

AT Act Data Brief

A National Data Summary of State Assistive Technology Programs: Fiscal Year 2024

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REAL STORIES. REAL IMPACT.

Assistive Technology changes lives — and we've got the stories to prove it.

From classrooms to workplaces to everyday community life, individuals across the country are thriving thanks to the right AT devices. Discover how AT Programs made it possible through:

Device Demonstrations (pages 2-3)

Device Loans (pages 4-5, 16-17)

Device Reutilization (pages 6-7)

State Financing (pages 9-10, 17)

INTRODUCTION

The 21st Century Assistive Technology Act (AT Act of 1998, as Amended) under Section 4 authorizes grants to support State and Territory Assistive Technology Programs (AT Programs) that increase knowledge about, access to, and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) devices and services for individuals with disabilities and older Americans. AT Programs focus on improving the provision of AT through comprehensive, statewide programs that are consumer responsive. The goal of these programs is to increase access to and acquisition of AT through an integrated set of state-level activities and state leadership activities.

Section 4 of the AT Act provides 56 formula grants, administered by the Administration on Community Living, to support an AT Program in each state, as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The 2004 reauthorization of the AT Act required a common set of activities to be provided by all AT Programs (with some limited exceptions) to create consistency among grantees and this was continued in the 2022 reauthorization. Required state-level activities include state financing and device reutilization that support acquisition of AT, and short-term device loans and device demonstrations that support access to AT. Required state leadership activities also support access to AT. This includes training, technical assistance, public awareness, information and assistance, and coordination and collaboration activities. All the state-level activities and the major state leadership activities will be described in greater detail later in this brief.

AT Programs are required to serve people with all types of disabilities, of all ages, in all environments, and to provide a wide array of activities to meet AT needs. Programs must also serve family members, service providers, educators, therapists, employers, health and rehabilitation professionals, AT vendors, procurement officials, and other interested parties throughout all versions of the law. Section 4 of the AT Act requires specific data reporting on services provided via the required state-level and leadership activities (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2023). This report is a compilation of data from these programs for FY 2024 and contains information about the activities of the statewide AT Programs.

What is Assistive Technology (AT)?

AT is any item, piece of equipment, or system, whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized, that is commonly used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

(Source: 21st Century Assistive Technology Act, 29 U.S.C. § 3001 et seq.)

SPREADING THE WORD. EXPANDING THE REACH.

AT Programs are breaking barriers through bold public outreach. From creative campaigns to high-impact events, Assistive Technology programs are raising awareness and making sure AT gets into the hands of those who need it most.



See how we're amplifying the message on pages 13-14.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES FLOW: How Consumers Access Information About and Acquire AT Devices

The AT Act supports activities that ensure a full range of AT services for people with disabilities and older adults. Services begin with awareness, training, and information, followed by hands-on exploration through device demonstrations or loans. Once individuals make informed choices, they can acquire AT through reuse programs or financing options. Each step in the process plays a vital role in improving access to and acquisition of AT.



Device Demonstrations

Device demonstrations compare the features and benefits of a particular AT device or category of devices for an individual or small group of individuals. Device demonstrations allow individuals and groups to make informed choices about an AT device prior to acquiring it. Along with providing demonstrations, AT Programs are required to offer comprehensive information about state and local AT vendors, providers, and repair services (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living, [USDHHS, ACL], 2024).

During the FY 2024 reporting period, 56 AT Programs conducted device demonstrations as part of their state-level activities. State AT Programs classify device demonstrations into 10 device categories. There were 42,614 device demonstrations in FY 2024. Speech communication was the largest category, comprising 21% of all demonstrations. Nine additional device categories comprised between 3% and 16% of all demonstrations (see Table 1).

Table 1: Number of Device Demonstrations by Device Type

Type of AT Device	Number of Demos	Percent
Speech communication	9,109	21%
Learning, cognition, and developmental	6,768	16%
Vision	6,627	16%
Daily living	6,154	14%
Mobility, seating and positioning	4,247	10%
Computers and related	3,838	9%
Hearing	1,917	5%
Recreation, sports, and leisure	1,498	4%
Environmental adaptations	1,361	3%
Vehicle modification and transportation	1,095	3%
TOTAL	42,614	100%



Joe Finds the Right Fit with AAC Device Trial (California)



Joe, a social and resilient individual who has survived a brain tumor resection and a stroke, uses a communication device to stay connected with family, friends, and his community. His current device was outdated, so through the Ability Tools program, he borrowed an Accent 1000 to compare it with his existing Accent 1400. After an extended trial, Joe found he could communicate faster with the smaller Accent 1000 but ultimately felt the Accent 1400 better suited his needs. He is now awaiting insurance approval to receive a new Accent 1400 as his permanent replacement.

As illustrated in Table 2, individuals with disabilities (58%) comprised over half of those participating in device demonstrations in FY 2024, followed by family members, guardians, and authorized representatives (21%). AT demonstrated to consumers was primarily used for community living (57%), education (31%), and employment (12%).

Table 2: Number of Individuals Who Participated in Device Demonstrations

Type of Individual	Number of Participants	Percent
Individuals with disabilities	35,811	58%
Family members, guardians, and authorized representatives	12,878	21%
Representatives of health, allied health, and rehabilitation	5,289	9%
Representatives of education	4,285	7%
Representatives of community living	1,966	3%
Representatives of employment	746	1%
Representatives of technology	435	1%
TOTAL	61,410	100%

Preparing for Job Success with Telecommunication Solutions (Florida)



A woman was referred to the Central Regional Demonstration Center in Tampa by her vocational rehabilitation counselor. Actively job hunting, she struggled with telephone communication due to hearing loss. While her Bluetooth-enabled hearing aids worked with her cell phone, they didn't



apply to standard office phones. At the center, we demonstrated various telecommunication solutions, including amplified and captioned phones, and showed how to forward office calls to her cell phone. Since she needed an 80 dB sound level and couldn't predict office layout, amplified options might not be suitable. She decided captioning wasn't ideal, and forwarding the office line to her cell phone seemed the simplest solution. She left prepared for job interviews with possible solutions.

Empowering a Deaf Student with AT for Success (Puerto Rico)



A Deaf woman pursuing a technical degree contacted the Puerto Rico Assistive Technology Program (PRATP) for an assistive technology tool demonstration. Struggling with the frequent lack of in-person or virtual interpreters, she needed support with understanding her professors and taking



notes. Reassured by her high proficiency in reading and writing, the PRATP specialist demonstrated real-time transcription and note-taking apps, including Live Transcribe, AVA, and iOS Voice Recognition. PRATP also introduced tools for recording and transcribing audio into text using Microsoft Word. The student used her own devices to try these tools and immediately integrated them into her routine, recognizing their potential to enhance both her academic experience and daily life.

Device Loans

Device loan programs allow AT consumers and professionals who provide services to individuals with disabilities to borrow AT devices for use at home, at school, at work, and in the community. The purpose of a device loan may be to assist in decision-making, to fill a gap while the consumer is waiting for device repair or funding, to provide a short-term accommodation, to facilitate self-education by a consumer or professional, or to provide other training (USDHHS, ACL, 2024).

During FY 2024, 56 AT Programs reported providing 32,527 short-term loans of 58,071 AT devices to individuals or entities. Forty-four percent of borrowers were individuals with disabilities, the largest group to whom devices were loaned, followed by family members, guardians, and authorized representatives (18%), and representatives of education (17%). Table 3 shows a more detailed breakdown.

Table 3: Number of Device Loans by Type of Borrower

Type of Borrower	Number of Device Borrowers	Percent
Individuals with disabilities	14,444	44%
Family members, guardians, and authorized representatives	5,869	18%
Representatives of education	5,427	17%
Representatives of health, allied health, and rehabilitation	4,371	13%
Representatives of community living	1,391	4%
Representatives of technology	743	2%
Representatives of employment	282	1%
TOTAL	32,527	100%

Lending Library Helps Three Generations Experience the Redwoods (Oregon)



Katie contacted the Oregon AT Program’s lending library for mobility equipment for an upcoming trip. Her grandmother and mother were visiting to experience the beauty of the Pacific Northwest, with a highlight being her grandmother’s lifelong dream of seeing the redwoods. To meet her grandmother’s mobility needs, Katie and her mother researched ADA-accessible trails in the area. Katie borrowed a manual wheelchair and a rolling walker with a seat from the lending library to make the trip easier. The visit was a success, and Katie shared, “Even though I knew the forest was majestic, I was surprised by how deeply it moved my grandmother. She kept thanking us and telling strangers that visiting the redwoods was on her bucket list—and that her daughter and granddaughter had made it happen. Without the lending library, none of this would’ve been possible.”



Devices for speech and communication (31%) and computers and related (14%) were the most common types of AT devices loaned in FY 2024, followed by mobility and seating (13%) and devices for daily living (13%). Six additional device categories accounted for the remaining 29% of the device loans made (see Table 4). Approximately 74% of device loans (n=23,926) were made to individuals to assist with decision-making. Other reasons borrowers cited for wanting a short-term device loan included for accommodation (17%), for training/personnel development (6%), and for use as a loaner during repair/waiting for funding (4%).

AT acquired through device loan programs was primarily used for community living (63%), education (30%), and employment (7%).

Table 4: Number of Devices Loaned by Type

Type of AT Device	Number Loaned	Percent
Speech communication	18,080	31%
Computers and related	8,111	14%
Mobility, seating and positioning	7,669	13%
Daily living	7,657	13%
Learning, cognition, and developmental	5,410	9%
Vision	3,386	6%
Recreation, sports, and leisure	3,146	5%
Environmental adaptations	2,885	5%
Hearing	1,637	3%
Vehicle modification and transportation	90	<1%
Total # of Devices Loaned	58,071	100%

Finding His Voice Again: Jesse's AAC Journey with the Illinois AT Program (Illinois)



Jesse's journey with the Illinois AT Program (IATP) began when his friend Deb referred him to explore alternative augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) solutions. Currently nonspeaking due to throat cancer treatments, Jesse had been using pen and paper, which was very limiting. During his first visit to IATP's Demonstration Center, a speech-language pathologist (SLP) helped him find an AAC app that met his needs. Before obtaining the app, Jesse borrowed an AAC device through the Device Loan program. He later worked with the Illinois Care Connections program to receive an iPad with the selected app. Now, Jesse uses AAC technology to communicate in various settings—preaching to his congregation, talking to family on Zoom and by phone, and giving commands to his dog. IATP is proud to be a part of Jesse's communication journey!

Device Reutilization Programs

Device reutilization involves transferring a previously owned device from someone who no longer needs it to someone who does. Device reuse falls into two activity categories. The first one, device exchange, usually occurs through an online forum where sellers and buyers can connect. Recycling, refurbishment, and repair (RRR) and/or open-ended loan is the second category. In RRR, devices are typically obtained from individuals who no longer need them, are refurbished, and then provided to new owners.

Open-ended loan programs use the same process as RRR, collecting previously used devices and refurbishing them as needed, and then loaning them to individuals who can use them as long as they are needed. The expectation is that the devices would be returned to the program at some point. For the purposes of this brief, the second category—RRR and/or open-ended loan—will be referred to as device refurbishment.

In FY 2024, 65,845 consumers received a total of 98,578 reutilized devices from 56 AT Programs, resulting in an overall savings of \$38.3 million. The most common device reutilization activity was device refurbishment (as described previously). Ninety-six percent of recipients received devices through a device refurbishment program, saving almost \$37 million. Of the services provided through reutilization programs, device refurbishment activities provided the greatest savings to recipients (see Table 5). Mobility/seating and daily living AT comprised 89% of all devices provided through the two reutilization programs. Additionally, these two device types made up 89% of savings totaling over \$34.3 million (see Table 6).

AT acquired through device reutilization programs was primarily used for community living (97%), and was also used to support education (2%) and employment (1%).

Rain, Grain, and All-Terrain: Navigating Farm Life with an M3 Power Chair (Kansas)



Ranchers wear boots for a reason—they're built for the rough terrain of pastureland and cattle corrals. Now, imagine navigating that same ground in a wheelchair. That's daily life for Bret, who checks fences, feeds cattle, and tags calves using a manual or power wheelchair, an ATV, or a pickup with a lift. After a 2004 accident left him with a spinal cord injury, Bret adapted—but most power wheelchairs aren't made for rugged ranch work. He's worn out many wheelchairs, and even with heavy-duty models, tasks like tossing grain, fixing fences, or vaccinating over 150 cattle each season remain physically taxing. That changed when Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK) provided a used Permobil Corpus M3 power chair with a 12-inch seat elevation. Bret immediately saw the benefits. "There's a fridge right next to the chute with the vaccines," he said. "Being able to turn on a dime and raise the seat makes a huge difference. I can work more independently, and it's eased the strain on my shoulders—especially important since I recently found out I have two torn rotator cuffs."



Table 5: Number of Recipients, Devices, and Savings by Type of Reutilization Activity

Activity	Number (Percent) of Device Recipients	Number (Percent) of Devices	Total Savings to Recipients	Percent of Savings to Recipients
Device refurbishment	63,353 (96%)	86,556 (88%)	\$ 36,976,214	97%
Device exchange	2,492 (4%)	12,022 (12%)	\$1,325,287	3%
TOTAL	65,845 (100%)	98,578 (100%)	\$ 38,301,501	100%

Table 6: Device Reutilization Summary by Device Type

Type of AT Device	Number of Devices	Percent of Devices	Total Savings	Percent of Savings
Mobility, seating and positioning	53,932	55%	\$25,429,210	66%
Daily living	33,491	34%	\$8,890,100	23%
Environmental adaptations	5,384	5%	\$652,629	2%
Computers and related	1,887	2%	\$660,994	2%
Vision	1,196	1%	\$936,337	2%
Speech communication	1,030	1%	\$1,079,791	3%
Recreation, sports, and leisure	648	1%	\$205,513	1%
Hearing	503	1%	\$153,018	<1%
Learning, cognition, and developmental	328	<1%	\$50,767	<1%
Vehicle modification and transportation	179	<1%	\$243,142	1%
TOTAL	98,578	100%	\$38,301,501	100%

Low-Tech Solutions with High-Impact Results (Colorado)



Eduard, an 8th grader with cerebral palsy receiving outpatient Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) services at the CIDE Assistive Technology Clinic, was a recipient of one of the Assistive Technology Program of Colorado's open-ended loans. He came to our clinic with a Tobii I5 and eye gaze system but no mount to secure it to his wheelchair, rendering it unusable. Since he wasn't due for a new device for another two years, he was provided with a device mount. Using the mount in conjunction with his Tobii I5 has transformed Eduard's life. He now uses his AAC device regularly and has access to a means of communication at school, at home, and in the community. One of his teacher's states, "He is a completely different kid and is now interacting with his peers and other teachers."



State Financing

State financing activities assist individuals with disabilities to acquire AT through 3 types of programs:

- 1) Financial loan programs that provide cash loans that borrowers can use to purchase AT
- 2) Other financing activities that directly provide AT
- 3) Additional financing activities that allow consumers to obtain AT for a reduced cost

Financial loan programs can include low-interest loan funds, interest buy-down programs, revolving loan funds, loan guarantees, or other cash borrowing options. Other programs use external funding provided to the AT Program by another agency, and directly provide that AT to eligible recipients. These programs are frequently limited in focus, only providing a particular type of AT (such as telecommunications), are restricted to individuals with a specific kind of disability, or require that individuals be eligible for a specific funding source (such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, vocational rehabilitation, or Medicaid).

State financing activities that reduce the cost of AT include cooperative buying programs, equipment lease programs, and device design and fabrication programs. Funds authorized under the AT Act cannot be used to purchase AT devices or services directly for individual consumers (USDHHS, ACL, 2024).

CASH LOAN PROGRAMS

Thirty-three state AT Programs reported data on financial loans made. These programs issued 727 loans for AT devices, totaling \$11,445,463. The average annual income of loan recipients was \$60,657, and the national average interest rate was 3.69%. Out of 727 loans issued, 11% were made to applicants with annual incomes of less than \$15,000, and another 18% were made to applicants with annual incomes between \$15,001 and \$30,000. The overwhelming majority of total loan dollars issued (78%) was for vehicle modification and transportation, averaging \$31,606 per loan. Hearing AT ranked first in number of devices financed, making up around half of device loans (49%), and averaging \$2,983 per loan. For a more detailed breakdown of loans by device type, see Table 7.

Table 7: Types and Dollar Amounts of AT Acquired with Financial Loans

Type of AT	Number of Devices Financed	Device Percent	Dollar Value of Loans	Dollar Percent	Avg. Loan Amount
Hearing	443	49%	\$1,321,401	12%	\$2,983
Vehicle modification and transportation	284	31%	\$8,976,098	78%	\$31,606
Mobility, seating and positioning	63	7%	\$374,918	3%	\$5,951
Daily living	45	5%	\$226,391	2%	\$5,031
Environmental adaptations	32	4%	\$390,882	3%	\$12,215
Vision	21	2%	\$105,523	1%	\$5,025
Computers and related	13	1%	\$16,509	<1%	\$1,270
Speech communication	2	<1%	\$6,203	<1%	\$3,102
Recreation, sports, and leisure	2	<1%	\$26,541	<1%	\$13,271
Learning, cognition, and developmental	1	<1%	\$997	<1%	\$997
TOTAL	906	100%	\$11,445,463	100%	\$12,633

OTHER STATE FINANCING PROGRAMS THAT DIRECTLY PROVIDE AT

Twenty-seven states reported data on other financing activities that resulted in the acquisition of AT devices and services. In FY 2024, these programs served 11,908 individuals and provided 33,721 AT devices. Computers and related devices and speech communication devices comprised of 58% of the technologies funded. Computer devices made up 21% (\$2,310,757) of the total value of AT provided (\$11,102,779), and 41% of total devices funded. For a more detailed breakdown, see Table 8.

Table 8: Types and Dollar Amounts of AT Funded

Type of AT	Number of Devices Funded	Device Percent	Dollar Value of AT Provided	Value Percent	Avg. Amount Per Device
Computers and related	13,707	41%	\$2,310,757	21%	\$169
Speech communication	5,566	17%	\$1,735,079	16%	\$312
Vision	5,010	15%	\$3,230,769	29%	\$645
Daily living	3,711	11%	\$518,269	5%	\$140
Hearing	3,369	10%	\$926,880	8%	\$275
Mobility, seating and positioning	954	3%	\$436,856	4%	\$458
Environmental adaptations	805	2%	\$1,237,872	11%	\$1,538
Learning, cognition, and developmental	461	1%	\$344,260	3%	\$747
Recreation, sports, and leisure	88	<1%	\$15,202	<1%	\$173
Vehicle modification and transportation	50	<1%	\$346,835	3%	\$6,937
TOTAL	33,721	100%	\$11,102,779	100%	\$329

Exploring New Places with Orin & Noodle (Alabama)



Our new partnership to support the administration of the last-resort funding organization, Libby's Friends, has been a joy to see come to fruition. Libby's Friends does amazing work—fundraising and working tirelessly to fulfill as many assistive technology requests as their budget allows. One heartwarming story comes from a family who received a folding power chair for their son, Orin. The chair, affectionately named “Noodle,” has given Orin the freedom and independence to explore his world. His mom shared, “We are learning so much more about O’s personality now that he can explore new places at his own pace. He looked at me in amazement the first time we took Noodle out and I told Orin, ‘Go where you want to—I’m right behind you.’ We were at a community festival, and he went straight for the cake tables!” They also report that the chair’s impact is growing, as Orin’s providers are now recommending similar devices to other patients after seeing the positive results.

OTHER STATE FINANCING PROGRAMS THAT REDUCE THE COST OF AT

Eighteen states reported data on other state financing activities that allowed consumers to obtain AT at a reduced cost. In FY 2024, these other financing activities served 3,271 individuals, and 7,130 devices were acquired at a total savings of \$291,309.

Out of all the AT categories, daily living AT resulted in the highest savings to consumers (\$61,701) and made up the highest percentage of acquired devices (35%). This resulted in moderate savings per device (\$25). For more information, see Table 9. AT acquired through state financing activities was primarily used for community living (83%), education (8%), and employment (9%).

Table 9: Types and Dollar Amount of AT Devices Acquired

Type of AT	Number of Devices Acquired	Device Percent	Current Retail Price	Sale Price	Savings	Savings Percent	Avg. Amt. Saved Per Device
Daily living	2,490	35%	\$69,664	\$7,963	\$61,701	21%	\$25
Speech communication	1,004	14%	\$190,032	\$154,406	\$35,626	12%	\$35
Learning, cognition, and developmental	888	12%	\$137,305	\$97,933	\$39,372	14%	\$44
Vision	836	12%	\$144,119	\$118,472	\$25,647	9%	\$31
Recreation, sports, and leisure	742	10%	\$51,857	\$25,400	\$26,457	9%	\$36
Computers and related	407	6%	\$59,389	\$4,521	\$54,868	19%	\$135
Environmental adaptations	395	6%	\$21,034	\$13,170	\$7,864	3%	\$20
Mobility, seating and positioning	342	5%	\$51,676	\$12,358	\$39,318	14%	\$115
Vehicle modification and transportation	25	<1%	\$440	\$44	\$396	<1%	\$16
Hearing	1	<1%	\$259	\$199	\$60	<1%	\$60
TOTAL	7,130	100%	\$725,775	\$434,466	\$291,309	100%	\$516

Opening Doors to Enter the Workforce (Kansas)



Lisa lives in Kansas and has limited mobility due to fibromyalgia. When she first came to Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK), she was using a power wheelchair but had no accessible vehicle, no access to her home, and was not employed. Through a collaborative effort between ATK, vocational rehabilitation (VR), and private funding, Lisa received an adaptive vehicle and an accessible ramp. VR purchased the vehicle with a hitch and lift, while ATK, with help from Friends of Man, CPRF of Wichita, and Arcare of Kansas City, assisted with the ramp funding. With the support of VR and ATK, Lisa is now prepared and excited to enter the workforce and further her independence.

State Level Activities Performance

ACQUISITION PERFORMANCE

After obtaining services from state AT Programs, consumers are surveyed about the primary purpose for the device’s use and why they sought out state AT Program services. Consumers are surveyed after they participate in state financing activities, device reuse activities, and/or short-term device loan activities that are not for a decision-making purpose.

Key data highlights:

- 90% of device recipients would not have been able to afford or obtain AT they needed without the State AT Program.
- Community living was by far the most common purpose for AT, at 91%.

ACCESS PERFORMANCE



After participating in a device demonstration and/or short-term device loan for a decision-making purpose, consumers are asked about the kind of decisions they were able to make as a result of these programs, and about the primary purpose for these devices. These services have overwhelmingly contributed to individuals with disabilities or their representatives making an informed decision about AT.

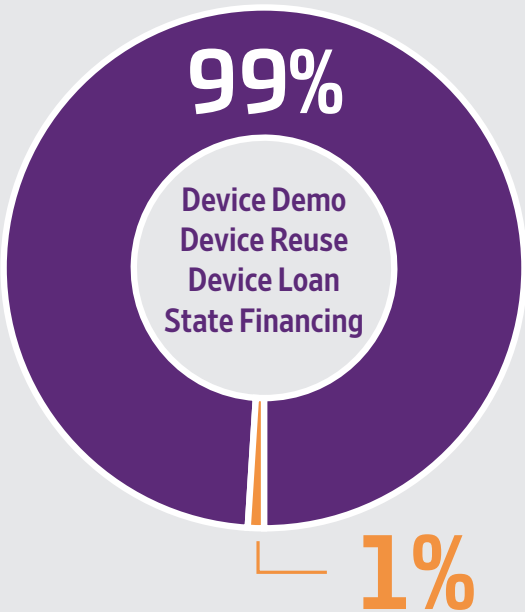
Key data highlights:

- 89% of respondents were able to make an informed decision about matching an AT device to their needs (and avoid purchasing inappropriate devices).
- 56% of consumers stated that community living was the main purpose for their AT use, while 34% said education.

Consumer Satisfaction

AT Program consumers were asked to report their satisfaction with the services they received from four state-level activities. Device reuse, state financing, device loan, and device demonstration programs all received customer satisfaction ratings of 99 percent!

-  Highly Satisfied or Satisfied
-  Satisfied Somewhat or Not at all Satisfied



State Leadership Activities

TRAINING

Training activities are instructional events for a specific purpose or audience that are designed to increase participants’ knowledge, skills, and competencies around AT. Examples include large or small group classes, workshops, and presentations, and training can be delivered in person or via a variety of distance education mechanisms (USDHHS, ACL, 2024).

Out of 99,463 trainees, 27% were representatives of education, followed by individuals with disabilities (19%), and representatives of health, allied health, and rehabilitation (15%). View Table 10 for the types of topics that were covered in trainings.

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

Information and assistance (I&A) activities are those in which state AT Programs respond to requests for information or put individuals in contact with other entities. These other entities can provide individuals with information and intensive assistance on AT devices/services or AT funding.

In FY 2024, a total of 165,665 individuals received I&A. Out of those, 38% were individuals with disabilities, 20% were family members, guardians, and authorized representatives, followed by 14% representatives of community living. Seventy-eight percent of recipients requested information about specific AT products/ devices/services.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Technical assistance (TA) is provided by state AT Programs to help public agencies and other organizations improve their, policies, programs and outcomes. As a result of TA and other activities, some AT Programs report improved outcomes with policy, practices, or procedures that resulted in increased access to and acquisition of AT in the state.

In FY 2024, the 56 grantees reported providing a majority of TA to community living agencies (37%) and education agencies (26%). The remaining agency types receiving TA include health, allied health, and rehabilitation (13%), employment (13%), and technology (11%).






Table 10: Percentage of Participants that Attended Trainings by Topic

Percentage of Participants that Attended Trainings by Topic	Definition of Training Topic
56% AT products and services	The focus is on increasing skills and competencies in using AT, and integrating AT into different settings.
23% Combination of topics	AT products/services, AT funding/policy/practice, and information technology/telecommunication access.
10% Information technology/telecommunication access trainings	Accessible information technology and telecommunications, including web access, software accessibility, and procurement of accessible IT.
8% Transition	Education transition (school to work or post-secondary education and IDEA Part C infant and toddler to Part B school aged), or community transition (institution to community living).
3% AT funding/policy/practice	Funding sources and related laws, policies, and procedures required to implement and deliver access to AT devices/services.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Public awareness activities share information about the availability, benefits, appropriateness, and costs of AT devices and services through media, events, and outreach, including a statewide referral system. These efforts reach many people, though exact numbers are hard to quantify. As a result, programs submit anecdotal data. The following stories highlight innovative outreach efforts by AT Programs in FY 2024:



-  The **ALABAMA AT PROGRAM (APTAT)** brought its assistive technology lending library directly to rural communities through six hands-on Rural Roadshow events where residents could explore and borrow devices on-site. The events sparked vital collaborations with organizations like The Arc of Clarke County, who saw the power of AT to support youth transitioning to adulthood. One elementary school even secured funding to purchase devices after using the event to build their case. These stories underscore how essential AT is in bridging gaps in independence, education, and opportunity for people with disabilities.
-  At a caregiver conference, the **ARKANSAS AT PROGRAM** showcased vital AT tools for supporting individuals with dementia and Alzheimer's. Over 70 caregivers, family members, and professionals viewed powerful demonstrations of five AT devices focused on vision, hearing, and memory. Two geriatric dementia specialists expressed strong support for the tools, noting their potential to help individuals remain safe and active in their communities. The impact was immediate: within one day, two counselors reached out to borrow devices for their clients.
-  The **ARIZONA AT PROGRAM (AZTAP)** conducted 93 public awareness activities this year, reaching over 13,000 people with critical information about assistive technology and disability services. These efforts included 67 outreach events and the annual statewide Evidence for Success Disability Conference, which brought together over 500 attendees through collaboration with state and university partners. AzTAP's comprehensive outreach strategy also features ongoing trainings, virtual information and communication technology education, and regular email and social media communications. These efforts play a vital role in connecting individuals with tools that support independence.
-  At the Los Angeles Abilities Expo—the largest AT event in California—the **CALIFORNIA AT PROGRAM** served as the showcase booth, reaching more than 10,000 attendees. Their interactive space featured a wide range of assistive technology, focused on key areas like learning, smart homes, and disaster preparedness. Attendees were especially drawn to the AT Maker table, where they could explore 3D printed devices, create their own tools using Instamorph, and take part in tutorials on switch adaptation. The booth empowered visitors with practical, hands-on knowledge and resources to support independence and innovation.
-  The NEAT Center's Adaptive Equipment Reuse program, a partner of the **CONNECTICUT AT PROGRAM**, was featured in a [3-minute spotlight on Channel 3's CT Buzz Segment](#), reaching over 15,000 viewers. The segment highlighted the critical value of recycling and reusing durable medical equipment and assistive technology. By showcasing real solutions that promote sustainability and access, the feature helped expand awareness of the program's services across Connecticut.



The **INDIANA AT PROGRAM (INDATA)** produces three widely distributed podcasts—[ATUpdate](#), [ATFAQ](#), and [Accessibility Minute](#)—focused on accessibility news, assistive technology, and listener Q&As. These shows serve as a reliable source of AT information for a global audience, reaching listeners in over 160 countries. With an engaged following, the podcasts help raise awareness and provide essential support for people with disabilities worldwide. Their reach demonstrates the ongoing demand for accessible, expert-driven AT content.



In April 2024, Kansas Governor Laura Kelly proclaimed April as Assistive Technology Awareness Month, emphasizing the importance of accessible AT for individuals of all ages and disabilities. The proclamation highlighted the need for these technologies to support Kansans in work, school, and community life. Martha K. Gabehart, Executive Director of the Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns and the entire **KANSAS ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COUNCIL** petitioned the Governor to make the Proclamation.



MASSACHUSETTS ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY REGIONAL CENTER (ATRC) staff participated in the Plymouth County Golf Classic, showcasing AT devices that enable individuals with disabilities to play golf and improve their independence. At the country club, they presented a variety of devices for vision, hearing, leisure, and daily living activities, including a live demo of a 3D printer creating customized devices. The event, co-hosted by Easterseals Massachusetts and the Plymouth County Golf Club, drew 100 attendees, offering valuable insights into the role of AT in enhancing accessibility.



MICHIGAN AT PROGRAM (MATP) staff promoted the Adaptive Winter Wear Coat closet on Facebook, reaching over 4,300 people. This campaign raised awareness about the need for adaptive clothing and highlighted the availability of this resource. MATP worked with community partners and individuals with disabilities directly to ensure the adaptive winter wear items met each person's needs.



THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI) AT PROGRAM showcased communication apps for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or visually impaired at the CNMI Children Matter Symposium, highlighting how these technologies enable real-world communication. Program materials were provided in Tagalog, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, and Thai on iPads and tablets, ensuring accessibility for all participants. With 406 parents, service providers, and other attendees, the program raised awareness of the critical role AT plays in fostering effective communication within the CNMI community.



THE NEBRASKA AT PROGRAM (ATP) partners with local teacher preparation programs to help future educators become more familiar with assistive technology. Each year, students are assigned various AT devices to explore and create 1–2-minute videos demonstrating their use. These [video shorts, shared on ATP's YouTube page](#), not only help students gain hands-on experience with AT but also provide valuable resources for others. In the past fiscal year, these videos garnered 4,600 views.



THE NEW YORK AT PROGRAM (TRAID) staff participated in the 3rd Annual Get Outdoors and Get Together Day, an event aimed at promoting accessible outdoor activities for individuals of all abilities. TRAIID staff showcased outdoor assistive technology equipment and engaged with attendees, including families and children, who were particularly drawn to the interactive Joy 4 All robotic cat. The event sparked interest in TRAIID's services, including training opportunities for parents and professionals, leading to further community outreach.



OKLAHOMA ABLE Tech Assistant Director, Shelley Gladden, hosted KFOR News 4 anchor and meteorologist, Emily Sutton, for a tour of smart home technology, including weather alert and safety devices. Shelley showcased AT solutions for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing during a [news segment titled "Oklahoma's Wicked Weather 2024 Special."](#) This segment helped raise awareness of the importance of such devices in enhancing safety and accessibility during severe weather events.

CONCLUSION

In FY 2024, the network of 56 state and territory assistive technology programs reached close to half a million recipients and participants through the continuum of state-level and state leadership activities providing acquisition of and access to critically needed assistive technology devices and services.

State and Territory Section 4 AT Act Programs have empowered individuals with disabilities of all ages to fully engage in education, employment, and community living, propelling their chances to advance socioeconomically and achieve optimal self-sufficiency. State-level and state leadership activities provide a continuum of services that reach a wide variety of individuals and provide access to a broad range of technologies.

AT Programs enable individuals with disabilities, their representatives, and others working with them to make informed decisions about accessing and acquiring technologies. The streamlined process allows consumers to receive information about a device and become familiar with it through loan and demonstration programs prior to making a costly purchase. When consumers are ready to acquire a device, the reuse and state financing programs provide an affordable purchasing avenue.

REFERENCES

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living. (2024). State Grants for Assistive Technology Program Annual Progress Report (AT APR) Data Collection Instrument (OMB No. 0985-0042). <https://catada.info/assets/2024/2024-AT-APR-Instrument-Final.pdf>
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living. (2023). Assistive Technology Act. <https://acl.gov/about-acl/authorizing-statutes>

Additional Stories

Device Loan

Empowering Teen Girls with Disabilities through Accessible Gaming (Michigan)



The Michigan AT Program provided a short-term loan of a Nintendo Switch and adapted joysticks to participants in the “Her Power, Her Pride, Her Voice” camp for teen girls with disabilities. The girls enjoyed exploring the accessibility features in the Nintendo Mario Kart Deluxe 8 game. Only one participant was aware of these features beforehand. The auto-acceleration feature proved helpful, allowing players to race without holding down multiple buttons. The smart steering feature enabled everyone, including those with fine motor challenges, to participate. The camp culminated in a video game tournament where the girls triumphed over the counselors, showcasing their skills and teamwork!



A Holiday Lifeline for a Church Organist (Pennsylvania)



S.E., a church organist, relies on a refreshable braille display to read her music. Just days before Christmas week—a busy time for her—her device broke and needed to be sent out for repairs. With no backup, she contacted the Pennsylvania AT program to ask about borrowing a temporary replacement. After reviewing available options in the AT Lending Library, she found a suitable braille display to use during the holiday season. Thanks to the program, she was able to continue performing! S.E. shared that she didn’t know what she would have done without the Pennsylvania AT Lending Library.



Building Reading Confidence with a C - Pen Loan (Connecticut)



Connecticut AT Act partner agency ACES met with a student struggling to read and learn new words. Since the school hadn’t received the student’s C-Pen Reader in time, the AT device loan program provided a device during the meeting. The student immediately engaged with the tool, using it to read aloud and support spelling. Excited by how it improved comprehension and vocabulary, the student shared that even temporary access made a big difference in daily reading practice and confidence. They are highly satisfied with the loaner and grateful for the support they received while awaiting their permanent device.



Device Loan

Supporting Success at the Alabama State Bar Exam (Alabama)



The admissions officer for the Alabama State Bar Exam contacted Alabama's Assistive Technology Resource (APTAT). The Bar Office was referred to APTAT by vocational rehabilitation for assistive technology support. Two examinees had requested accommodations, and each visited APTAT to trial devices from our library. One explored mobile standing desks and ergonomic mice; the other tested CCTVs, text-to-speech tools, keyboards, and screen magnification. Each selected a setup tailored to their needs. APTAT delivered and set up the devices at the exam site for their three-day exam. The Bar Office was grateful for the support, and we were proud to contribute to such an important event.



State Financing

Transformative Technology for a 21st Century School Experience (South Dakota)

After trying out a CloverBook recommended by DakotaLink, one student finally received a device of his own—and the difference has been remarkable. Previously, he used a bulky, outdated vision board that was heavy, hard to move, and offered limited features. It became more of a burden than a support, especially as academic demands increased. After an assessment, DakotaLink provided a CloverBook for trial. The student received the CloverBook within one week, and staff helped train the student and his teachers. From day one, his classroom engagement and confidence noticeably improved. Now, he can view the front of the classroom and complete written work at the same time. He can track a moving teacher and switch between materials with ease. His independence and participation have increased dramatically. The right technology can be life-changing and this device has transformed his school experience.





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RESOURCE INFORMATION

Contact and other information on each State AT Program can be found on the CATADA website under State Program Information. Go here: <https://catada.info/state.html>

View Key Summary Tables that provide data on major AT Act activities by state.

Go here: <https://catada.info/at/?report=summary>

Aggregate FY 2024 APR data on all State AT activities can be found here: <https://catada.info/aggregate-apr-data>

This publication is available in accessible digital format on ACL's website and on the CATADA website at <https://catada.info/catada-publications>



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