



Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation: High Impact Innovative Assistive Technology Quality of Life Grants

Please note: this accessible information includes live links to supporting resources and is best used in an electronic, rather than print, format.

Launched in 2015, the High Impact Innovative Assistive Technology (HIATT) Grant Program is a competitive grant program that awards a small number of one-year grants of up to \$75,000. For current applicant eligibility criteria and information, please [visit the HIAT Program webpage](#) on the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation website. Applicant eligibility is restricted to state and territory programs funded through the State Assistive Technology Act, including implementing agencies and agencies subcontracted for Assistive Technology (Section 4) activities. The Foundation supports innovative programs or services that:

- Target a specific, well-defined underserved population within the broader disability community in their state
- Through assistive technology devices or services, increase access to services, increase the independence or inclusion of people within the underserved population within their communities; and
- When complete, will have a demonstrable, direct impact on people affected by the project.

Following is a summary of previously funded projects. You can contact the State AT Act program for more information by using the [Find Your State Directory](#). These summaries were originally released by the Reeve Foundation.

Previously Funded Projects:

North Dakota Assistive, Fargo, ND: \$75,000

The Smart Home First Project

This High Impact Innovative Assistive Technology (HIIAT) grant will increase the number of smart home AT equipment demonstrations and equipment loans provided to rural North Dakotans with paralysis to help them control entire home environments, give independence and promote safety as well as make informed smart home AT decisions to affect their quality of life. Grant funds will support the creation of two state-of-the-art Smart Homes within existing Home First Demonstration Centers in Fargo and Mandan. Demonstrations will be made available on site and virtually via video conferencing. Funds will also support the expansion of an assistive technology loan library. Assistive will deliver the equipment, set it up, and provide training and technical support throughout the loan period.

By testing these devices in-home before purchasing for themselves, individuals with paralysis will be able to ensure the technology will adapt to their needs, assist them with day-to-day tasks and enhance their quality of life. North Dakota is one of only four states that are not funded at the minimum level of \$410,000 through the AT Act which affects Assistive's ability to purchase enough smart home AT to make an impact with direct services to rural North Dakotans with paralysis. These funds will not only increase Assistive's impact, but will create an awareness of the value of this type of technology for those living with paralysis.

The Center for Independent Living (CIL), Alameda, CA: \$75,000

The CIL Residential Access Program for Victims of Violent Crime

This High Impact Innovative Assistive Technology (HIIAT) grant supports an innovative and important program that provides assistive technology support to people who have been paralyzed due to a violent crime. The aim of this project is to provide residents living in/near northern Alameda County, CA who have been paralyzed as a result of a violent crime with the home modifications, household durable medical equipment (DME), and/or vehicle hand controls they need in order to effectively avail themselves of existing services, reintegrate into their communities, and regain financial independence.

Alameda County residents who experience violent crime are likely to be from low-income households, have limited English proficiency, and/or be members of ethnic/racial minorities. Alameda County has a poverty rate of 10.7%, which is approximately 176,550 people living at or below the poverty line. Many of these individuals reside in neighborhoods such as Fruitvale in Oakland, where crime rates are 324% higher than the national average and whose residents are more likely to come from low-income households with limited English proficiency. The residents the CIL will serve through this project will be individuals who acquired their disability recently enough that they still struggle to identify and access the resources they need to live independently. Not only will newly paralyzed individuals experience greater ability to retain employment and access to their community through these modifications, they will also experience greater quality of life, experiencing both safety and independence.

2018 1st Cycle Awards

[Assistive Technology Resource Centers \(ATRC\) of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI : \\$75,000](#)

This HIIAT grant will support the expansion of ATRC's assistive technology demonstration and lending library to include a wider variety of available assistive technology, as well as to bring the demonstration program and provide assistive technology-related services to families of individuals living with paralysis in more remote locations on Oahu and to the outer islands and other islands in the Pacific, including American Samoa and Micronesia. Hawaii's remote island geography presents myriad significant challenges to getting assistive technology to residents with paralysis living outside of the metropolitan area of Honolulu. There are few, if any, assistive technology and/or durable medical equipment vendors physically located in Hawaii, which makes it impossible for individuals to try equipment unless it is available for demonstration at ATRC. Few people living with paralysis that reside on the outer islands are able to afford air medical transport to get to Oahu. ATRC will work with a network of agencies, including Aloha Independent Living Center, Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific, Center for Disability at University of Hawaii Manoa, Hawaii Aging and Disability Resource Center, United Cerebral Palsy Association of Hawaii, and others to provide culturally respectful assistive technology demonstrations on Oahu and the outer islands, and family members and caregivers will be integral in the experience. This project has the potential to impact over 14,000 residents of Hawaii living with paralysis-causing conditions. Grant funds will support programmatic personnel costs, travel costs, assistive technology and

durable medical equipment, consultant costs for assessments and evaluation, printing of brochures and other marketing costs, and website design consultant costs.

[Crossroad Rehabilitation Center, Indianapolis, IN: \\$74,881](#)

This HIIAT grant will help to support the Assistive Technology Mobile Unit (ATMU), a specially outfitted Fort Transit Van equipped to provide free device demonstrations to individuals referred through Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana. The ATMU offers one-on-one technology device demonstrations that may help to improve the way individuals living with a spinal cord injury experience life activities. Bringing the ATMU directly to the Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana or to an individual's home eliminates the added stress, cost and time traveling to and from a dedicated facility. Many individuals are discharged from rehabilitation and are unaware of their particular assistive technology needs until they are home for a while. And, these needs may change as an individual increases their post-injury activity and begins to set new goals. The ATMU will be equipped with a standard set of assistive technology devices commonly used by people with spinal cord injury and other conditions. These devices may range from basic feeding, grooming, and self-care items; home automation technology; computer access solutions for socialization, employment and education (note taking systems, positioning equipment, switches); and other equipment that may be recommended specifically by clinicians at the Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana to further a patient's specific goals. For each visit, the equipment on board will be supplemented with assistive technology specific for the individuals visited, for the purpose of demonstration and trial of the most appropriate and effective devices. The van will also include a variety of carts and tables to facilitate the movement of equipment from the van into an individual's home, a public venue for awareness activities, or other locations that are accessible to program participants. This project expects to directly impact 100 individuals living with spinal cord injury and other paralysis-causing conditions. Grant funds will support the purchase of the 2016 Fort Transit Connect wagon; vehicle graphic/wrapping; adaptive computer access equipment; environmental control equipment; seating and positioning adaptive workstation equipment; aids for daily living equipment; shelving for equipment; vehicle mileage and insurance.

[Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology, Inc. \(FAAST\), Tallahassee, FL: \\$75,000](#)

This HIIAT grant will support an initiative to broaden opportunities for increased physical activities to individuals living with paralysis that reside in rural areas of Florida, where access to health and wellness programs can be difficult to find or simply are not available. Access to these kinds of

programs can be even more difficult for individuals living with disabilities. This project will focus on the three areas of Florida that consist of several congruent rural populated counties that will benefit from greater access to information on various exercise and recreational opportunities. FFAST will partner with the Florida Disabled Outdoor Association (FDOA) to offer a series of outdoor activity events focusing on exercise and outdoor recreation to individuals living with spinal cord injury in the rural areas of Florida. The project will offer three new events throughout the state and will provide access to both land and water sporting equipment to those individuals living in the more rural areas of the state. The events will be held at outdoor activity areas which will allow for adequate space for biking, court and field sports, as well as water sports if appropriate for the location. The events will include both active participation and educational materials to provide hands-on experiences for participants while at the events, and allows them to leave with a better understanding of how activity and fitness can play an important role in their overall health and independence. A minimum of twenty-five individuals living with paralysis will be directly impacted at each of the three activity days, with opportunities to actively participate with adaptive sports equipment, gather information, and leave with strategies on how to begin and maintain motivation to live a healthy, active lifestyle with exercise and outdoor recreation. Caregivers and family members will have opportunities to learn about the types of equipment that can play a vital role in their health, well-being and continued increase in independence. Grant funds will support project personnel, various types and sizes of adaptive sports equipment, a trailer for transporting equipment, consultant costs to FDOA, and programmatic travel and marketing costs.

[North Carolina Assistive Technology Program \(NCATP\), Raleigh, NC: \\$71,618](#)

This HIIAT grant will purchase, store, and provide short-term loans of portable ramps across the state of North Carolina, with particular emphasis on rural areas. Portable ramps will be purchased and placed in each of the nine NCATP centers or partner agencies, ensuring that individuals with newly-acquired mobility impairments, and individuals with established mobility impairments who have been displaced from their homes due to adverse weather or emergency events, have safe access to their homes or the facility where they are sheltering. The project's primary objectives are to ensure that individuals have a safe and timely transition from a healthcare facility or emergency shelter to their home or community by providing short-term ramp loans when the lack of a ramp is a barrier to the individual's discharge or return home; reduce the transition time by providing access to short-term loans (up to three months) of portable ramps during the

transition period; increase education around the use of and need for ramp access across North Carolina by providing awareness events of NCATP services, including the portable ramp loan program, within the medical discharge planning, emergency preparedness, and the disability service communities. Individuals that borrow the ramps will be provided with assistance to create more permanent accessibility solutions. It is expected that this project has the potential to impact hundreds of individuals living with paralysis and their families. Grant funds will support project personnel, a complete range of portable ramps of various types and sizes for each of the 9 partner sites, consultant costs to Centers for Independent Living for training and advocacy, printing of marketing brochures, travel costs for pickup and delivery of ramps, education and training sessions and public awareness events, and conference exhibitor fees.

South Carolina Assistive Technology Program, University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Center for Disability Resources, Columbia, SC: \$74,808

This HIIAT grant will support Eye Gaze Communications Solutions, a project that will improve access to eye gaze devices focused on improving communication for individuals living with paralysis caused by spinal cord injury, stroke, traumatic brain injury, ALS, and cerebral palsy. The project will focus on underserved, low income South Carolinians with these conditions, and will be accomplished by creating partnerships with agencies to identify individuals for which eye gaze technology will be appropriate, training these individuals to use the devices through a personal demonstration, and by providing training for caregivers and professional staff who provide care for the individuals with paralysis. A goal of this project is to capture the entire lifespan of the process to identify barriers to success and, more importantly, the strategies used to overcome these barriers to ultimately lead to increased communication, independence, and socialization as well as furtherance of additional life goals. It is expected that 120 individuals living with paralysis and their families will be directly impacted by this project. The entirety of grant funding will support the purchase of various types of eye gaze device technology with the associated equipment required for use with individuals to be served. Assistive

2017 Awards

Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, Boston, Massachusetts: \$74,878

The Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission's award funds "The Weight and Seating Independence Project," which will provide wheelchair accessible scales and digital pressure mapping technology to centers in rural communities throughout the state to enable people with spinal cord injury to

proactively control their weight and prevent skin breakdown; both essential to staying healthy and maintaining their independence.

Northern Arizona University-Institute for Human Development, Flagstaff, Arizona: \$74,926

The Institute for Human Development of Northern Arizona University has created "Up a Go," a project to facilitate early mobility and assisted walking of young children with physical challenges so that they can engage in age-appropriate activities. The project will significantly expand the inventory of available early mobility equipment to loan out to families, provide training to therapist and service providers, and offer a hands-on DIY workshop for parents to create customized cost-effective mobility equipment.

Temple University, Institute on Disabilities, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: \$75,000

Temple University's project entitled Adaptive Design of Greater Philadelphia will improve access to assistive technology focused on improved seating, positioning and access that will facilitate inclusion and education for individuals with paralysis, particularly very young children, ages birth to 6 years old. Further, staff and area service providers will be trained in methods for designing and fabricating low-technology, low-cost solutions that are customized, safe, and durable.

University of New Hampshire – Assistive Technology in New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire: \$75,000

The University of New Hampshire - Assistive Technology in New Hampshire's project entitled I CreATe for Paralysis Project will develop a self-sustaining open-ended loan program to increase awareness of types of low-cost solutions that can be made in minutes to support individuals with paralysis that reside in rural areas.

Inadequate or non-existent access to residences may result in longer and otherwise unnecessary stays for individuals in hospital or rehabilitation facilities, and can ultimately force individuals to move into long-term care facilities, removing them from their families and communities. Lack of access may cause undue hardship on caregivers who must struggle physically to get individuals into and out of their homes, severely limiting independence and community involvement and increasing risk of injury for both the person with paralysis and the caregiver. Finally, lack of accessibility presents a serious and potentially fatal safety hazard if it causes a person to be stuck in their home with no way out. These three projects will mitigate the basic but critical problem of lack of home accessibility:

Illinois Assistive Technology Program, Springfield, Illinois: \$74,935

The Illinois Assistive Technology Program's Temporary Ramp Project will alleviate barriers to independence by providing long-term loans of temporary metal ramps to low-income adults with paralysis living in rural counties of Illinois for their residences.

Virginia Assistive Technology System, Henrico, Virginia: \$75,000

The Virginia Assistive Technology System's PAKD! – Portable Accessibility Kits on Demand project will provide loans of temporary ramps, accessible pathways and raised thresholds to individuals with newly acquired paralysis and their caregivers, as well as older Virginians and their caregivers that develop barriers to mobility.

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Frankfort, Kentucky: \$71,257

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation's project entitled Ramp Up Kentucky will provide temporary ramp solutions to individuals with recently acquired disabilities and people aging in their homes so that they are not confined to their homes while waiting for a long-term solution to accessibility to be put into motion.

2016 Awards

The University of Delaware Center for Disabilities Studies, Newark, Delaware: \$75,000

This High Impact Innovative Assistive Technology grant supports "Nowhere Else to Turn: Home Safety & Comfort for People with Disabilities and Their Caregivers." The singular goal of this project is to assist people whose interactions with their environment are compromised by paralysis-causing conditions to live more safely and comfortably in the community via use of assistive technology and home modifications. Support will be available to those who need assistive technology and/or home modifications, do not have the financial means to acquire them, and who cannot acquire them through insurance or another agency or organization. The project objectives are as follows: finalize all application and evaluation protocols and documents; promote the value of assistive technology and home modifications and address the means for acquiring them; expand the existing DATI equipment inventory to include more home automation products that individuals/families may try before making acquisition decisions; individualized needs assessments for individuals/families for assistive technology and assistive technology and/or home modifications; procurement and installation of assistive technology and/or home modifications and instruction to individuals/families in their use; and

evaluation of impact. This project was supported, in part by grant number 90PR3002 from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services.

[Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network \(LATAN\), Baton Rouge, Louisiana: \\$75,000](#)

This High Impact Innovative Assistive Technology grant supports the “Stand Up, Louisiana” project, which will purchase standers that will be provided on a loaner basis to individuals with paralysis. Adult (upper teen & older) residents of Louisiana with onset of paralysis between one and five years, due to spinal cord injury, traumatic head injury, or stroke, will be the specific population on whom this project will focus. There are approximately 20,000 people in this group, who are especially underserved regarding access to and funding of AT devices geared toward enhancing their physical and psychosocial wellbeing, and thus may miss opportunities that result from the use of a stander by adults with paralysis. Standers are often not considered medically necessary or their necessity and benefits are poorly understood by members of the targeted population, their family members, caregivers, and even some rehab professionals. It is especially important to reach individuals with recent onset of paralysis who can benefit most from regular stander use, which has been proven with to prevent osteoporosis, maintain and improve strength, stamina and endurance, and enhance day-to-day quality of life by enabling the user to stand when desired. The project will also include upgrading and then marketing The AT Marketplace database to provide a higher quality of service for members of target population; educating members of target population, caregivers, family, and rehab professionals on the benefits of stander use; and assisting members of target population to gain access to permanent standers. This project was supported, in part by grant number 90PR3002 from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services.

[Maryland Department of Disabilities Technology Assistance, Baltimore, Maryland: \\$43,560](#)

This High Impact Innovative Assistive Technology grant supports the “Statewide Portable Ramp Access Project,” which will work closely with statewide independent living centers to provide extended (90-day to 120-day) loans of portable ramps for anyone needing access in and/or out of their home or vehicle. These ramps will serve as a temporary solution for families and individuals as they assess long-term solutions to their ramp needs, such as having their home modified, permanent ramps built, or while they secure funding for adapted transportation. Each of the four Maryland regions will have available multiple-length portable ramps, a bariatric portable ramp, an adjustable threshold ramp, a rear door wheelchair van ramp, and a track ramp available for loan to families in their region. At the

conclusion of the first year of this project, the data collected on number of ramp loans, type of individual receiving loan, and long-term outcomes will shape future policy initiatives around accessible housing in Maryland. Additionally, the program will continue to be sustainable without needing additional funding in the future. This project was supported, in part by grant number 90PR3002 from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services.

[University of Montana Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities, Missoula, Montana: \\$75,000](#)

This High Impact Innovative Assistive Technology grant supports “Wheels Across Montana,” a project that targets rural-dwelling adults aging with disabilities and/or chronic diseases that face difficult barriers in meeting health needs for physical activity and social engagement. Living in rural and frontier Montana requires that residents must travel large distances in commonly inclement weather for most all activities. For most adults, the need for physical activity is easy to ignore and motivation can be difficult, but for adults aging with disabilities and chronic diseases, the barriers are far greater. Montana’s sparse population density presents challenges in providing sustainable programming, particularly for individuals with specific needs for participation. This project will make assistive technology for physical activity available closer to home that will offer opportunities for improved health, social engagement and independent living for adults aging with disabilities and/or chronic disease. This project will provide a well-stocked inventory of adapted cycles through 5 regional community partners that will loan them to adults aging with disabilities and chronic disease after training them on proper and safe use of the equipment. This project was supported, in part by grant number 90PR3002 from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services.

[Utah Assistive Technology Program, Logan, Utah: \\$73,925](#)

This grant will support the “Utah Assistive Technology Lab, Roosevelt Branch.” The project will establish an effective interdisciplinary project team that will: provide services related to assistive technology to approximately 100 children and adults with disabilities, many of which will be individuals living in rural areas, persons with newly acquired disabilities, older adult caregivers, and Native Americans; provide in-person assistive technology demonstrations and trainings to 25 professionals, people with disabilities and their families; disseminate 50 assistive technology devices on loan; provide re-utilized assistive technology to persons with disabilities who cannot afford the assistive technology, have no insurance, or are unable to locate the equipment they need; recruit volunteer assistive technology mentors; and increase disability awareness and resource availability. These services will

enable and empower individuals to have more independence in daily life activities, increased employment opportunities, educational prospects, and an increased quality of life. This project was supported, in part by grant number 90PR3002 from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services.

HIIAT webpage address: <https://www.christopherreeve.org/get-support/grants-for-non-profits/high-impact-innovative-quality-of-life-grants>

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