

The Assistive Technology Act: Section 4 Assistive Technology Programs

Marty Exline, AT3 Center
Amy Goldman, AT3 Center
April 23, 2019

Assistive Technology

AT Device: Any device, piece of equipment or product system whether acquired commercially or off the shelf, modified or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

AT Service: Any service that directly assists an individual with a disability in the selection, acquisition or use of an assistive technology device.

Categories of AT Devices and Examples

Vision

manual & video magnifiers

Hearing

personal amplification systems

Speech Communication

“dedicated” speech generating devices

Learning, Cognition and Development

memory aids including apps.

Mobility, Seating and Positioning

walkers, scooters, manual and power wheelchairs

Categories of AT Devices and Examples

Daily Living

Meal preparation and eating; smart home hub; telephony equipment; etc.

Environmental Adaptations

Lifts, ramps, accessible environmental controls

Vehicle Modifications

Hand controls, adaptive shoulder and seat belts

Computers and related

Voice recognition systems, alternative keyboards and pointing devices.

Recreation, sports and leisure equipment

Games, gardening equipment

Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (amended in 2004)

What does this law include?

- State Assistive Technology Act Programs
- Protection and Advocacy Systems for Assistive Technology
- National Assistive Technology Technical Assistance

What are Requirements of State AT Programs?

- Required to spend the majority of the federal allocation to support State-Level Activities:
 - Device Demo, Device Loan, Reutilization, and State Financing Activities
- Spend an amount of the federal allocation to support State Leadership Activities:
 - Training and technical assistance

Who Is Served by State AT Programs?

Each state is charged with serving their entire state's population – throughout the lifespan - all demographics, and there are no referrals needed to receive AT Act services.

State-Level Activities

Assistive Technology *Demonstration* Programs

- Provides opportunities for people to learn about and become familiar with specific types of AT by comparing and contrasting the functions and features of devices through hands-on explorations.
- Instruction is provided by knowledgeable AT Professionals in a product neutral environment that does not favor one company or manufacturer.
- Device demonstrations result in informed decision-making about which AT will and will not meet an individual's disability needs.

State-Level Activities

Assistive Technology *Device Loan* Programs

- Allow individuals to borrow devices for a limited time period to use at home, school, work, etc. Device loans allow borrowers to try out devices in their own environments to determine if a device will meet their needs before a purchase is made.
- Device loans also can provide loaner AT while a device is being repaired, while a consumer is waiting for funding approvals, or to use for training or professional development purposes.

State-Level Activities

Assistive Technology *Reutilization* Programs

- Supports the reuse of assistive technology that is no longer needed or used by its original owner. Recipients usually obtain equipment at significantly lower cost or no cost.
- There are several options for reutilization including refurbish/reassignment or device exchange (typically online) where ownership is transferred, and open-ended device loans where the borrower keeps the device as long as needed and returns it when no longer needed.

State-Level Activities

Assistive Technology State Financing Programs

State Financing Activities help individuals purchase/obtain AT through a variety of initiatives. Financial loan programs provide consumers with affordable, flexible borrowing options. Other programs provide AT directly to consumers at no cost using dollars from non-AT Act sources, or save consumers money when purchasing AT.

State Leadership Activities: *Public Awareness*

- Information and Assistance (I&A) e.g. inquiries received via phone, email
- Public awareness outreach/events, e.g. senior “fairs”; demonstration center tours; accessible websites; blogs and social media

Follow AT3 on Facebook at www.facebook.com/assistivetechorg

Subscribe to “AT News and Tips” at <https://at3centerblog.com/>

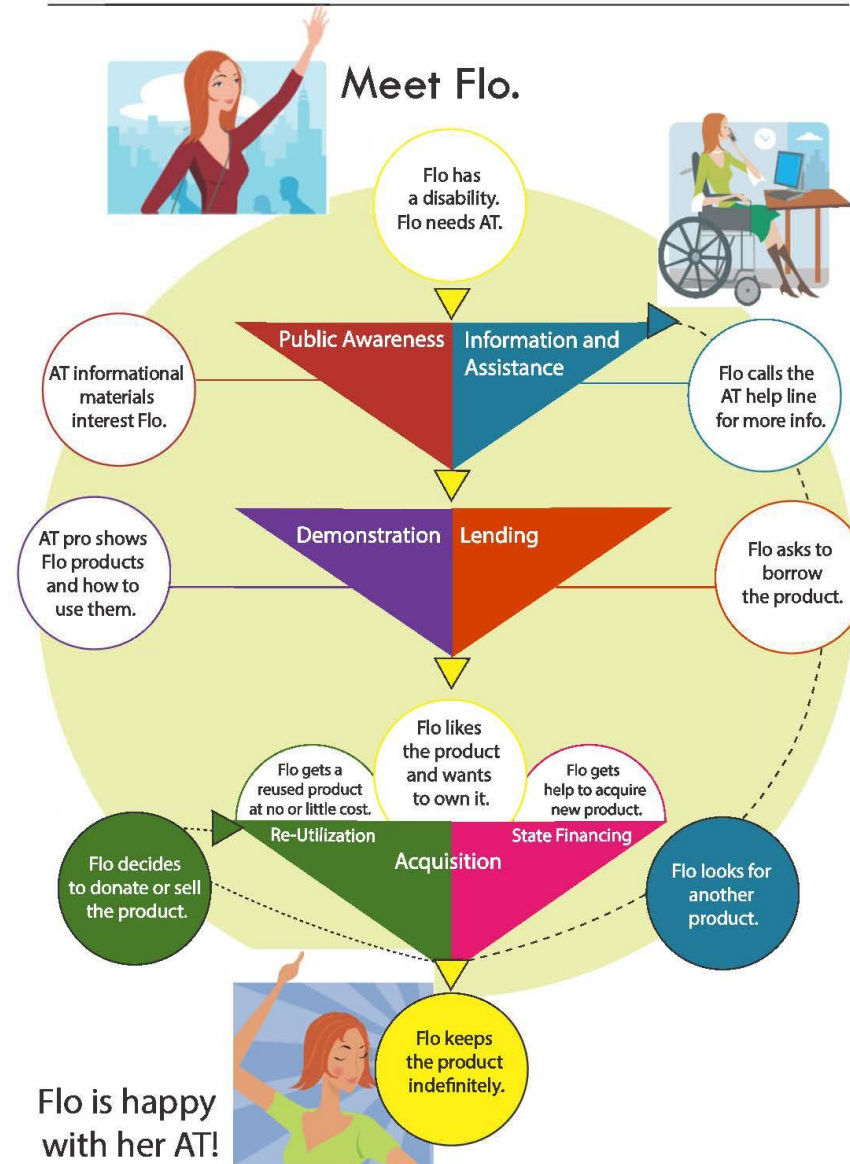
State Leadership Activities:

Training and Technical Assistance

- Training: focused “skill building” sessions; NOT training people on how to use their own AT. Example: Training case managers on how to identify seniors who can benefit from AT for activities of daily living through checklists and similar tools
- Technical Assistance: helping agencies and organizations address their AT policies and practices
- Transition: Training and technical assistance addressing AT and transition from school to adult life AND congregate care to the community
- Accessible Information and Communication Technology: Training and technical assistance improving access to documents, websites, and related ICT.

If you are a consumer, this chart describes how you would discover, access and be served by the State Assistive Technology Program in your state.

Assistive Technology Services "Flo" Chart



Other State AT Funding Assistance Examples

State AT programs may administer or have information regarding a variety of programs that provide funding for assistive technology. Examples include:

- Telecommunications Access Programs
- Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Programs (iCanConnect)
- North Dakota Possibilities Grant
- Oklahoma Smoke Alarms and Alert Equipment
- Missouri Money Follows the Person
- Christopher Reeve Grants

35 States have **Assistive Technology** as a service in their Home and Community Based (HCBS) Waivers for Older Adults.

39 States have **Specialized Equipment and Supplies** as a service in their HCBS Waivers for Older Adults.

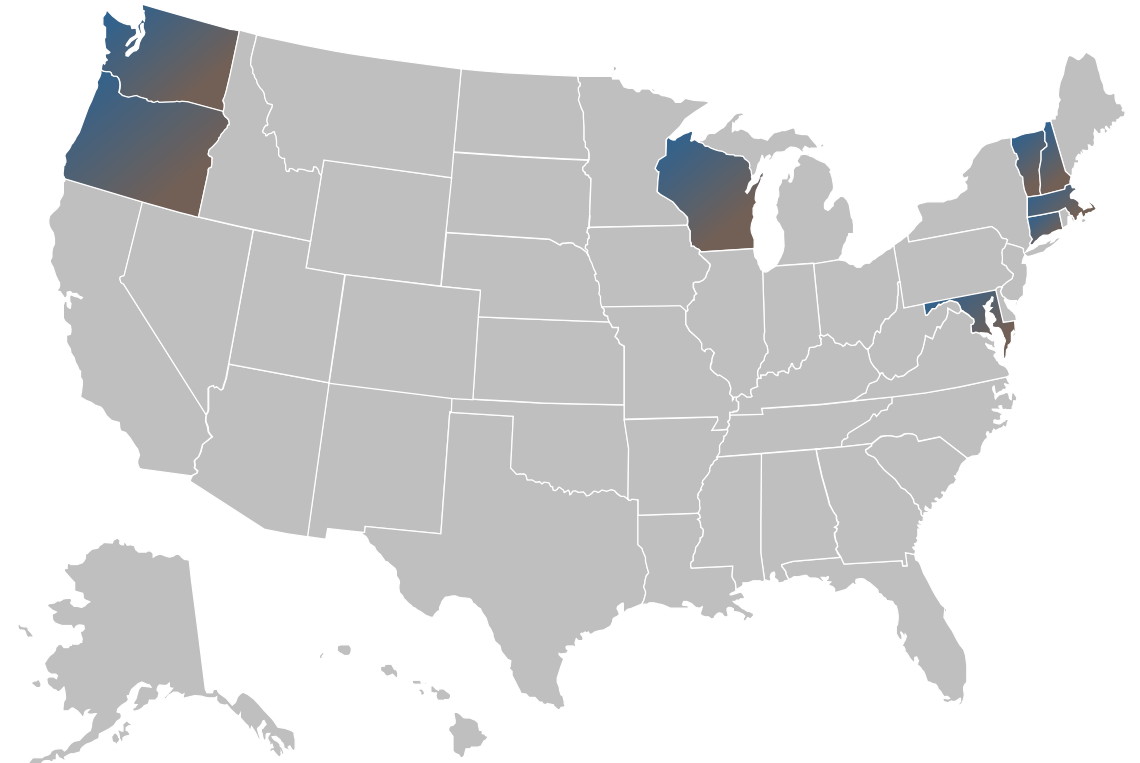


A range of AT is available for participants in state HCBS waivers.

HCBS Service Category – Specialized Medical Equipment

Includes devices, controls or appliances that enable participants to increase their abilities to perform activities of daily living.

- To increase collaboration between Assistive Technology Programs and No Wrong Door Systems



2016 No Wrong Door
Transformation Grants

Example of Collaborations between State AT Programs and State Aging and Disability Agencies

Partnerships with Area Agencies on Aging; Aging and Disability Resource Centers; Centers for Independent Living

- Trainings on
 - State AT Services
 - AT devices
 - Conducting AT demonstrations
- AT Toolkits

Other Points of Collaboration

Device Loan:

- State AT Programs are prepared to loan AT while a device is being repaired or while a consumer is waiting for funding approval

Reutilization:

- Should an individual or caregiver no longer need a device, State AT Programs could serve as a contact for collecting the device.

Programs are an Opportunity for Veteran Involvement:

- Place to volunteer or serve on the Advisory Council for the State AT Program

Program Directory - Find Your State Program

+ [Need help searching?](#)

**Step Number 1: Select
Directory:**

 ▼

**Step Number 2: Select
State:**

 ▼

- Program Website
- E-mail address
- Address
- Program Director
- E-mail contacts for: DEVICE LOAN, DEVICE DEMO, REUTILIZATION, FINANCIAL LOAN & OTHER STATE FINANCING.

Find your state or territory Assistive
Technology Act program.

For More Information:

For a complete copy of the current AT Act statute and additional information about the law, please visit the [National Assistive Technology Act Technical Assistance and Training Center \(AT3 Center\) website](#).

For a list of State AT Programs, visit: <https://www.at3center.net/stateprogram>

To explore different types of AT devices and resources, visit:
<https://www.at3center.net/exploreat>

For additional questions, contact:
Marty Exline at Marty.Exline@ataporg.org or
Amy Goldman at Amy.Goldman@ataporg.org