• **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, and HTML.

• **Certified Assistive Technology team** provides on-site and remote assessments, demonstrations, training and technical assistance for education, work, and daily living environments.
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
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.
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
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.
The “FAST” Track

Frustration
Anxiety
Stress
Tension
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.

Tip: USE AT! We have yet to meet a successful person who doesn’t use any AT.
Team Approach

- 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
AT Assessments

Comprehensive AT assessment
Certified AT team
$450
  • Written report and recommendations
Area of focus:
  • Workplace
  • Ergonomics
  • Hardware/Software
  • Strategies
Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)

- Certified/Licensed Speech-Language Pathologist
- $125/hour
- Written report and recommendations

Area of focus:
- AAC user
- Environments
- Tasks
- Tools/AAC systems/Feature matching
- Language and communication
- Learning strategies
AT Demonstrations

- Free of charge!
- Learn about devices
- What will work best?
  - Assist in making informed choices
  - Consumer’s choice in devices
AT Lending Library

• Try before you buy!
• Loans are usually for 3 to 4 weeks
• Training on items before borrowed, if needed
What AT is the right AT?
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.

Low/No-tech
- pencil grip
- adapted books
- slant board
- highlighters, tape
- magnifiers
- color coding
- read to out loud
- picture schedule
- strategies for memory
- colored transparencies
- proof readers
- note taker
- dry erase board

Mid-Tech
- word prediction
- text to speech
- speech to text
- spell checkers
- talking calculators
- digital recorders
- organizers
- e-books
- adapted keyboard
- adapted mouse
- adapted toys
- CCTV
- apps under $100

High-Tech
- computer/laptops
- tablets/phablets
- smartphones
- smart pens
- OCR scanner/software
- magnification software
- speech output devices
- switch, joystick access
- scanning access
- voice recognition
- environmental control devices
- apps over $100
Common AT Categories

- Aids for Daily Living (ADL)
- Environmental Controls (EC)
- Mobility
- Communication Aids
  - Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)
- Computer Access and Instruction
- Blindness and Visual Impairment (VI)/Visual Aids
- Deafness and Hearing Impairment (HI)/Hearing and Listening Aids
- Academic and Learning Aids
- Cognition and Learning Disabilities
- Instructional Aids
- Pre-Vocational and Vocational Aids
- Recreation and Leisure/Gaming/Art
- Adaptive Toys and Games
- Ergonomics
Funding Solutions and Resources
Credit-Able

Georgia’s alternative financing program for assistive technology (AT)

Thanks to a partnership between Center for Financial Independence and Innovation (CFII) and Tools for Life
Why Credit-Able?

- Flexibility
- Personal
- More accessible
- Build/re-build credit
- You save money
Eligibility Criteria

Be a resident of Georgia

AND

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 $STEP$ Program

For Georgians with disabilities
Small low interest loans to establish or repair credit
Can be used for anything
4% interest
$1,000 max
Max term of 18 months
Funding Resources

Georgia’s Assistive Technology and Funding Guide

- Centers for Independent Living (CIL)
- Aging & Disability Resource Centers (ADRC)
- Area Agencies on Aging (AAA)
Training and Outreach
Info and Assistance

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
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!
Questions? Comments?
Digital Accessibility and UX Services

- Evaluation of website and application accessibility
- Training
- Technical assistance
- Compliance and Best Practice
- Usability testing
Digital Accessibility Initiatives
Across the Street & Around the Globe

- Georgia Tech
- University System of Georgia (USG)
- Higher Ed institutions Across the Country
- State and Federal Governments
- National and International Non-Profits and For Profits
What is AccessGA?

AccessGA is a joint initiative of the State of Georgia ADA Coordinator’s Office, CIDI, and the Georgia Technology Authority (GTA).

The objective is to support Georgia state agencies that strive to provide equitable and timely access to their employees, students, and clients with a wide range of disabilities.

Benefits and Services Include...

- Access to live monthly webinars and archived webinars
- Technical assistance and hands-on training
- Web accessibility evaluations and resources
- Periodic newsletters
- Up-to-date wiki of ICT accessibility resources and information
- Special events
WAG - Web Accessibility Group

Monthly Webinars

- Housed at the Center for Inclusive Design & Innovation (formerly AMAC Accessibility) at Georgia Tech
- First Wednesday of most months
- Focus on web accessibility for higher-ed
- WAG listserv discussion and technical guidance
- WAG website http://www.amacusg.org/wag

- Its purpose is to bring together individuals in Higher Ed seeking to navigate the complex requirements of state and federal accessibility standards and guidelines.
Accessibility
What does this mean?
Who does this apply to?
Definition of Accessibility

- Capable of being reached
- Easy to speak to or deal with
- Capable of being used or seen
- Capable of being influenced

- *** Easily used or accessed by people with disabilities
Who Are People with Disabilities?

- Visual
- Auditory
- Speech
- Mobility
- Cognitive and Neurological
- Mental Health
Living with a Disability

According to the CDC, 1 in 4 adults in the US are living with a disability that can affect their ability to:

• see
• hear
• communicate
• reason
• walk
• perform other basic life functions
Commonly Used Assistive Technology Solutions
ClaroRead

- Text-to-Speech
- Visual Highlighting
- Read back any on-screen text and program commands
- High Quality Screen Reader
- Keyboard Echo
- Save to Audio
Read & Write Gold

- Text-to-Speech software
- Reads Word, PDF files and web pages as long as they’re accessible
- Text Highlighting
- Allows for creation of audio version
Screen Magnification Programs

- MAGIC
- ZoomText
- Windows Magnifier
- Mac Zoom
- Zoom and Magnifier (iOS & Android)
Digital Accessibility Standards & Guidelines
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.0/2.1) are a series of guidelines for making web content accessible for all users, especially those with disabilities.