



MISSOURI
ASSISTIVE
TECHNOLOGY



2014
ANNUAL REPORT

Empowering People With Disabilities



TAP for Telephone: Independence is Priceless

In 1962, Steve had a swimming accident that left him with hearing loss in his left ear. Over the years, he experienced hearing loss in his other ear to the point where, over the last year, he wasn't able to use a phone at all sometimes. Hearing loss can be devastating to keeping connections with families and friends. Fortunately, Steve was able to access a local TAP demonstration site and try amplified phones. The staff at SADI in Cape Girardeau assisted the consumer in choosing and applying for a phone that met his hearing loss needs through MoAT's Telecommunications Access Program (TAP). *"This new phone has made a difference like night and day. Even on my bad days, I can still use a phone. Thank you so much for your help."*



Deaf-Blind Equipment Program: Overcoming Challenges

Losing both her vision and her hearing left Amy Rowson with all sorts of challenges, including any ability to communicate with people unless they were standing or sitting right next to her. For instance, she always called her mom once a week, but that ended when Amy lost her hearing. Amy got an assessment, equipment, and training through MoAT's Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (iCanConnect). She received a BrailleNote and iPhone and now can understand the text coming to her iPhone. *"Being able to call my mom after not talking with her for almost a year was amazing! I know it made her cry—it was just really exciting."*



Kids Assistive Technology: Last Resort Funding

Noah is a 15-year old and his brother Kane is a 7-year old from Excelsior Springs. Both have a disability and are unable to walk or stand. Their family obtained a hydrotherapy tub to help the boys maintain their range of motion, but with their mobility limitations, gaining access to the tub was their next big hurdle. The family applied to the Kids Assistive Technology (KAT) program for help. The KAT program was able to provide an accessible platform modification and a lift to be able to safely get the boys into and out of the water.



Council Chair's Message

It was a privilege to serve as Chair of the Missouri Assistive Technology Council for the year. As a wise man once said *"For people without disabilities, technology makes things easier. For people with disabilities, technology makes things possible."* The programs and projects of MoAT were able to impact the lives of thousands of Missourians with disabilities over the year. In all areas of daily life, we were able to see persons able to make informed choices about which AT best meets their needs, saving scarce purchasing dollars, and finding the means to obtain the AT once selected.

– Gary Wunder, MoAT Council Chair 2013-2014

Missouri Assistive Technology (MoAT)

MoAT, Missouri's statewide program strives to enhance the lives of all Missourians with disabilities, older Missourians and their families. MoAT's primary activities are those that increase access to and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) devices and services. AT devices and services provide people with disabilities with choice, control and independence at home, work, school, play and in their communities.

2014 Activity

Device Demonstrations: 2,684

MoAT and its partners provided 2,684 AT device demonstrations to Missourians across the state to help them choose the most appropriate device.

Device Short-Term Loans: 1,144

Through the ETC short term loan program, school districts, rehab centers and other agencies were able to try out 1,144 AT devices with individuals to help them in the decision-making process.

Device Reuse and Exchange: 1,690

Recycling of durable medical equipment and other devices, along with the Swap n' Shop web based exchange system provided 1,690 recycled AT devices to Missourians at a savings of \$874,406 over the cost of purchasing new devices. MoAT partnered with nine regional sites to provide low-cost or no-cost AT to consumers.

Show-Me Loans: \$424,251

The alternative financing program made 50 low-interest loans totaling \$424,251 for assistive technology like hearing aids, accessible vehicles and access modifications to homes. Other loans were also made for AT or equipment needed for employment.

Telecommunications Access Program (TAP): 3,247

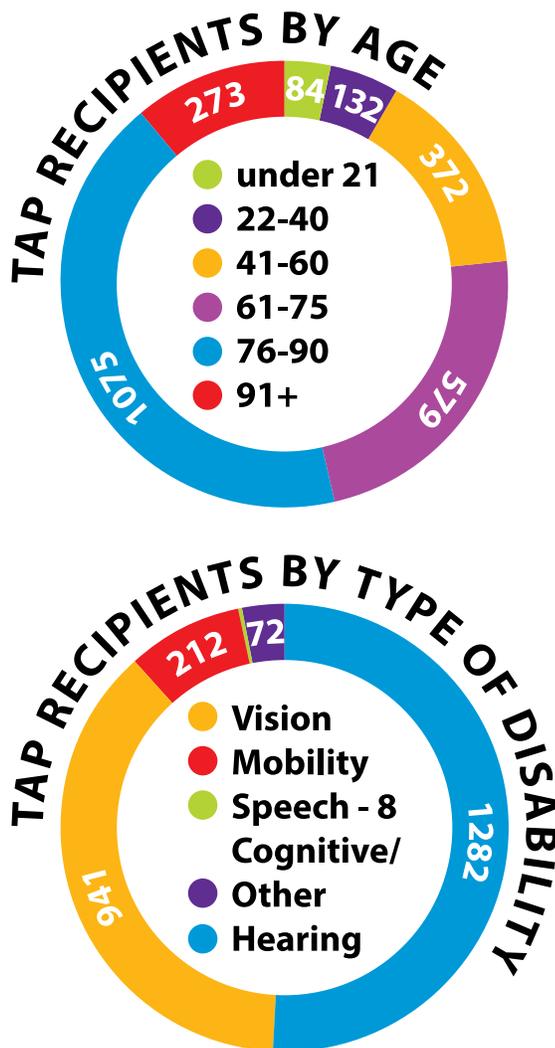
TAP provides adaptive equipment for persons with disabilities who have difficulty using the telephone or accessing the internet or e-mail because of their disability. A total of 3,247 adaptive devices were provided during the year to 2,515 individuals with disabilities.

Training: 5,075

MoAT provided training for 5,075 Missourians with disabilities, family members, service providers, and educators through events statewide on topics like AT Products & Services; Policy and Practice; Transition; and how to obtain funding for AT.



TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS PROGRAM (TAP)



Coordination and Collaboration

Service Delivery Highlights

AT Demonstration Sites

MoAT collaborated with **8** regional AT demonstration sites to give Missourians an opportunity to touch, try and borrow AT devices to help improve independence in the community, school, and workplace. Device demonstrations are guided hands-on experiences with AT devices to help determine whether a device meets the needs of an individual with a disability.

Assistive Technology Request (ATR) Program

The program provided funding assistance to Missouri schools for students with disabilities who have assistive technology identified in their IEPs. Program funding is through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. This year, AT was provided for **225** students in **73** districts throughout the state. Speech, vision, hearing and computer-related devices were the types of AT provided most during the year.

Kids Assistive Technology (KAT) Program

Assistive technology (AT) needed by children with disabilities can be costly for parents and families. The KAT program is a last resort funding source. Program funding is through the Department of Health and Senior Services - Bureau of Special Health Care Needs. This past year, families of **23** children were helped with funds totaling **\$72,524**. An additional **\$50,554** was also leveraged from other sources to combine with KAT funds to meet a wide variety of AT needs including home access and vehicle modifications.

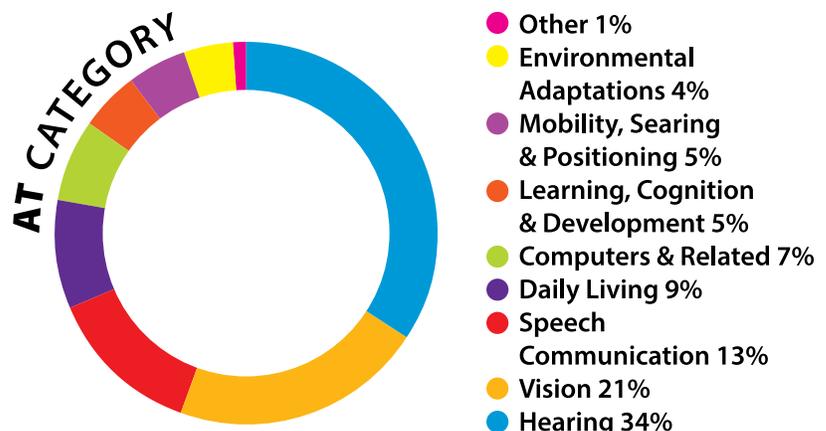
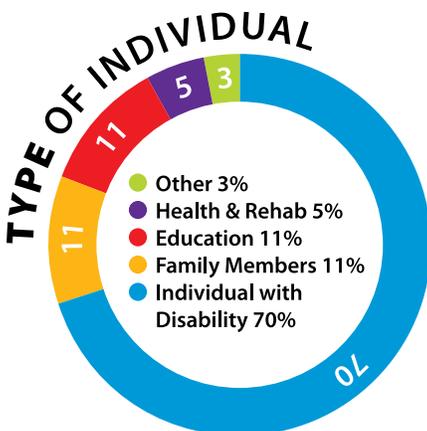
Deaf-Blind Equipment Program (iCanConnect)

For many years, persons who are deaf and blind were among the most underserved in being able to engage other people through telecommunications. MoAT's Deaf-Blind Equipment Program provided assessments, equipment and training during the year to **53** Missourians who are deaf-blind for whom telecommunications had been difficult or impossible.

Statewide Power Up Conference

Missouri's 2014 *Power Up* Assistive Technology Conference and Expo attracted over **500** participants from all around the state and beyond. Disability organizations and agencies, educators, policy makers, persons with disabilities, family members and more learned about AT in the community, education, and employment. The conference is one of the Midwest's premier AT conferences.

DEVICE DEMO AND LOAN PROGRAMS



Empowering People With Disabilities



ATR Program: Supporting Learning

Michael B. lives in Raytown and attends Raytown High School. His teachers were looking for an option for him to improve communication made difficult due to his disability. MoAT's Assistive Technology Request (ATR) Program was able to get an AAC device to allow him to express himself. He uses his new device to communicate with those around him and participate in all activities while in school. This year, \$263,830 in ATR Program funding was provided for 225 students with disabilities.



Show Me Loans: Community Living / Employment

Velda in St. Francois County has multiple disabilities that limit her ability to walk. She uses a power wheelchair for mobility. Her husband also uses a power chair. They were seeking a low interest financing option to add a side entrance lift to their vehicle. With Show Me Loans, they are now able to travel together in a vehicle that offers enough room for both of their power chairs. The alternative financing program made loans totaling \$424,251 for assistive technology like hearing aids, accessible vehicles and home access modifications as well as for AT and business equipment needed for employment.



Device Demonstration: Higher Ed / Community Living

A major challenge for college students is keeping up on the reading load. For students who are visually impaired, this task is made all the more difficult. Nolan, a Missouri State University student who is blind, faced just such a barrier. He turned to the MoAT supported demonstration center on the Missouri State University campus for guidance. During his visit to the center, Nolan learned and explored Open Book, an optical character recognition software and a portable document scanning camera called Pearl. Both technologies proved useful for Nolan's academic needs, and his daily reading needs to be active in the community.

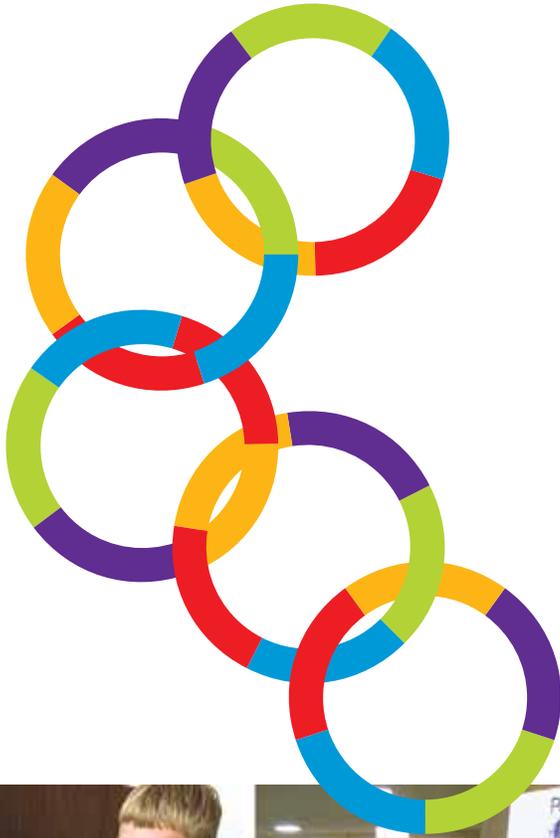


TAP for Internet: New Horizons

The TAP for Internet program provided Sarah, a new author and inspiring mother of two, with Dragon Naturally Speaking and a HeadMouse Extreme. You may have seen her fascinating YouTube video of how to change a baby diaper with her feet. Here's some of what she had to say as she embarks on this new assistive technology experience:

"I've never been one to use assistive technology and have chosen to adapt on my own instead, until I started waking up with increased neck and back pain.

I realized that writing is something I want to continue to be able to do 30 years from now. However, if I continue to overwork my body, I won't be able to do those things later in life. So I've started to make a drastic change and work with assistive technology now, to continue to be more independent, especially later in my life. Dragon helps a lot! I'm always amazed when I'm done using the Headmouse on the computer, how much less strain I feel! I'm on the edge of what technology can do for me, but I can already feel a huge difference!"



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