Tools for Life: Your Assistive Technology Act Program

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Tools for Life
Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation
College of Design | Georgia Institute of Technology
Welcome to the Assistive Technology Revolution!

The world around us is evolving at an astounding rate. Assistive Technology (AT) developments have been foundational in this evolution and a catalyst for producing positive life-changing results for individuals with disabilities.

This session will take a closer look at:

- CIDI (formerly AMAC) & Tools for Life, Georgia’s AT Act Program
- Understanding Assistive Technology
- Defining “Low/Light Tech” to “Mid/High Tech Solutions”
- Acquiring Assistive Technology

For Handouts: Visit the Tools for Life Wiki Page – www.gatfl.gatech.edu/tflwiki
CIDI | Services and Education (formerly 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 and Described Audio Services** makes classrooms, meetings, labs and other audio environments fully accessible for deaf or hard-of-hearing and providing audio descriptions of videos and other visual media for those who are blind or have low-vision.

- **Professional E-Text Producers** provide high-quality e-text in many formats such as PDF, DOC, DAISY, HTML, and E-PUB.

- **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 [http://www.amacusg.org](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 services 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 & Groups)
6. Funding Education & Solutions
7. AT Reuse
Tools for Life Website
Main Page

Welcome to the Tools for Life wiki. Tools for Life, Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program, gives more options for greater freedom by 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 in communities of their choice.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- What is Assistive Technology?
- Where can I learn about Assistive Technology devices?
- Where can I access TFL webinar archives?
- Where can I learn more about AT Reserve?
- How can I find my local AT Reserve program?
- Where can I find the National Pass It On Center AT Reserve Partnerships with Medicare Guides?

Recent Presentations and Activities

- Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) Conference - January 30 - February 2, 2019 - Orlando, FL
- Middle Georgia RESA Collaborative Collective Meeting - January 11, 2019 - Atlanta, GA
- West Central ORLS Director's Meeting - January 11, 2019 - Callaway Cottages, Pine Mountain, GA
- University of Hawaii Rehab Services Counseling Masters Class Webinar - November 11, 2018 - Atlanta, GA
- Georgia Libraries Conference - October 3-4, 2018 - Columbia, GA
- Kansas AT Program Manager's Retreat - September 20, 2018 - Atlanta, GA
- Credit Builder's Alliance Webinar - September 20, 2018
- disABILITY Link, Localizing Employment Avenues with Peer Support - September 11, 2018 - Atlanta, GA
- LabNation Hearing Loop Support Group - September 10, 2018 - Atlanta, GA

News

- June 3-5, 2013 Tools for Life co-hosts IDEAL's Conference in St. Simons Island, GA
- April 2013 Tools for Life Agriculture makes program spotlight on AT Connects website
- April 2013 Our Favorite Apps spotlight on AT Program News
- The National Pass It On Center releases document titled, AT Reserve Partnerships with Medicare: A Guide for Consideration and Development
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 educations mainstream of society in the United States.

Public Law 108-364
For a person without a disability, assistive technology makes life easier.

For a person with a disability, assistive technology makes life possible.
Assistive Technology Services and Strategies
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>
<tr>
<th>Low/No-tech</th>
<th>Mid-Tech</th>
<th>High-Tech</th>
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<tr>
<td>pencil grip</td>
<td>word prediction</td>
<td>computer/laptops</td>
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<td>text to speech</td>
<td>tablets/phablets</td>
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<td>slant board</td>
<td>speech to text</td>
<td>smartphones</td>
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<td>highlighters, tape</td>
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<td>smart pens</td>
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<td>magnifiers</td>
<td>talking calculators</td>
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<td>color coding</td>
<td>digital recorders</td>
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<td>read to out loud</td>
<td>organizers</td>
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<td>picture schedule</td>
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<td>adapted keyboard</td>
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<td>CCTV</td>
<td>apps over $100</td>
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<td>dry erase board</td>
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Georgia’s Assistive Technology Act Program
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
AT Assessments

• Comprehensive AT assessment
• Certified AT team
• $450
  • Written report and recommendations
• Area of focus:
  • Workplace
  • Ergonomics
  • Hardware/Software
  • Strategies
AT Demonstrations

• 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
Your TFL AppFinder

Search by:

✓ App Name
✓ Categories

• Books/Reading
• Education
• Environmental Adaptations
• Hearing
• Vision
• Navigation
• Cognition, Learning, and Development
• Personal Care and Safety
• Productivity
• Communication
• Therapeutic Aids
Funding Solutions and Resources
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

A family member/guardian of a person with a disability

An employer of a person with a disability

or

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
Dollars & Sense

- Online funding guide
- Create and add resources not listed
- Local, statewide, and national
- Dollars & Sense Website: 
gatfl.gatech.edu/ds
• 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
Social Media

• Follow us!
  • Relevant news
  • Emerging AT
  • Conference and webinar announcements
  • Photos of events and group visits

⭐Accessibility is important!
  • Alt text now available across all platforms.
Training

• 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!
IDEAS and GATE

• IDEAS 2019 – June 4-7, 2019!
• Coordinate vendors in the exhibit hall
• Building relationships
• Exhibitor registrations
• Design exhibit hall floor plan
• Design conference signage
• Organize sponsorships
• Apply for and coordinate continuing education credits (CEUs and CRCs)
• Provide trainings/presentations
• Organize awards
Research Projects
Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Technologies to Support Aging-in-Place for People with Long-Term Disabilities (RERC TechSAge)

Mission Statement:

• to support and empower people with chronic conditions and long-term impairments to age-in-place
• through increasing knowledge about, availability of, and access to effective design and technologies
• that enable individuals to sustain independence; maintain health; engage safely in basic activities at home and in the community; and fully participate in society.
Georgia Tech and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign awarded a 5-year, $4.6 million grant from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation (NIDILRR) for the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Technologies to Support Aging-in-Place for People with Long-Term Disabilities.

- T1. Blended Online and In-Person Learning Program
- T2. U.D.is.Ability: The TechSAge Universal Design for Aging-in-Place Competition
TechSAge 2 Training Team

Training Dissemination and Design Competition

• PI: Carolyn Phillips, M.Ed., CPACC (CIDI, GT)
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Questions?
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(formerly known as AMAC Accessibility Solutions)

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