

MO AT 16



MISSOURI
ASSISTIVE
TECHNOLOGY

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

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.

Devices 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 providers to offer consumers recycled durable medical equipment and other assistive devices at low or no cost. 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 \$539,535 to 57 individuals with disabilities or their families to obtain needed AT like vehicle or home access changes, hearing aids and other devices.

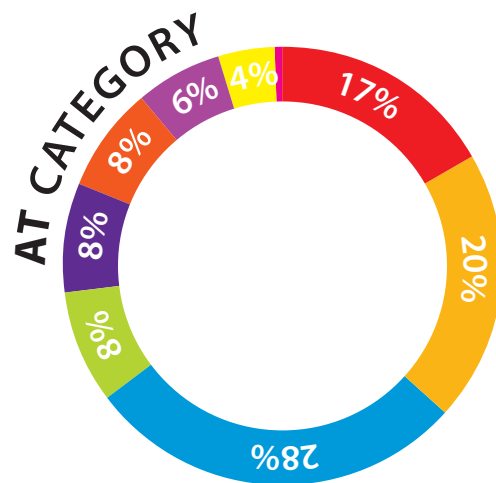
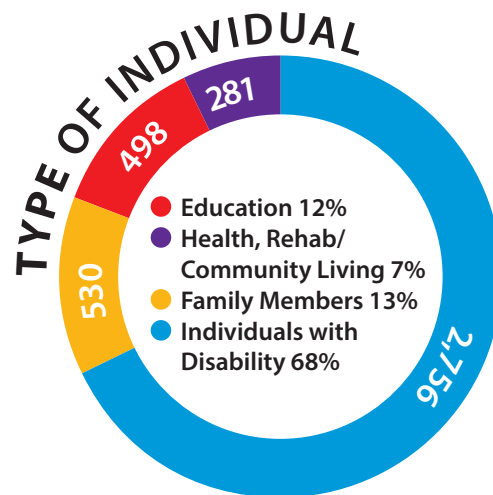
Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) 2,256

TAP provides adaptive equipment for seniors and persons with disabilities who have difficulty using the telephone or accessing the internet or e-mail because of their disability. A total of 2,774 devices were provided to 2,256 individuals to help them stay connected with family, friends and their community.

Training Recipients: 6,222

Throughout the year, Missouri Assistive Technology provided training to over 6,000 persons with disabilities, family members, professionals, schools and agencies on AT devices, services, best practices and policy.

Device Demo and Loan Programs



- Hearing 28%
- Vision 20%
- Speech Communication 17%
- Learning, Cognition & Development 8%
- Daily Living 8%
- Computers & Related 8%
- Mobility, Seating & Positioning 6%
- Environmental Adaptions 4%
- Other 1%

Coordination and Collaboration

Service Delivery Highlights

AT Demonstration Sites

MoAT and its 12 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 **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 (AT) needed by children with disabilities is often costly for parents and families. 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. This past year, families of **44 children** were helped with funds totaling **\$147,285**. An additional **\$157,395** 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.

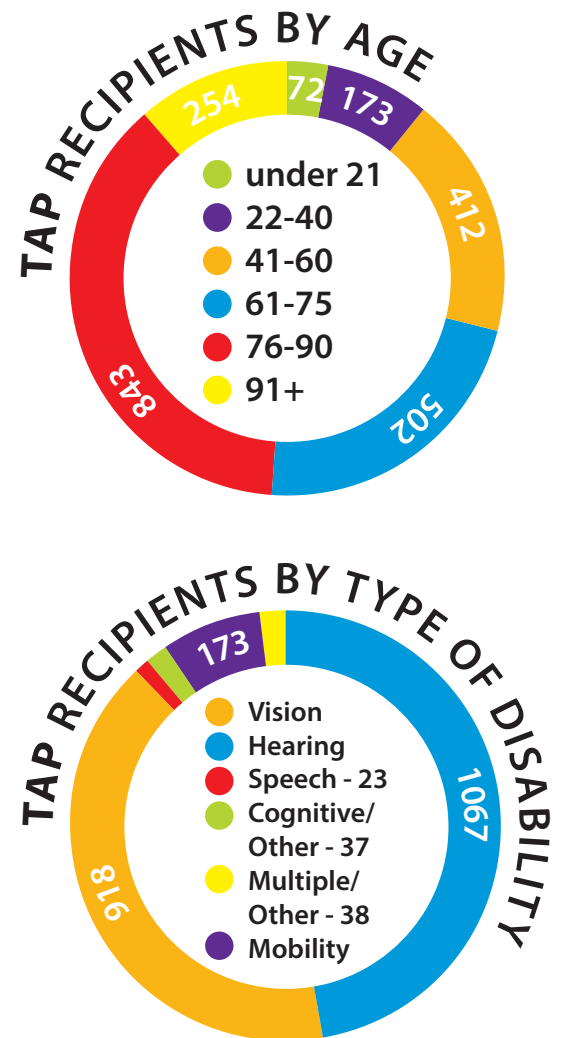
Deaf-Blind Equipment Program (iCanConnect)

For many 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 telecomm assessments, equipment and training during the year to **66 Missourians** with significant combined vision and hearing loss for whom telecommunications had been difficult or impossible.

Statewide Power Up Conference

Missouri's 2016 Power Up Assistive Technology Conference and Expo attracted over **600 participants** from around the state and beyond. Disability organizations & agencies, educators, policy makers, persons with disabilities, family members and more learned how AT addresses barriers and connects people to the community, education and employment. The conference, one of the Midwest's premier AT conferences, was held jointly with the Statewide Independent Living Council conference.

Telecommunications Access Program (TAP)



Empowering People With Disabilities

ATR Program: Educational Achievement

This spring, Joseph in Liberty graduated from high school. Things were tough for Joseph academically for much of his school career. He was diagnosed with dyslexia and dysgraphia in the first grade, but teachers struggled to find ways to successfully accommodate him in the classroom.

“It wasn’t ‘till I was in the eighth grade that my case manager decided to try using assistive technology to help me in the classroom.” Joseph shared. His school applied to Missouri Assistive Technology’s ATR program for a laptop with Dragon software so he could dictate class notes and assignments. “The first semester that I used the technology was the first time in my life I got straight A’s. I’m looking forward to graduating this year with 31 credit hours for college, being accepted to University of Missouri Institute of Science & Technology, and being invited to their honors college. Looking back, I would not be where I am if it weren’t for the assistive technology I use to succeed in my everyday life.”

Show Me Loans: Employment and Community Living

Independence is priceless! A resident of Jackson County, Lorie was for many years a truck driver and enjoyed driving on the open road. Lorie is also an avid vintage car aficionado and has owned several classic cars over the years. In 1990, Lorie was in a very serious truck accident that resulted in a spinal cord injury. Though Lorie does not foresee driving a 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 Me Loans.

Device Demonstration: Community Living

Long-time friends Margie and Elsie of Fayette, Missouri, both have macular degeneration, the leading cause of vision loss among individuals 65 of years and older. It often impedes the ability to read, drive, use a computer and participate in activities. Not wanting to let vision loss slow them down, Margie and Elsie visited Services for Independent Living to explore assistive technology options. They met with an accessibility specialist, talked through the barriers they faced and explored solutions. From magnifiers to lighting and from door handle grips to computer adaptations, the ladies eagerly tried different devices before deciding on several items that will help them be more independent in their daily lives.



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

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.



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