Missouri Assistive Technology 2020 Annual Report

[Cover image description: A man sits at a table testing out a device. His head is tilted with his left ear toward the device. A woman with gray hair and glasses is standing behind him pointing at the device. Another woman with blonde hair is smiling and pointing at the other woman.]

# Assistive Technology: A Great Return on Investment

2020 Federal Investment: $603,736

Savings & Benefits to Missourians: $3,884,012

[Image descriptions, clockwise from left: 1) a young lady with black hair and a green t-shirt is smiling while she holds a cane next to the corner of a bed; 2) a young boy with blond hair in a wheelchair uses a communication device. At right, a MoAT staff is kneeling across from him; 3) an older gentleman wearing a fedora hat, white colared shirt and khaki pants sits in a recliner with a rolling walker in front of him; 4) a man with a red beard and baseball cap, a young boy with short hair and glasses, wearing a light light blue shirt, and a woman with blonde hair in a ponytail pose for a photo; 5) an older couple, both in wheelchairs, hold up adapted telephones and smile for the camera; 6) a teenage girl with blonde hair in a ponytail sits at a computer desk with an AT device in front of her; 7) an older woman with white hair and glasses sits at a desk with an AT device that enlarges text in front of her; 8) a man with a white cap and a black jacket sits on a red Victory scooter on a neighborhood street.

# 2020 AT A GLANCE

## Device Demonstration

One of our most valuable services is the demonstration of assistive devices. Many individuals who can benefit from assistive technology may not be aware of specific solutions or what devices are available. AT demonstrations allow individuals to meet with an AT professional and compare the features and benefits of a particular AT device or category of devices.

This year **2,052** people took part in **1,581** demonstrations.

## Device Loan

Our device loan program offers a wide variety of assistive technology devices for Missouri residents to borrow for trial. The purpose of device loans is to give individuals the opportunity to try devices so that they can make informed decisions prior to purchase.

In FY ’20, **1,971** AT devices were loaned to **680** individuals, school districts, businesses, agencies and other parties.

## Device Reutilization

Assistive Technology Reutilization is a program that obtains equipment that is no longer being used by its original owner and transfers it to someone in need.

During the past year, **1,741** consumers received a total of **2,497** devices resulting in a savings of $622,420 compared to the price of new equipment.

## Device Financing

To help Missourians with disabilities obtain needed AT devices and services to help them live, work, and learn independently, MoAT provides device financing through its Show Me Loans, Kids Assistive Technology, Assistive Technology Reimbursement and Money Follows the Person programs.

For the year just completed, **35** individuals obtained financial loans totaling $320,172 and an additional **300** recipients acquired devices valued at $633,997 from other financing programs that directly provide AT using external funding sources.

## TAP Recipients

The Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) provides adaptive equipment to seniors and people with disabilities who have difficulty using the telephone or accessing the internet.

A total of **1,441** adaptive devices were provided during the year to **977** qualified individuals.

## AT Training and Public Awareness

Through trainings and public awareness events, **4,662** individuals with disabilities, professionals, school district personnel and others learned about AT devices, services, best practices and policy.

## Information and Assistance

MoAT provided **50,000+** Missourians information regarding assistive technology devices and services, funding and other disability-related topics by e-mail, telephone, via our website and social media platforms, and through various publications.

## CAROL WINS WITH DEVICE DEMONSTRATION

Carol was one of hundreds of Missourians who visited a MoAT Demonstration Center to see, try and learn more about assistive technology. Like many visitors, Carol could not believe how many devices there were that could help her live more independently. Carol was looking for a device that could help with the barriers she faced due to macular degeneration. During her visit at the Springfield demonstration site, she explored an array of devices and found one that met her needs. [Pictured: Carol, a woman with gray hair, wearing glasses and a white jacket and black collared shirt, testing out a device.]

## A DEVICE LOAN OPENS THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION FOR FISHER

Fisher, a student in Poplar Bluff, met MoAT staff during an on-site visit. Fisher was a candidate for an augmentative communication device due to the fact that he was unable to effectively express himself. A device loan was arranged and support was provided to help his team implement the loaned device. During the 5-week trial period, Fisher quickly learned how to navigate the device to express his thoughts. Upon completion of the loan, Fisher received his own device. [Pictured: Fisher, a boy with blonde hair and glasses, at school, smiling.]

## NICO GETS A LIFT WITH DEVICE REUTILIZATION

Each year, Missourians save thousands of dollars by accessing one of MoAT’s device re-utilization centers across the state. Nico, who lives in Kansas City, was able to obtain a Tilt-in-Space power wheelchair through his local re-utilization center. His wife reported that since Nico received the device, she has noticed a positive change in his mood, something he he has struggled with since he first acquired his disability. [Pictured: Nico in his new wheelchair.]

MoAT administers the DeafBlind Equipment Program funded through the Federal Communications Commission. This program benefits Missourians who are DeafBlind by providing assessments, distance communication equipment and related training.

## SHARON’S WORLD OPENS AFTER CONNECTING WITH THE DEAFBLIND EQUIPMENT PROGRAM

For years, Sharon, a resident of Clay County, was isolated from family, friends and the community due to her disability. When she was connected to the DeafBlind Equipment Program through her case manager, Sharon was able to receive a Braille notetaker and training. As a result, she is now able to communicate with friends and family, as well as access other services such as books through the Wolfner library. [Pictured: A woman with blonde hair and sunglasses, wearing a dark gray zip-up jacket, smiles big while testing out a device.]

## THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT THANKS TO ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY REIMBURSEMENT

The assistive technology Andy received through the ATR Program has significantly increased both his independence and his academic success. Andy, who is non-verbal and has difficulty reading and writing, is now able to express himself through dynamic display communication via the Proloquo2Go app. In addition, he is able to independently read with the use of Snap & Read, a text-to-speech app, and create written text through the use of the Co:Writer app. [Pictured: A woman with curly, blonde hair smiling posing with a young man with dark hair and glasses holding a thumbs up, both in a classroom.]

# Missouri Assistive Technology (MoAT)

As Missouri’s federally-funded Assistive Technology Act Program, MoAT strives to enhance the lives of all Missourians with disabilities, older Missourians, families and service professionals. Our activities increase access to and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) devices and services. At home, work, school or play, assistive technology provides choice, control and independence.

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