!
Staying off the FAST Track!

- Frustration
- Anxiety
- Stress
- Tension

- Lee & Phillips
Effective AT Assessment

- Uses a feature-match approach
- Incorporates on-going educational/life planning
- Hanging out with Intent
- Targets natural environments
- Utilizes the competencies of multiple team member
- Demands meaningful follow-through
Assistive Technology Matching: A Team Approach

✓ The Person with the disAbility
✓ Circle of Support – Family of Choice
✓ Case Managers
✓ Technologist
✓ Occupational Therapist
✓ Speech & Language Pathologist
✓ Physical Therapist
✓ Engineer
A Closer Look at AT Solutions
AT for Hearing

Pocket Talker
- Sound amplifier
- Decreases background noise
- Works for individuals with ADHD

TV SoundBox Speaker Receiver
- No more straining to hear your TV from far away
- Volume control works independently from your TV speaker
- Wireless and lightweight
AT for Vision

**Illuminating Magnifier**
- 5x LED Lighted
- Compact

**Magnifier sheet**
- Hands Free
- 3X Magnification

**20/20 Vision Panoramic Rear-View Mirror**
AT for Self Feeding

• **Non-Slip Placemat**
  - Keep plates/items from moving
  - Use on Roller walkers
  - Cut to fit

• **Freedom Dinnerware**
  - Low vision, Alzheimer’s, Arthritis, stroke
  - Suction keeps from moving
  - Helps with getting food on utensils

**Bestic Automatic Feeder**
Lifts the food from the plate to your mouth
The KFS Easy Eat Fork
- Light weight utensil
- Rocker knife
- One-handed or limited grip

Rocker Knife
- One-handed cutting
- Large grip

Cutting Board
- One-handed
- Low vision
Health and Wellness

EpicID Emergency ID Band

- Easy for first responders to access
- Salt water safe USB with a durable stainless steel clasp and USB cover
- No subscription or internet connection is required
- Plug this USB into your computer and input or update your personal information, medical history, and insurance information
- Both PC and Mac compatible

Health Smart Thermometer

- Compact and easy to hold
- Talking thermometer
  - Large, backlit LCD screen with LED fever alarm indicator
  - 30-reading memory storage
- Date and time display
  - Fahrenheit/Celsius switchable
Memory

• Reminder Rosie
  • Alarm Clock
  • Personal Voice Reminder
  • Easy to use

MedCenter System

• Organizer with Reminder System
• Monthly display
• Alarm
• Talking
Medication Management

Automatic medication dispenser

• Holds 29 doses
• Up to 4 alarms per day

Pillpac.com

• Organized pills packaged by pharmacy
• Sealed pouches for each day
• Time stamped
• Lessen medication errors

www.alzstore.com
Dressing and Bathing

- Sock aid
- Elastic shoe laces
- Dressing stick
- Long shoe horn
- Long handle bath sponge
Personal Assistance

FreedomWand

- Toileting
- Hygiene
- Grooming

Home Bed Assist Handle

- Slides under mattress
- Provides a safe, secure grip for assistance getting in & out of bed
Mobility & Transportation

Silicone SeatBelt
Reach Extender
Helper

HandyBar

• Automotive Standing Aid
• Emergency Escape Tool
• Window Breaker and Seat Belt Cutter

Deluxe Swivel Seat Cushion

• Convert stationary chairs into swiveling chairs to reduce the strain on your back and hips. Soft 1 3/8 inch foam cushion helps bring more comfort to your chair.
• The seat cushion swivels 360 degrees for smooth, easy movement in either direction.
• Great for home, office or travel use; easily get in and out of vehicles
• Portable and lightweight yet supports up to 300 pounds
• Non-skid, flexible swivel base contours to seat and stays in place.
Recreation

Playing card holder
Computer Access

ZoomText Keyboard

- Yellow Keys
- Easy to See
- Large Keys
- USB port

Logitech Trackman Marble Mouse

ValueRays® Heated Mouse, Infrared Heat

Large trackball improves control while reducing hand and wrist motion
Communication

- **Go Talk 9+**
  - is lightweight and rugged
  - 45 message capacity and five recording levels
  - three “core messages” which stay the same on each level so you don’t need to re-record essential messages for each level
Emergency

**Serene Innovations Kit**
- Detects and alerts you to WEA* public emergency broadcast warnings of impending emergencies or disasters.
- Includes wearable unit, doorbell, home/cell phone ringer/flasher, and bedshaker

**Personal Pager**
- Alert family/caregiver for assistance
  - Can alert with chime or vibration
  - Wireless transmit up to 100 feet

---

*Safety Tape for Low Vision - Yellow*
Clearly Mark Hazardous Areas to Prevent Injuries

$3.00
Amazon Echo

- Speech-controlled speaker system
- Voice recognition - further distances
- All functions are server side
- Compatible with many EC Brands
- $179.99
VGo Telepresence Robot

• Enables a person to replicate themselves in a distant location and have the freedom to move around as if they were physically there
• Reduces travel costs
• School
• Hospital
• Work from home
Kubi

- Telepresence
- $499
- Uses a tablet
- Uses free conference sites
  - Google Hangout
  - FaceTime
  - Skype
TFL AppFinder

Search by:
✓ App Name
✓ Categories
  – Book
  – Education
  – Environmental Adaptations
  – Hearing
  – Cognition, Learning, Developmental
  – Navigation
  – Personal Care and Safety
  – Productivity
  – Communication
  – Therapeutic Aids
  – Vision
MyMedSchedule

- Keep track of medication
- Reminders
- Refill Reminders
- Healthcare Provider Profiles
- Insurance Information
- Allergies
- Works across Platforms
- Free
- www.mymedschedule.com
Key Ring

- One Place to store all reward cards
- Organized
- Android & Apple version
- www.keyringapp.com
- Free!
Fooducate

- Track calories
- Provides healthier options
- Educates on food ingredients
- Save favorites
- Create lists
- App for allergies and gluten-free
- App for diabetes nutrition
- Free
- www.fooducate.com
AudioNote

- Records your notes, meetings or lectures
- Can take notes by typing, stylus, or drawing
- Time stamps so you can go directly to where you want to hear
- Highlights notes when read back
- $4.99
Reading Apps

• Free Books
  – Free
  – Over 23,000 titles
  – Audiobooks

• Newspaper
  – Free
  – Newspapers from 150+ countries
  – Over 20,000 newspapers

• Overdrive Media Console
  – Free
  – Must have library card
  – Download ebooks and audiobooks on the go
More Reading Apps

• Learning Ally
  – **DAISY**
  – Membership required
  – over 75,000 audiobooks, audio textbooks, and other recorded books

• Audible.com
  – Over 100,000 titles
  – Works on both Android and Apple
  – $7.00-$22.00 per month
ICE

In Case of Emergency

- Emergency contact list
- Central place for you to record any medications
- List allergies or medical conditions
- Pre-loaded medical information to choose from
- Free
- www.ice-app.net
Favorite Navigation Apps

- **Around Me**
  - Identifies where you are
  - Lists what is around you
  - View route to place from where you are
  - Add information to contact list

- **Talk and Drive Waze**
  - Operate your map applications simply by talking
  - Launch the application, say your destination
iZen Garden

• Choose from 100s of objects, plants and creatures to place in your garden
• Rake the sand and share your creations
• Helps you to center your mind, relax your psyche and relieve your stress
**Pacifica**

Monitor and track mood, anxiety, depression

Several methods of relaxation to choose from

Connect with others for support in real-time
AT Funding Resources
Direct AT Service Activities

• Web-based Funding Guide

• 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.

• New resources added frequently!
DOLLARS & SENSE
NAVIGATING THE AT FUNDING STREAM

Please use the drop-down lists below to search...

Age Groups Served
- Show all ages

Geographic Areas Served
- Show all geographies

Serves People with the Following Disabilities
- Show all disabilities

Type of Funding Provided
- Show all funding sources

Types of Services Provided
- Show all services provided

Search
Dollars and Sense Homepage | Resource Center

AT Resource Center
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. How can I get funding to pay for home modifications?
There are a variety of different funding opportunities for home modifications. Listed below are a few:

- Georgia Dream Homeownership Program
- Credit-Able – Georgia’s Alternative Loan Program for Georgian’s with disabilities
- Social Security PASS Plan, allows for individuals to save money for a specific purchase
- 211- United Way telephone number to find human service answers
- Aldergate, homes for developmental disabilities
- Brain and Spinal Cord Trust Fund
- Joni Foundation
- USDA Rural Development Section 502 Rural Housing Loan Guarantee - The purpose of this loan program is to enable eligible low- and moderate-income rural residents to acquire modestly priced housing for their own use as a primary residence. The program is available for the purchase and repair of existing and newly constructed dwelling. There is no required down payment, but families must be able to afford the mortgage payments, including taxes and insurance. In addition, applicants must be without adequate housing and be unable to obtain credit elsewhere, yet have acceptable credit histories.
It’s Not Just a Loan, It’s a **Possibility**

- Access to technology to increase independence
- Home modifications to stay in your home
- Vehicle modification for continued vehicle access
- Better credit
Online AT resource

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

• Place an ad requesting items for sale, donation, or needed

• 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
Credit-Able Program Criteria

To receive a Credit-Able Loan you must be:

• A resident of Georgia
  
  AND

• An individual with a disability
  
  OR

• A family member or legal guardian of an individual with a disability
  
  OR

• An employer of an individual with a disability

• Able to pay back the loan

• Using the loan to buy assistive technology equipment and services
Range of Loans, Terms, and Interest Rates

- Range of Loans Approved: $250 to $55,000
- Length of Loans Approved: 6 months to 8 Yrs
- Interest Rates: 5.0 % - 9 %
The Bottom Line: YOU Save Money!

Traditional Financing
- $2,000
- 22% (rate of average credit card)
- 3 year term
- Monthly payment = $76.38
- Total interest paid = $749.71

Credit-Able Financing
- $2,000
- 5.4%
- 3 year term
- Monthly payment = $60.30
- Total interest paid = $170.86

Total interest saved: $578.85
WHEW!!!!
My Question to You:
What have You Learned today?
Thank You!
The TFL Team

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

Danny Housley  
AT Funding & Resource Specialist  
Danny.Housley@gatfl.gatech.edu

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

Liz Persaud  
Training and Outreach Coordinator  
Liz.Persaud@gatfl.gatech.edu

Martha Rust  
AT Specialist  
Martha.Rust@gatfl.gatech.edu

Rachel Wilson  
Tech Match Specialist  
Rachel.Wilson@gatfl.gatech.edu

Disclaimer
This presentation is produced by Tools for Life which is a result of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended in 2004. It is a program of the Georgia Institute of Technology, College of Architecture, AMAC Accessibility Solutions and Research Center 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.