Empowering People With Disabilities

Device Recycling: Community Living

Walkers are not one size fits all as Stacy, a woman in her mid-forties who experiences frequent seizures, learned during a visit to the durable medical recycling program at Services for Independent Living (SIL) in Columbia. SIL is one of the 9 MoAT supported DME recycling centers located throughout Missouri that offer individuals the opportunity to obtain devices at low or no cost. Though a bariatric walker was provided to Stacy through her insurance company, it was too wide and in many situations was just not useful. Stacy and her caregiver consulted with the trained staff at SIL and received a 3-wheeled walker with a braking system and built-in seat. In addition, they learned about and obtained a portable transport chair through the recycling program to provide a safe mode of transporting Stacy when she is feeling weak after a seizure.

TAP for Internet: Community Living

After several frustrating years of attempting to use a computer, Jelani was ready to give up. His cerebral palsy and low vision made computer use almost impossible. That’s when he discovered the TAP for Internet (TAP-I) program. A support provider demonstrated adaptive mice and keyboards, as well as voice recognition software and magnification software. After receiving training on his new mini-touch keyboard, Joystick mouse, and other adaptations, Jelani feels like he has a new beginning on life. He is now able to use email, search the internet, social media and even use word processing. Jelani is so encouraged with what he is able to do that he is creating a resume to search for employment.

TAP for Telephone: Staying Connected

Evelyn has hearing loss in both ears and wears hearing aids. She has had hearing loss for more than twenty years which has made it difficult for her to communicate with family and friends over the phone. Evelyn visited the Independent Living Center of Southeast Missouri in Poplar Bluff where she was able to try out a wide range of adaptive phones to see which one best met her needs. Through MoAT’s Telecommunications Access Program, she was able to get an amplified phone with large easy-to-see buttons that speaks the numbers as she dials them. A big smile lights up Evelyn’s face when she says that she can finally hear on the phone again.

Deaf-Blind Equipment: Community Living

Bruce has been slowly losing his hearing and vision for years. He felt that it was high time that he got started on learning about the assistive technology that his family, friends, and MoAT staff had been telling him about. He is now currently working with an iPhone and is loving it! He is discovering that there is a whole new world out there, and it is literally all at his fingertips!! Bruce is pictured learning how to make a Facetime call to keep in touch with friends and family, especially his daughter who has moved out on her own.
Missouri Assistive Technology (MoAT)

MoAT, Missouri’s statewide assistive technology 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. At home, work, school, or play, assistive technology provides choice, control and independence for persons with disabilities of all ages.

2016 Activities

Device Demonstrations: 3,410
MoAT and its partners provided AT device demonstrations to 3,410 Missourians across the state to help them choose the device that best meets their needs.

Device Loaned: 1,723
The ETC short-term loan program enabled schools, community agencies, and long-term care settings to borrow assistive devices to try out in order to make cost-effective purchasing decisions.

Device Reuse and Exchange Recipients: 2,056
MoAT partners with nine regional AT centers to recycle durable medical equipment and other assistive devices at no cost to the user. The 2,056 Missourians with disabilities who accessed this program saved $1,053,092 over purchasing the devices new.

Financial Loans for AT and Employment: 57
Missouri Assistive Technology provided financing totaling $359,535 to 57 individuals with disabilities or their families to obtain needed AT like vehicle or home access changes, hearing aids and other devices.

Telecommunications Access Program (TAP): 2,256
TAP provides adaptive telecommunications devices to persons with disabilities who have difficulty using the telephone or accessing telecommunications. This program helps 2,256 individuals to help them meet 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 287 students in 85 districts throughout the state. Speech, Vision, Hearing and Computer-related devices were the AT types most often requested this year.

Kids Assistive Technology (KAT) Program
Assistive technology provided by children with disabilities is often costly for parents and the families. The KAT program is a present funding program in which no other options exist. Program funding is through the Dept. of Health & Senior Services Bureau of Special Health Care Needs. This past year, 44 children were helped with funds totaling $147,288. An additional $117,395 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.

Device Demonstrations

Device Demo and Loan Programs

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Deaf-Blind Equipment Program (iCanConnect)
For the past two years, persons with significant combined vision and hearing loss were among the most underserved in being able to engage other people through telecommunications. MoAT’s Deaf-Blind Equipment Program provided 571 devices to 248 participants from across the state.

Show Mo Loans: Employment and Community Living

Show Mo Loans

At home, work, school or play, assistive technology provides choice, control and independence for persons with disabilities of all ages.

Service Delivery Highlights

AT Demonstration Sites
MoAT and its 12 regional AT demonstration partners gave Missouri an opportunity to touch, try and borrow AT devices to help improve independence in the community, school, and workplace. Device demonstrations and workshops are hands-on guided experiences with AT devices to help find out whether a device meets the needs of an individual with a disability.

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For the past two years, persons with significant combined vision and hearing loss were among the most underserved in being able to engage other people through telecommunications. MoAT’s Deaf-Blind Equipment Program provided 571 devices to 248 participants from across the state. Disability services & agencies, educational, providers, parents, persons with disabilities, families and members have learned AT addresses barriers and connects people to the education and employment. The conference, one of the Midwest’s premier AT conferences, was held jointly with the Statewide Independent Living Council conference.

Empowering People With Disabilities

ATR Program: Educational Achievement
This spring, Joseph in Liberty graduated from high school. Things were tough for Joseph academically as his vision loss resulted in a spinal cord injury. Though Lorie does not foresee driving his big rig again, the love for classic cars still burns strong. In 2016, after buying a 1965 Chrysler Newport sedan, Lorie added hand controls to his classic car through financing from Show Mo Loans.

Device Demonstration: Community Living

Show Mo Loans

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