

Assistive Technology

Types & Everyday Uses*

Assistive technology (AT)

is any item, device, or piece of equipment used to maintain or improve the functionality of people with disabilities, allowing them to be more independent in education, employment, and community living activities.

Communication

Braille displays
 Screen readers
 Typing aids
 Teletype phones
 Telecommunication devices
 Dedicated speech devices
 Hearing aids

Kitchen & Dining

Adaptive bowls & plates
 Adaptive cups
 Curved utensils
 Universal cuffs
 Swedish cutting boards
 Ergonomic openers
 Adaptive washers
 Adaptive pan holders

Bathroom

Bathing chairs
 Toilet hand support rails
 Potty training resources
 Nonslip bath mats
 Walk-in tubs
 Scrub brushes
 Bathing lifts

Transportation

Gait trainers
 Standing wheelchairs
 Car caddies
 Accessible vans
 Adaptive steering systems

Bedroom

Specialty switches
 Door knob extenders
 Bed rails
 Button hooks
 Dressing sticks
 Shoe horns
 Lamp switch adapters

*Adapted from graphic originally created by the ABC Law Center.

COVID-19 response offers an opportunity for state AT programs and ADRC/NWD Systems to coordinate to help connect individuals with AT. Most of the states on the ADRC COVID-19 grantee kick-off call reported an intention to partner with AT programs. Below are some examples of solid and emerging partnerships in various states.

STREAMLINED REFERRALS: Connecticut – Learn more about the partnership by viewing the [September 24, 2020 ATAP and AT3 webinar](#) highlighting the “Staying Connected” program where the ADRC and AT program leveraged CARES Act funding to address social isolation. The ADRCs use a 6-item scale (developed by Professor Nicholas Nicholson at Quinnipiac University) to identify individuals who may benefit from an AT consultation and they refer individuals to the state AT program which offers technology, training and support.

TRAINING: New Jersey – The NJ ADRC and the state AT program engaged in planning during the summer of 2020 and the Richard West Assistive Technology Advocacy Center (ATAC) of Disability Rights New Jersey provided a training to the AAA/ADRC network on AT in October 2020.

AWARENESS RAISING: Rhode Island – The COVID-19 crisis has strengthened the partnership between the state ADRC, The Point, and the state AT program. The state AT program increased communication with the ADRC which has led to education of partner agencies throughout the state about what the state AT program offers.

Find your state AT program through the [National Assistive Technology Act Technical Assistance and Training \(AT3\) Center](#)

Association of Assistive Technology Act (ATAP) Programs: Small Federal Investment – Large Benefits in Return This report highlights the return on investment of AT programs and provides several real life examples of how AT supports community engagement.

AT Programs offer demonstrations of equipment, loans of devices, reutilization and refurbishing of devices and equipment and financial assistance to help individuals obtain AT.

Did you know? Each year Congress declares a National AT Awareness Day. This year’s National AT Awareness Day is April 14, 2021.