WHAT'S THE AT BUZZ?

Because Information is Sweet

What's The AT Buzz?

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Welcome Message

The Association for Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP) and the AT3 Center are excited about the new opportunities afforded through the recently reauthorized 21st Century Assistive Technology Act. The need to advance increased collaborations/partnerships is a prioritized goal within the new Act and focuses on serving marginalized, underserved populations. Therefore, to provide increased assistive technology (AT) devices and services to individuals with disabilities and fully comply with this modernized law, we will offer a variety of new activities in Year 2 of the National Assistive Technology Act Training and Technical Assistance Center – AT3 Center – grant funded through Section 6 of the Assistive Technology Act and by the Administration for Community Living (ACL). These activities will concentrate on some new approaches to expand the capacity to serve and support disability and aging communities.

To provide an understanding of the goals, activities, and events that will take place to accomplish and align with the newly reauthorized law, AT3 is launching a quarterly newsletter called "***What's the AT Buzz?***" to keep you informed.

We hope you enjoy this first issue of What's the AT Buzz? and take advantage of the planned FFY24 training and technical assistance activities.

September 2023

3D Printing Peer Action Learning Group

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

3D Printing Group

Purpose: The 3D Printing Group is facilitated by TechOWL staff. Discussions focus on using 3D printing to support AT Act Program services. This group meets 6 times a year.

Participants: This meeting is open to all AT Act Program staff and subcontractors interested in 3D printing.

Time/Location: 4:00 PM Eastern Time / Zoom Meeting

Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org

September 3D Printing Registration Details

Community of Practice (CoP)

Thursday, September 21, 2023

State Financing CoP

Purpose: This Community of Practice focuses on the ins and outs of state financing activities, including but not limited to alternate financing (e.g., cash loan programs); device distribution programs; cooperative buying; and other strategies that help people acquire AT.

Subject: State Financing Marketing and Outreach

Participants: This CoP is open to all AT Act Program staff and subcontractors interested in State Financing Activities.

Time/Location: 3:00 PM Eastern Time / Zoom

Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org

September State Finance Registration Details

Directors' Affinity Group Meeting

Monday, September 25, 2023

Directors' Affinity Group Meeting

Subject: This meeting gives AT Act Program Directors an opportunity to meet in breakout groups based on their Lead Agency/Implementing Entity type (i.e., University, Government, Non-Profit) to discuss timely AT and program administration topics.

Participants: AT Act Program Directors

Time/Location: 3:00 PM Eastern Time

Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org

September Affinity Group Registration Details

October 2023

Community of Practice (CoP)

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

Reuse CoP

Purpose: This Community of Practice focuses on practices and problem solving in device repair, redistribution, recycling (both reassignment and open-ended loan), and device exchange by developing resources and addressing reuse policy issues.

Subject: Device Donations and Transporting Devices Issues

Participants: This CoP is open to all AT Act Program staff and subcontractors interested in Reuse Activities.

Time/Location: 3:00 PM Eastern Time / Zoom

Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org

October Reuse Registration Details

AT3 Advisory Committee

Tuesday, October 16, 2023

AT3 Advisory Committee Meeting

Subject: Quarterly Meeting. The AT3 Center Advisory Committee is made up of directors from the AT Act Programs. Committee members provide input and direction on AT3 Center activities and priorities for training and technical assistance.

Participants: Appointed Advisory Committee Members.

Time/Location: 3:00 PM Eastern Time / Zoom

Webinar

Thursday, October 19, 2023

AT Access Interface Webinar

Subject: The AT ACCESS Interface database will officially go live and be shared with all AT Act Programs via this training webinar hosted by the AT3 Center. This searchable and expanded database of AT products was created in partnership with GA Tech; it will offer a valuable database for AT Act Programs, their clientele, and the public at large.
Time/Location: 3:00 PM Eastern Time
Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org
AT Access Interface Webinar Registration Details

November 2023

Community of Practice (CoP)

Tuesday, November 7, 2023
Device Demonstration and Loan CoP
Purpose: This community of practice discusses topics related to device demonstration and short-term device loan. Topics include strategies for inventory management, challenges with device maintenance and security, new AT products, and other relevant topics.
Subject: Favorite New Devices
Participants: This CoP is open to all AT Act Program staff and subcontractors interested in device demonstration and short-term device loan activities.
Time/Location: 3:00 PM Eastern Time / Zoom
Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org
November Demo/Loan Registration Details

3D Printing Peer Action Learning Group

Wednesday, November 8, 2023
3D Printing Peer Action Learning Group
Subject: The 3D Printing Group is facilitated by TechOWL staff. Discussions focus on using 3D printing to support AT Act Program services. This group meets 6 times a year.
Participants: This meeting is open to all AT Act Program staff and subcontractors interested in 3D printing.
Time/Location: 4:00 PM Eastern Time / Zoom Meeting
Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org
November 3D Printing Registration Details

Community of Practice (CoP)

Thursday, November 16, 2023
ICT Community of Practice
Purpose: This CoP supports AT Act Program staff, subcontractors, and other external partners

responsible for implementing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) accessibility initiatives.
Subject: TBD based on survey responses.
Participants: This meeting is open to all AT Act Program staff and subcontractors.
Time/Location: 3:00 PM Eastern Time / Zoom Meeting
Contact: lyssa.prince@okstate.edu
November ICT Registration Details

December 2023

Directors' Affinity Group Meeting

Monday, December 4, 2023
Directors' Affinity Group Meeting
Subject: This meeting gives AT Act Program Directors an opportunity to meet in breakout groups based on their Lead Agency/Implementing Entity type (i.e., University, Government, Non-Profit) to discuss timely AT and program administration topics.
Participants: AT Act Program Directors
Time/Location: 3:00 PM Eastern Time
Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org
December Affinity Group Registration Details

Community of Practice (CoP)

Thursday, December 14, 2023
State Financing CoP
Purpose: This Community of Practice focuses on the ins and outs of state financing activities, including but not limited to alternate financing (e.g., cash loan programs); device distribution programs; cooperative buying; and other strategies that help people acquire AT.
Subject: CDFI Certification Benefits
Participants: This CoP is open to all AT Act Program staff and subcontractors interested in State Financing Activities.
Time/Location: 3:00 PM Eastern Time / Zoom
Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org
December State Finance Registration Details

January 2024

Community of Practice (CoP)

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

Reuse CoP

Purpose: This Community of Practice focuses on practices and problem solving in device repair, redistribution, recycling (both reassignment and openended loan), and device exchange by developing resources and addressing reuse policy issues.

Subject: Inventory Considerations / State Transfer and Disposal

Participants: This CoP is open to all AT Act Program staff and subcontractors interested in Reuse Activities.

Time/Location: 3:00 PM Eastern Time / Zoom

Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org

January Reuse Registration Details

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

3D Printing Peer Action Learning Group

Subject: The 3D Printing Group is facilitated by TechOWL staff. Discussions focus on using 3D printing to support AT Act Program services. This group meets 6 times a year.

Participants: This meeting is open to all AT Act Program staff and subcontractors interested in 3D printing.

Time/Location: 4:00 PM Eastern Time / Zoom Meeting

Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org

January 3D Printing Registration Details

Webinars

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Making Accessible Videos Webinar

Subject: Using video content is now essential for disability service organizations. Join Lyssa Prince of Oklahoma ABLE Tech to learn about making your videos accessible to all audiences.

Time/Location: 3:00 PM Eastern Time

Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org

Making Accessible Videos Webinar Registration Details

ATIA Pre-Conference Sessions

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

Smart Home Technology: What You Need to Know in 2024

Subject:

Time/Location: 9:00 AM Eastern Time / ATIA Conference, Orlando, Florida
Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org
Event Information and Registration Details to Be Announced

Wednesday, January 24, 2024
How to Effectively Collaborate with Your State Education Agency – Compliance with the 21st Century Assistive Technology Act
Subject: The AT3 Center/ATAP will host this pre-conference session that will focus on collaboration with State Education Agencies. More details to come.
Time/Location: 1:00 PM Eastern Time / ATIA Conference, Orlando, Florida
Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org
Event Information and Registration Details to Be Announced

February 2024

Community of Practice (CoP)

Tuesday, February 13, 2024
Device Demonstration and Loan CoP
Purpose: This community of practice discusses topics related to device demonstration and short-term device loan. Topics include strategies for inventory management, challenges with device maintenance and security, new AT products and other relevant topics.
Subject: Demo/Loan Marketing and Outreach
Participants: This CoP is open to all AT Act Program staff and subcontractors interested in device demonstration and short-term device loan activities.
Time/Location: 3:00 PM Eastern Time / Zoom
Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org
February Demo/Loan Registration Details

Thursday, February 15, 2024
ICT Community of Practice
Purpose: This CoP supports AT Act Program staff, subcontractors, and other external partners responsible for implementing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) accessibility initiatives.
Participants: This meeting is open to all AT Act Program staff and subcontractors.
Subject: TBD based on survey responses.
Time/Location: 3:00 PM Eastern Time / Zoom Meeting
Contact: lyssa.prince@okstate.edu
February ICT Registration Details

AT3 Advisory Committee

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

AT3 Advisory Committee Meeting

Subject: Quarterly Meeting. The AT3 Center Advisory Committee is made up of directors from the AT Act Programs. Committee members provide input and direction on AT3 Center activities and priorities for training and technical assistance.

Participants: Appointed Advisory Committee Members.

Time/Location: 3:00 PM Eastern Time / Zoom

Directors' Affinity Group Meeting

Monday, February 26, 2024

Directors' Affinity Group Meeting

Subject: This meeting gives AT Act Program Directors an opportunity to meet in breakout groups based on their Lead Agency/Implementing Entity type (i.e., University, Government, Non-Profit) to discuss timely AT and program administration topics.

Participants: AT Act Program Directors

Time/Location: 3:00 PM Eastern Time

Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org

February Affinity Group Registration Details

March 2024

3D Printing Peer Action Learning Group

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

3D Printing Peer Action Learning Group

Subject: The 3D Printing Group is facilitated by TechOWL staff. Discussions focus on using 3D printing to support AT Act Program services. This group meets 6 times a year.

Participants: This meeting is open to all AT Act Program staff and subcontractors interested in 3D printing.

Time/Location: 4:00 PM Eastern Time / Zoom Meeting

Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org

March 3D Printing Registration Details

Community of Practice (CoP)

Thursday, March 21, 2024

State Financing CoP

Purpose: This Community of Practice focuses on the ins and outs of state financing activities, including but not limited to alternate financing (e.g., cash loan programs); device distribution

programs; cooperative buying; and other strategies that help people acquire AT.
Subject: AT Loan Policies and Processes
Participants: This CoP is open to all AT Act Program staff and subcontractors interested in State Financing Activities.
Time/Location: 3:00 PM Eastern Time / Zoom
Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org
March State Financing Registration Details

April 2024

Leadership Symposium (April 21-23)

Sunday, April 21, 2024
Pre-Conference: New Director Session
Subject: This three-hour session provides new directors with an overview program operations and administration of state level and state leadership activities.
Participants: Open to directors appointed within the past five years.
Time/Location: 9:00 AM Eastern Time / Grand Hyatt Washington, D.C.
Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org
Event Information and Registration Details to Be Announced

Sunday, April 21, 2024
Pre-Conference: Succession Planning Session
Subject: This three-hour session presented by Clarence Crawford (American University) provides succession planning guidance.
Participants: Open to all AT Act Program Directors
Time/Location: 1:00 PM Eastern Time / Grand Hyatt Washington, D.C.
Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org
Event Information and Registration Details to Be Announced

Monday, April 22, 2024
2024 Leadership Symposium Keynote
Subject: Disability and the Risks and Opportunities of Artificial Intelligence - Dr. Jutta Treviranus, Director, Inclusive Design Research Centre.
Participants: Open to all registered Leadership Symposium attendees.
Time/Location: 9:15 AM Eastern Time / Grand Hyatt Washington, D.C.
Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org
Event Information and Registration Details to Be Announced

Directors' Affinity Group Meeting

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Directors' Affinity Group Meeting (In-Person /Leadership Symposium)

Subject: This meeting gives AT Act Program Directors an opportunity to meet in breakout groups based on their Lead Agency/Implementing Entity type (i.e., University, Government, Non-Profit) to discuss timely AT and program administration topics.

Participants: AT Act Program Directors

Time/Location: 1:45 PM Eastern Time / Grand Hyatt Washington, D.C.

Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org

Event Information and Registration Details to Be Announced

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

2024 Leadership Symposium Endnote

Subject: Life in the Espresso Lane: How to be Smooth, Bold, and Balanced in a Fast-Paced World –Laurie Guest, Guest Enterprises, Inc**.**

Participants: Open to all registered Leadership Symposium attendees.

Time/Location: 3:30 PM Eastern Time / Grand Hyatt Washington, D.C.

Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org

Event Information and Registration Details to Be Announced

May 2024

Community of Practice (CoP)

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Reuse CoP

Purpose: This Community of Practice focuses on practices and problem solving in device repair, redistribution, recycling (both reassignment and open-ended loan), and device exchange by developing resources and addressing reuse policy issues.

Subject: Marketing and Growing Your Reuse Program

Participants: This CoP is open to all AT Act Program staff and subcontractors interested in Reuse Activities.

Time/Location: 3:00 PM Eastern Time / Zoom

Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org

May Reuse Registration Details

3D Printing Peer Action Learning Group

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

3D Printing Peer Action Learning Group

Subject: The 3D Printing Group is facilitated by TechOWL staff. Discussions focus on using 3D printing to support AT Act Program services. This group meets 6 times a year.
Participants: This meeting is open to all AT Act Program staff and subcontractors interested in 3D printing.
Time/Location: 4:00 PM Eastern Time / Zoom Meeting
Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org
May 3D Printing Registration Details

Community of Practice (CoP)

Thursday, May 9, 2024
ICT Community of Practice
Purpose: This CoP supports AT Act Program staff, subcontractors, and other external partners responsible for implementing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) accessibility initiatives.
Participants: This meeting is open to all AT Act Program staff and subcontractors.
Subject: TBD based on survey responses.
Time/Location: 3:00 PM Eastern Time / Zoom Meeting
Contact: lyssa.prince@okstate.edu
May ICT Registration Details

June 2024

Community of Practice (CoP)

Tuesday, June 4, 2024
Device Demonstration and Loan CoP
Purpose: This community of practice discusses topics related to device demonstration and short-term device loan. Topics include strategies for inventory management, challenges with device maintenance and security, new AT products and other relevant topics.
Subject: AT for Aging
Participants: This CoP is open to all AT Act Program staff and subcontractors interested in device demonstration and short-term device loan activities.
Time/Location: 3:00 PM Eastern Time / Zoom
Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org
June Demo/Loan Registration Details

Wednesday, June 26, 2024
State Financing CoP
Purpose: This Community of Practice focuses on the ins and outs of state financing activities,

including but not limited to alternate financing (e.g., cash loan programs); device distribution programs; cooperative buying; and other strategies that help people acquire AT.
Subject: Beyond Loans – Other State Financing Activities
Participants: This CoP is open to all AT Act Program staff and subcontractors interested in State Financing Activities.
Time/Location: 3:00 PM Eastern Time / Zoom
Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org
June State Financing Registration Details

July 2024

3D Printing Peer Action Learning Group

Wednesday, July 10, 2024
3D Printing Peer Action Learning Group
Subject: The 3D Printing Group is facilitated by TechOWL staff. Discussions focus on using 3D printing to support AT Act Program services. This group meets 6 times a year.
Participants: This meeting is open to all AT Act Program staff and subcontractors interested in 3D printing.
Time/Location: 4:00 PM Eastern Time / Zoom Meeting
Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org
July 3D Printing Registration Details

Directors' Affinity Group Meeting

Thursday, July 11, 2024
Directors' Affinity Group Meeting
Subject: This meeting gives AT Act Program Directors an opportunity to meet in breakout groups based on their Lead Agency/Implementing Entity type (i.e., University, Government, Non-Profit) to discuss timely AT and program administration topics.
Participants: AT Act Program Directors
Time/Location: 3:00 PM Eastern Time
Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org
July Affinity Group Registration Details

AT3 Advisory Committee

Monday, July 15, 2024
AT3 Advisory Committee Meeting
Subject: Quarterly Meeting. The AT3 Center Advisory Committee is made up of directors from the AT Act Programs. Committee members provide input and direction on AT3 Center activities

and priorities for training and technical assistance.
Participants: Appointed Advisory Committee Members.
Time/Location: 3:00 PM Eastern Time / Zoom

Webinars

Thursday, July 18, 2024
How to Deal with Difficult People
Subject: Everyone can learn how to deal with difficult people, and it is necessary to do so. Jay Johnson will explore the who, what, when, where, and why of difficult people and the strategies we need to survive them.
Time/Location: 3:00 PM Eastern Time
Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org
How to Deal with Difficult People Webinar Registration Details

August 2024

Community of Practice (CoP)

Thursday, August 8, 2024
ICT Community of Practice
Purpose: This CoP supports AT Act Program staff, subcontractors, and other external partners responsible for implementing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) accessibility initiatives.
Subject: TBD based on survey responses.
Participants: This meeting is open to all AT Act Program staff and subcontractors.
Time/Location: 3:00 PM Eastern Time / Zoom Meeting
Contact: lyssa.prince@okstate.edu
August ICT Registration Details

Tuesday, August 13, 2024
Device Demonstration and Loan CoP
Purpose: This community of practice discusses topics related to device demonstration and short-term device loan. Topics include strategies for inventory management, challenges with device maintenance and security, new AT products and other relevant topics.
Subject: Demo/Loan Policies and Practices
Participants: This CoP is open to all AT Act Program staff and subcontractors interested in device demonstration and short-term device loan activities.
Time/Location: 3:00 PM Eastern Time / Zoom

Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org
August Demo/Loan Registration Details

Thursday, August 22, 2024
Reuse CoP
Purpose: This Community of Practice focuses on practices and problem solving in device repair, redistribution, recycling (both reassignment and open-ended loan), and device exchange by developing resources and addressing reuse policy issues.
Subject: Reuse of Non-Typical AT and DME
Participants: This CoP is open to all AT Act Program staff and subcontractors interested in Reuse Activities.
Time/Location: 3:00 PM Eastern Time / Zoom
Contact: Marty.Exline@ataporg.org
August Reuse Registration Details

On-Demand Training Opportunities

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Accessibility

For the past year, The AT3 Center has partnered with Oklahoma ABLE Tech to provide self-paced courses on digital accessibility. These have been hosted in a course catalog specifically for The AT3 Center. However, Oklahoma ABLE Tech is also releasing versions of these courses in its own catalog. As a team, we've come together to determine that consolidating efforts into one catalog will allow Oklahoma ABLE Tech to release courses faster and thus get information to who needs it sooner.

What does this mean for you?

- Beginning September 1, you will no longer be able to access the AT3 Course Catalog. Instead, you will navigate to the Oklahoma ABLE Tech catalog via okabletech.org/courses to take the self-paced courses.
- All courses will be moved over to the Oklahoma ABLE Tech course catalog starting September 1.

In addition, the digital badges were not being accepted by most people who earned them, so Oklahoma ABLE Tech will also be removing the Credly digital badges from all courses. If you have completed the courses already, do not worry. Oklahoma ABLE Tech will be sending printable course certificates to anyone who has already completed the courses.
Please contact Lyssa Prince, Digital Accessibility Program Manager for Oklahoma ABLE Tech, with any questions. Her email address is lyssa.prince@okstate.edu.

ATIA

The Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) has a diverse collection of live and recorded courses related to assistive technology. Ongoing professional development is crucial, which is why the AT3 Center provides free access to the ATIA Learning Center for all AT Act Program staff. **To take advantage of this offer, use the code PDAT3ATAP24 (beginning September 1, 2023) when registering for courses through the portal**.

Congratulations to all who took advantage of this offer during FY23. Between September 2022 and July 2023, 341 AT Act Program staff earned 731 CEUs or Certificates of Course Completion.

AT3 Center Event Updates

ICT Accessibility Reboot: Community of Practice Update

Join us in the ICT Community of Practice Quarterly Meetings

We have exciting news! Beginning November 16, Oklahoma ABLE Tech will begin hosting quarterly ICT Accessibility Community of Practice meetings like those for other CoPs. Beyond the first date, meetings will be held quarterly on the second Thursday of the month. ICT Accessibility has consistently been one of the more difficult goals to meet for programs, and we want to help you all find ways to do this work more easily in your states.

Please fill out this two-question survey to let us know what would be helpful for you to see in these CoP meetings.

Year At-A-Glance

Affinity Group Meetings

Monday, September 25, 2023
Monday, December 4, 2023
Monday, February 26, 2024
Tuesday April 23, 2024
Thursday, July 11, 2024

3D Printing PAL Meetings

Wednesday, September 13, 2023
Wednesday, November 6, 2023
Wednesday, January 10, 2024
Wednesday, March 13, 2024
Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Advisory Committee Meetings

Monday, October 16, 2023
Tuesday, February 20, 2024
Tuesday, April 23, 2024 – (In-person/Leadership Symposium)
Monday, July 15, 2024

Demo/Loan CoP Meetings

Tuesday, November 7, 2023 – Favorite New Devices
Tuesday, February 13, 2024 – Demo/Loan Marketing and Outreach
Tuesday, June 4, 2024 – AT for Aging
Tuesday, August 12, 2024 – Demo/Loan Policies and Practices

Reuse CoP Meetings

Tuesday, October 10, 2023 – Device Donation and Transporting Devices Issues
Tuesday, January 9, 2024 – Inventory Considerations/State Transfer and Disposal Policies
Tuesday, May 7, 2024 – Marketing and Growing Your Reuse Program
Thursday, August 22, 2024 – Refurbishment of Computers/Tablets/Mobile Phones

State Finance CoP Meetings

Thursday, September 21, 2023 – State Financing Marketing and Outreach
Thursday, December 14, 2023 – CDFI Certification Benefits
Thursday, March 21, 2024 – AT Loan Policies and Processes
Thursday, June 26, 2024 – Beyond Loans – Other State Financing Activities

ICT Accessibility CoP Meetings

Thursday, November 9, 2023
Thursday, February 15, 2024
Thursday, May 9, 2024
Thursday, August 8, 2024