



MISSOURI
ASSISTIVE
TECHNOLOGY
2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Missouri Assistive Technology (MoAT)

MoAT, Missouri's statewide program strives to enhance the lives of all Missourians with disabilities, older Missourians and family members. MoAT's activities increase access to and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) devices and services.

Assistive technology provides choice, control and independence for persons of all ages with disabilities at home, work, school, and at play.

2015 Activities

Device Demonstrations: 2,518

MoAT and its partners provided AT device demonstrations to Missourians across the state to help them choose the device that best met their needs.

Device Short-Term Loans: 1,612

The ETC short term loan program enabled schools, rehab centers, and other agencies to try out devices first in order to make cost-effective purchasing decisions.

Device Reuse and Exchange: 1,733

Recycling of durable medical equipment and other devices provided 1,733 recycled and exchanged devices to Missourians at a savings of \$1,467,233 compared to the cost of buying new devices. MoAT partnered with nine regional sites to provide low-cost or no-cost AT to consumers.

Financial Loans for AT and Employment: 54

Missouri Assistive Technology provided financing totaling \$509,777 for Missourians to obtain needed AT devices and services to help them live and work independently.

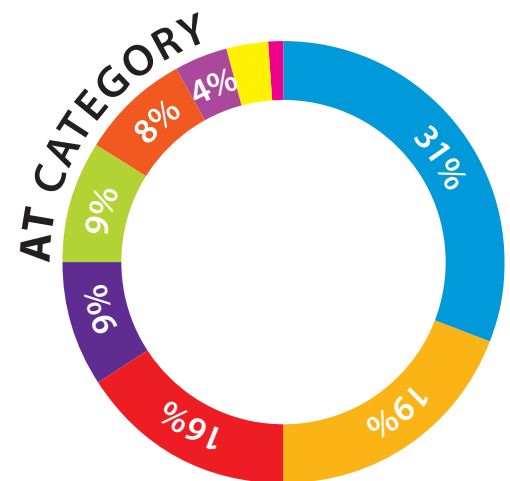
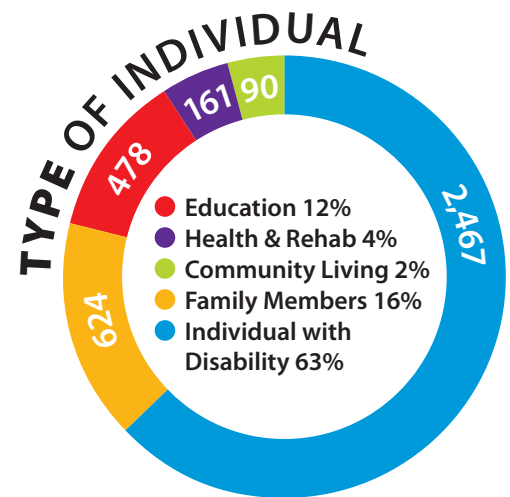
Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) 2,642

TAP provides adaptive equipment for persons with disabilities and seniors who have difficulty using the telephone or accessing the internet or e-mail because of their disability. A total of 2,642 devices were provided to 2,217 individuals to help them stay connected with family, friends and their community.

Training: 5,799

Throughout the state, MoAT served individuals with disabilities, family members, service providers, and educators with training on AT devices, services, policy and best practices.

Device Demo and Loan Programs



- Hearing 31%
- Vision 19%
- Speech Communication 16%
- Learning, Cognition & Development 9%
- Daily Living 9%
- Computers & Related 8%
- Mobility, Seating & Positioning 4%
- Environmental Adaptions 3%
- Other 1%

Coordination and Collaboration

Service Delivery Highlights

AT Demonstration Sites

MoAT and its 8 regional AT demonstration partners gave 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 find out 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 **255** students in **84** 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 when no other option exists. Program funding is through the Dept. of Health & Senior Services- Bureau of Special Health Care Needs. This past year, families of **31** children were helped with funds totaling **\$90,905**. An additional **\$61,803** 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.

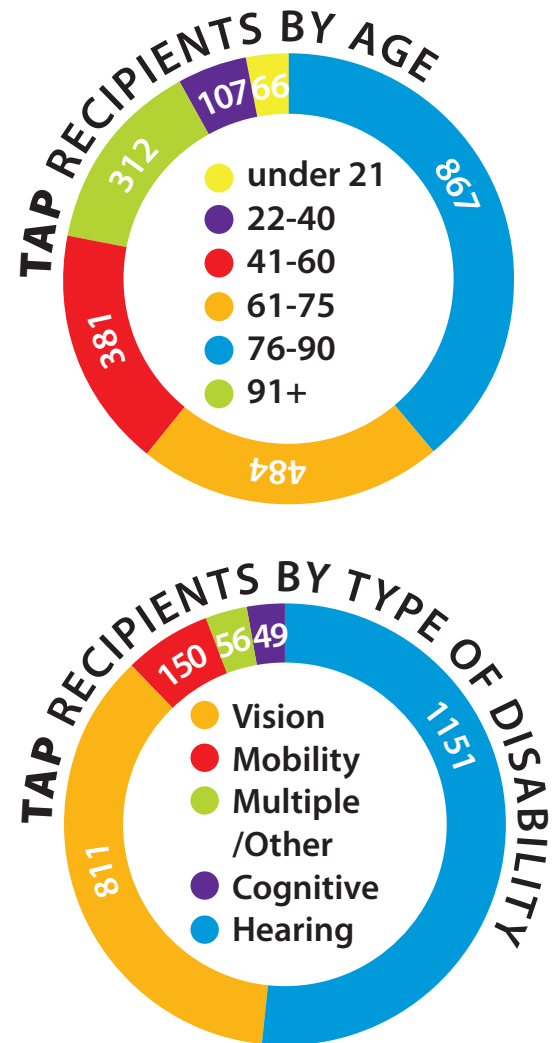
Deaf-Blind Equipment Program (iCanConnect)

For many years, persons who were deaf and blind were among the most underserved in being able to engage other people through telecommunications. MoAT's Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program provided telecom assessments, equipment and training during the year to **46** Missourians who are deaf-blind for whom telecommunications had been difficult or impossible.

Statewide Power Up Conference

Missouri's 2015 Power Up Assistive Technology Conference & 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.

Telecommunications Access Program (TAP)



Empowering People With Disabilities

ATR Program: Supporting Learning

Hayley Bristol is a fourth grader from Springfield. Her school received devices through Missouri Assistive Technology's ATR program to help her be more successful. She is able to use an iPad with a Mount'n Mover mounting arm attached to her wheelchair. She completes her writing assignments with the help of a word prediction/completion feature in a Clicker Docs app and then is able to print them to a wireless printer. She also has a school Google Account that she saves her work to so her teachers can collaborate with her before she finalizes drafts.



Show Me Loans: Employment and Community Living

Shelly is an active Jackson County resident who uses a power chair for mobility. She established and operates the non-profit, AngelPaws Inc. She travels to events with her care provider and her service dog Jewell to improve awareness about service dogs for individuals with disabilities. This year, Shelly's accessible van finally saw its better days, and she was faced with the need to purchase another. Missouri Assistive Technology (MoAT) was able to collaborate with Vocational Rehabilitation to help Shelly. VR covered the cost of the conversion equipment, while MoAT's Show-Me Loans program provided a low-interest loan for the converted vehicle to get Shelly back on track.



Device Demonstration: Community Living

Virginia, who lives in Southwest Missouri, has seen a decline with age in her vision and hearing. She wants to stay active – she volunteers in her community and enjoys family and friends. She's been able to do just that with the help of assistive technology that she selected through device demonstrations at the Southwest Center for Independent Living, one of MoAT's nine (9) regional demonstration sites. For her vision issues, Virginia was able to get a CCTV and magnification software. Trained staff then worked with her to try out different assistive listening devices to use with or without her hearing aids. She found one that she liked and uses it to socialize with her peers, husband and other family. During their demonstration visit, her husband chuckled and said now he'll have to get used to not yelling to talk with Virginia.



TAP for Telephone: Staying Connected

Alfred is in his early 40's and lives in Kirksville. He was born with macular degeneration and has very low vision. Alfred shared a house with his mother until she had to go into a nursing home two years ago. He has kept his independence with the help of some low vision equipment. Alfred was able to get a cordless adapted phone and a voice-activated dialer through MoAT's Telecommunications Access Program (TAP). One of the TAP demo sites, the RAIL Center for Independent Living in Kirksville helped Alfred select his equipment and now he's able to stay connected to friends, family and the community!



Empowering People With Disabilities

Device Recycling: Community Living

Being a teenager with a disability should not mean being disconnected from teenage life. And it definitely shouldn't mean that your primary method of mobility is an office chair with rollers. Complications associated with two years of Leukemia treatments resulted in the deterioration and collapse of her shoulder, hip, knee and ankle joints and left Raven, who lives in Republic, unable to walk. When she was at her most frustrated, Raven learned about Missouri's Recycling and Exchange Programs. She obtained a light-weight wheelchair, bathroom safety equipment and an electric scooter. To have purchased these devices new would have cost Raven's family over \$5,000 and would have meant a time-consuming and complicated process. Upon reflection, Raven said "without the equipment.... I would have been stuck in bed every day. Now I can be the teenager I was meant to be."



TAP for Internet: Community Living

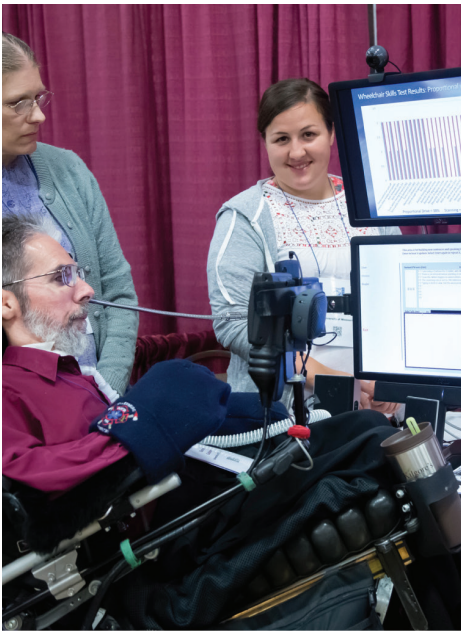
"Don't feel intimidated by assistive technology, but think positively and it will affect the quality of your life!" That is Dan's advice as a new user of his JAWS screen reader software and a refreshable Braille display that he received through the TAP for Internet (TAP-I) program. While a Braille reader since the age of six, Dan didn't come into the digital age until after his retirement. His hobbies and other activities made it essential that he stay connected through the internet and e-mail. He loves baseball and is actually the Housing Coordinator for the Nevada Griffins, a summer college baseball team in his home town. He also plays the piano and harmonica, and now teaches piano to students through ear training and uses on-line resources more and more to listen to music for his students and for himself.



Deaf-Blind Equipment: Community Living

Adorable five-year-old twins Jackie and Janet have had their world opened up through iPads and a computer they received through MoAT's Deaf-Blind Equipment program, referred to nationally as iCanConnect. One twin uses magnification options on her iPad, while the other utilizes apps for persons who are blind. They use the equipment to access the world around them. They download books, go to sign language websites, as well as improving their sign language skills with a pre-loaded app. Collaboration with the Missouri School for the Deaf (MSD) was a key factor in getting the twins approved for the program. Thanks to the equipment received through MoAT, they can more easily communicate between sessions with MSD, and it makes learning more fun during visits.





MISSOURI ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Missouri Assistive Technology
1501 NW Jefferson Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015

Voice: 800-647-8557 (in-state only) or 816-655-6700

TTY: 800-647-8558 (in-state only) or 816-655-6711

FAX: 816-655-6710

Email: MoAT1501@att.net

Online: www.at.mo.gov

Facebook: www.facebook.com/MOAssistiveTechnology

Twitter: @MissouriAT

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