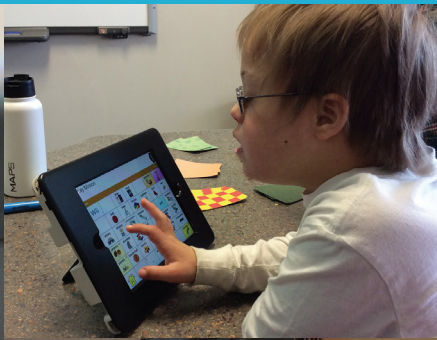


Missouri AT

INVESTING IN MISSOURIANS WITH DISABILITIES



About Missouri Assistive Technology (MoAT)

As Missouri's federally funded, statewide Assistive Technology Program, Missouri Assistive Technology works diligently to increase the opportunities all Missourians with disabilities and all seniors have to access and acquire assistive technology devices and services. Assistive technology addresses barriers, provides choice, and opens opportunities.

2017 Activities

Assistive Technology Device Demonstrations

Device demonstrations provide individuals the chance to learn about and become familiar with specific types of assistive technology that can help them in their daily lives. MoAT and its 12 partners around the state provided device demonstrations to 3,299 individuals this past year. Device demonstrations lead to informed decision-making and prevent wasted expenditures due to "mismatched" AT.

Assistive Technology Device Loan

Device loans allow individuals to borrow devices to use at school, work or in the community. Loans allow individuals to try out devices prior to purchase avoiding "incorrect" purchases, resulting in considerable savings to school districts, employers and agencies. This year, 677 individuals borrowed 1,845 devices from the program. Using an average device cost of \$650, school districts alone saved \$305,000 by borrowing devices for students with disabilities.

Assistive Technology Device Reutilization

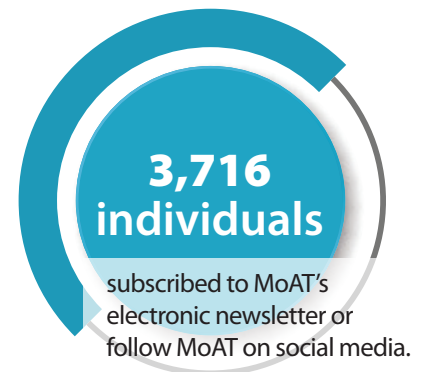
Device reutilization activities involve the transfer of assistive devices that are no longer needed by their original owner to individuals in need of them, often at nominal or no cost. This past year, 2,072 recipients acquired 2,743 reutilized devices through this valuable program. A total of \$1,384,241 was saved by device recipients who obtained AT through this program as opposed to buying new.

Financial Loans for Assistive Technology

MoAT administers a financial loan program that provides individuals with affordable, flexible financing for assistive technology devices and services. Financial loans totaling \$150,786 were made to 27 individuals this year. Often, this program is the only financing option available. These loans have the ancillary benefit of helping individuals with disabilities with no credit to get on the path to establishing good credit.

Telecommunications Access Program (TAP)

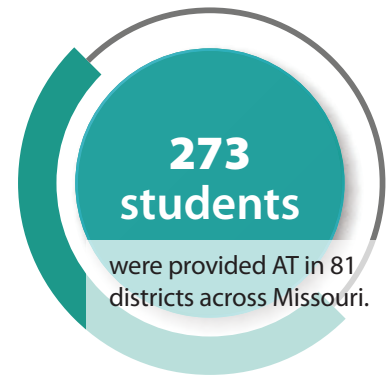
Hearing, vision, mobility, speech and/or cognitive disabilities prevent many Missourians with disabilities and seniors from using the telephone or accessing the internet. This past year, the TAP Program provided 2,303 adapted devices to 1,905 individuals helping them to stay connected to family and friends, to seek employment, to take classes and to stay civically engaged.



Service Delivery Highlights

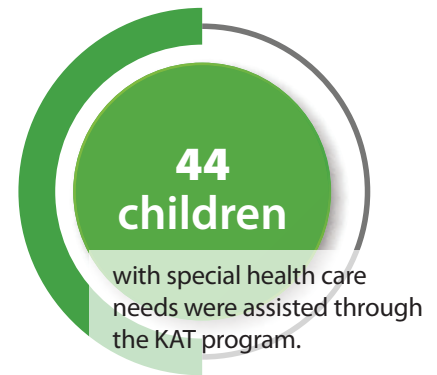
Assistive Technology Reimbursement Program (ATR)

School districts across Missouri benefit greatly from the ATR program, which provides funding assistance to Missouri school students with disabilities who have assistive technology identified in their IEP. Program funding is made possible through an agreement with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. This year, AT was provided to 273 students in 81 districts across the state. This program saved school districts \$480,450.



Kids Assistive Technology Program (KAT)

Assistive technology needed by children with disabilities is often costly for parents. The KAT program is a last resort funding source when no other options exist. Program funding is through the Dept. of Health & Senior Services – Bureau of Special Health Care Needs. In FY'17, the program assisted 44 children with special health care needs. Moreover, for each dollar the KAT Program spent, an additional \$1.10 was leveraged through outside contributions, enabling the program to provide more devices and modifications to Missouri families.



Deaf-Blind Equipment Program (iCanConnect)

Individuals with combined vision and hearing loss face significant barriers to distance communication, such as email, text and video calls. As the Missouri administrator of the federally funded iCanConnect Program, MoAT was able to close the distance communication barrier for 76 Missourians with combined vision and hearing loss through the facilitation of assistive devices, assessments and training.



Money Follows The Person Assistive Technology Demonstration Program

Through the provision of assistive technology, home, and vehicle modifications intended to increase safety, independence and community access, MoAT assisted 24 individuals who transitioned from nursing facilities to community living over the course of the last year.



Assistive technology addresses barriers, provides choice, and opens opportunities.

Success Spotlights

KAT: Being Part of the Family

Five-year old Christopher wanted nothing more than to play with his siblings in the backyard of their Cass County home. Since birth, Christopher's mobility has been limited due to cerebral palsy. His mother, who is employed at a local church, and father, who is in the U.S. Army, had worked hard to make their home accessible for Christopher. Building a ramp that would give Christopher the freedom to go outdoors, though, was beyond the family's means until they learned about the KAT Program. With funds provided through the program, the family was able to add the ramp and give Christopher the freedom of play.



Show-Me Loans: Maintaining Employment

As a registered nurse at a large metropolitan hospital, Dennis's job is demanding. The care of ill and injured patients requires the use of all one's senses. Dennis, though, has a bilateral hearing loss, which necessitates wearing hearing aids. When his audiologist recommended digital hearing aids with directional microphones to help him at work, Dennis wondered how he would afford them. A Show-Me loan through MoAT allowed Dennis to finance new hearing aids, maintain his employment and better understand what was happening in his fast paced work environment.



ATR: Accessing the Curriculum

Not having access to print text in an accessible format made schoolwork difficult for Iris, who attends school just north of Kansas City. From seeing what her teacher was writing on the board, to reading a book, to completing an assignment, Iris's visual impairment limited her ability to easily participate in the classroom. Through the ATR Program, the district was assisted in obtaining a portable electronic magnifier and distance viewer for Iris, which has given her the ease of access needed to open educational opportunities.



Device Loan: Participating in Class

Ten-year old Daniel has a lot to say. He just didn't have a way to say it. A student in a Kansas City area elementary school, Daniel is non-verbal and has a diagnosis of autism. Daniel's school district borrowed a Nova chat speech generating device from MoAT's device loan program to trial with Daniel. He thrived using the device throughout the school day and his world opened up with an abundance of communication opportunities.



Device Demonstration: Learning What's Possible

When Esther came to Services for Independent Living (SIL) in Columbia for a demonstration of low-vision equipment, she really didn't know what to expect. By the time she left, she was well aware of the many useful devices that could help her overcome the barriers low vision places in her way. From low-tech to high-tech, from hand-held magnifiers to computers, from services to funding, the highly trained assistive technology staff at SIL addressed her immediate needs and introduced her to potential assistive technology options for the future.



TAP for Telephone: Staying Connected

Billie's vision loss prevented her from using her telephone. She relied on the telephone as her primary means of interaction with others. Billie's inability to use the phone, caused her to lose her independence and left her feeling isolated in her home. The Independent Living Center (TILC) in Joplin scheduled Billie for an appointment with the TAP for Telephone Program, where she was able to try out and learn about adapted phones that solved her problem. An amplified phone with large keys and tactile markings was a match for Billie. "I love being able to make phone calls without all the frustration," Billie remarked. "I was starting to avoid making calls because I was dialing so many wrong numbers. Now I don't have to wait for someone to come over so that I can make phone calls."



TAP for Internet: Accessing the Internet

The great American road trip: an epic, once in a lifetime act of nostalgia, discovery and adventure that many of us thirst to do in our lifetimes. When William, his wife and two close friends decided to embark for the open road, William took charge of researching their potential destinations. Though he has a visual impairment, William avidly navigated a variety of on-line sources by using the screen reading software he received through Missouri's TAP for Internet Program. Screen reading software allows a blind or visually impaired user to read the text displayed on the computer screen. Besides research, the software allows William to pay bills, plan his schedule and perform many, many additional on-line activities.



iCanConnect: Communicating Freely

Distance communication for email, text and video calling is important to Missouri's seniors. Significant vision and hearing loss, though, can interfere with the independent use of computers and tablets. Earnest, who resides with his wife in rural northwest Missouri, found a solution to the barriers posed by his vision and hearing loss through the iCanConnect Program. Earnest was concerned he wasn't tech-savvy enough to use the technology suggested. His prior use of adaptive computer software had not gone well. With assistance from a program trainer, Earnest quickly learned that the simplicity of the iPad and its built-in accessibility features such as VoiceOver and Siri made it easy for him to download books, access the Bible on-line and send text messages to his grandchildren. Earnest now has regained his independent use of the internet for which he is extremely delighted and grateful.



Money Follows the Person: Living Independently

Osteoporosis, Heart Disease and Hypertension hasn't stopped 83-year-old Melodie from enjoying life, but a set of stairs can. A resident of St. Clair, Missouri, Melodie spent years in a long-term care facility until she moved back into the community this past year. In planning for her transition, her family expressed concern about her safety, especially when it came to entering and exiting the home. Missouri Assistive Technology's Money Follows The Person Assistive Technology Service provided Melodie with a stairlift, which ensures her safety going up and down the stairs to her entrance.





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