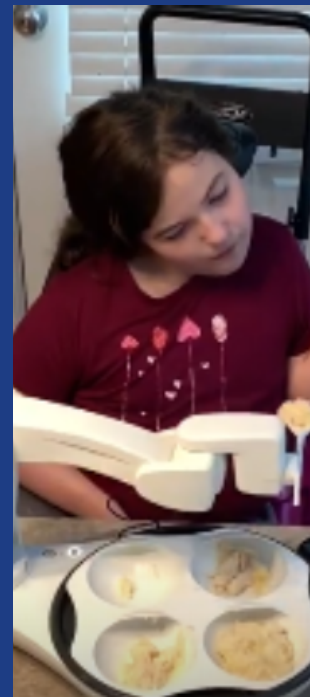
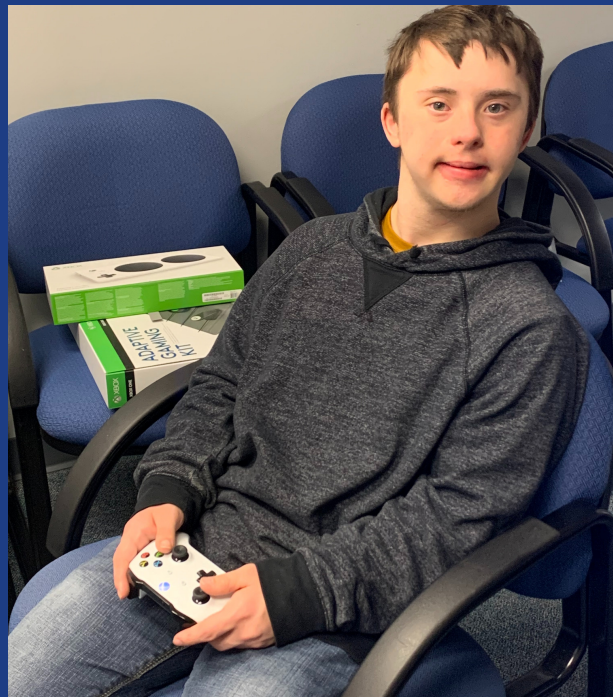
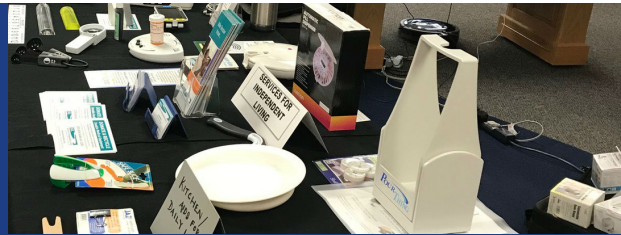




# MISSOURI **ASSISTIVE** TECHNOLOGY



# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Assistive technology is an umbrella term that includes both the devices and related services that enable persons with disabilities and older individuals to be more productive and self-sufficient in their daily activities. Items range from simple to complex and can be used at home, work, school or in the community to reduce barriers, enhance participation and increase independence.



## **MISSOURI ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY (MoAT)**

**As Missouri's federally-funded Assistive Technology Act Program, Missouri Assistive Technology, also known as 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.**



# 2021 AT A GLANCE

## ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY: A GREAT RETURN ON INVESTMENT

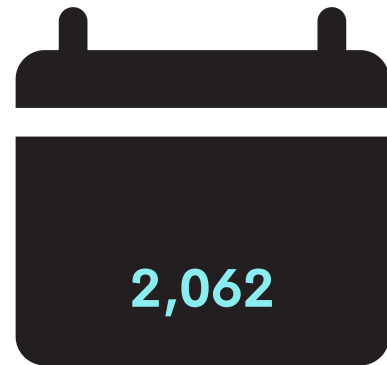
FY' 2021 Federal  
Investment  
**\$610,995**



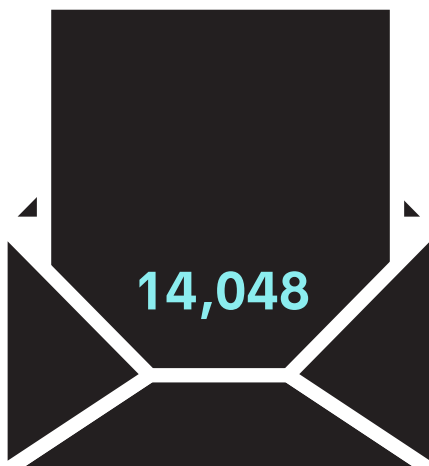
Savings & Benefits  
to Missourians  
**\$3,112,079**



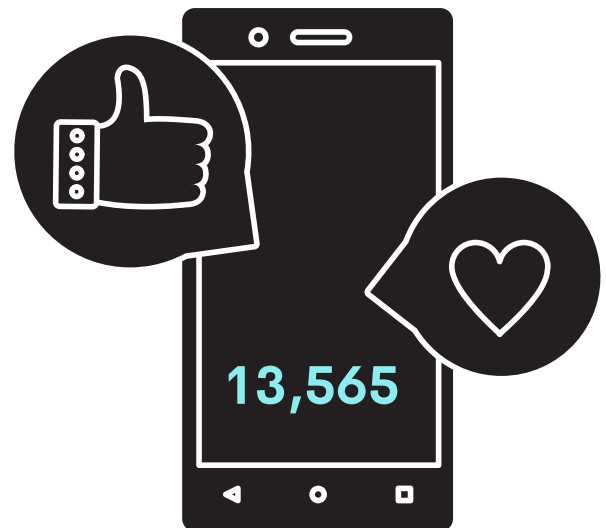
requests for individual assistance information and support were responded to by staff via phone call, email, and in-person



individuals attended MoAT's free workshops and presentations in person and on-line



readers of our newsletter, Know AT with the Help of MoAT



utilized our social media channels

In FY 2021, MoAT delivered **6,837** assistive devices and provided support services to **18,381** Missourians with disabilities, family members, and professionals.



# 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 device demonstrations allow individuals to compare features and make informed decisions based on hands-on experience. In FY '21, **1,823** individuals participated in **1,456** demonstrations.

# DEVICE REUTILIZATION

Device Reutilization gives second life to assistive technology and durable medical equipment that is no longer needed by its original owner. Locations around the state accept donations of gently used devices that are cleaned, refurbished and reassigned at little to no cost to Missourians in need. This past year, **2,597** reutilized devices were provided to **1,911** Missourians saving them **\$658,163** over buying new.

# DEVICE LOAN

MoAT's short-term device loan program provided **1,791** devices to individuals enabling them to try devices in their own environments for the purpose of making an informed decision about whether the equipment will meet their real life needs.

# FINANCIAL LOAN

**29** reduced interest-rate loans were approved through the Show-Me Loans Program to empower Missourians with disabilities and/or their families to purchase AT, adapted vehicles or undertake home modifications.



*"Traveling in the company of those we love is home in motion."*

*-Leigh Hunt*

*Family time should be fun and enjoyable, not strenuous and exhausting. Aaron's manual wheelchair was simply not a good option for traveling distances or on hilly terrain and was leaving his parents too fatigued to enjoy all the activities a local amusement park had to offer.*

*Aaron's parents reached out to Accessibility Medical, a MoAT device reutilization partner in the Kansas City area, in search of a solution. A tilt-in space reclining power wheelchair with elevating leg rests and attendant controls was available for a nominal price. Aaron and his family are now able to fully enjoy their next family trip.*



# MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

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Community transitions were improved for **61** individuals participating in the Money Follows the Person Program (MFP) via the provision of assistive devices to increase independence.

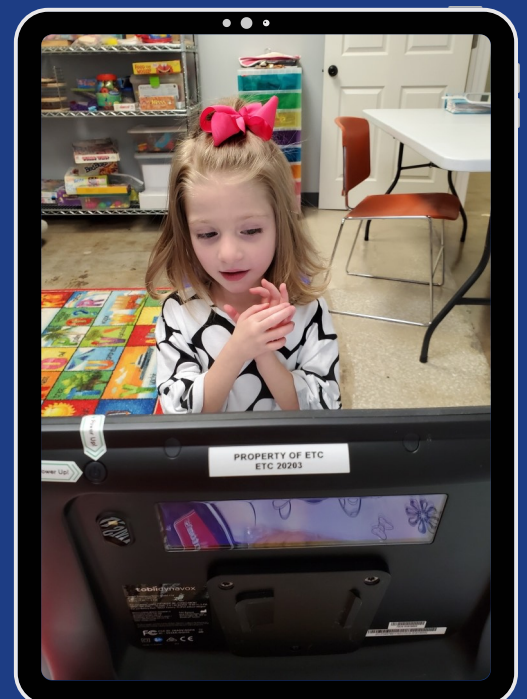


*Mr. Harris spent part of the past year in a nursing home recovering from multiple medical challenges. His true desire, though, was to transition back to the community into his own home, which was made possible when he connected with the Money Follows the Person Program. Due to mobility challenges and limited upper body strength, Mr. Harris was in need of several pieces of AT to help increase his independence and ensure his safety. Funds provided through the AT Demonstration Program enabled Mr. Harris to secure the needed devices.*

# ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

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The ATR program made possible greater access to educational opportunities for **256** Missouri public school students who have assistive technology identified in their IEPs. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education funds the ATR program.



# TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS PROGRAMS (TAP)

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TAP provided **1,156** adaptive devices to seniors and persons with disabilities who have difficulty using the telephone or accessing the internet or email because of their disability, allowing them to stay connected with family, friends and their community.



*Mary has had steadily declining hearing loss for the last several years making it difficult to have phone conversations about her health care with her case manager and others. After being shown several different high-quality adapted phones through a TAP provided in-home demonstration, Mary selected a phone appropriate for her needs that has enabled her to converse more efficiently and easily with her case manager, family, and friends.*

## DEAFBLIND EQUIPMENT PROGRAM (ICANCONNECT)

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MoAT's DeafBlind Equipment Program provided telecommunications assessments, equipment and training during the year to **46** Missourians with significant combined vision and hearing loss for whom telecommunications had been difficult or impossible.

## KIDS ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM (KAT)

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Assistive Technology needed by children with disabilities is often costly for parents and families. KAT, a last resort funding source, enhanced **27** households when no other options existed. This program is funded through the Dept. of Health & Senior Services - Bureau of Special Health Care Needs.



*Clara is a fiercely independent 5-year old who has an Anoxic brain injury and other disabilities that affect her functional mobility. Funding assistance from the KAT Program allowed Clara's family to convert their bathroom from inaccessible to accessible through the addition of a grab-bar (installed at Clara height) and a special tub that features a cut-out and door, providing Clara with independent access. For Clara, her new bath is definitely a happy place.*



# ROBOTIC PET PROJECT

*"He barks at me every morning when I turn on the lights. It is a comforting feeling to know that I am not alone."*

-2021 Participant



The pandemic brought isolation and loneliness to many of Missouri's seniors and people with disabilities. Seeking a counter to the negative impacts of social isolation, MoAT teamed up with the UMKC Institute for Human Development and the Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging to introduce the Robotic Pet Project, a low-cost, low tech, fun and creative way to brighten lives during dark times.



Like real cats and dogs, the furry four-legged battery operated pets bark, whine, purr and even roll over for belly rubs. The program was an instant hit with over **232** individuals "adopting" a pet and in return receiving comfort and companionship.

The program was made possible through No Wrong Door CARES Act funding.





# MISSOURI ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

## GET IN TOUCH WITH US

Missouri Assistive Technology  
1501 NW Jefferson Street  
Blue Springs, MO 64015  
info@mo-at.org (Email)  
816-655-6700 (Voice)  
816-655-6711 (TTY)  
816-655-6710 (Fax)

## CONNECT WITH US ONLINE

Web: <https://at.mo.gov>  
[facebook.com/MOAssistiveTechnology](https://www.facebook.com/MOAssistiveTechnology)  
[Twitter@MissouriAT](https://twitter.com/MissouriAT)



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