



Assistive Technology: Making Connections

Presented to the
American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Reminders

- To see captions, click on the CC button on the control panel.
- Please enter questions/comments in the Q&A window. Comments will be addressed at the conclusion of the panel or at logical stopping points.
- Please complete post-webinar test when you receive it; we would like to know if the information provided was helpful and if there are other ways we can be of help.

Panelists

- Marty Exline - AT3 Center
- Linda Jaco - AT3 Center
- Sara Sack – Assistive Technology for Kansans
- Tracy Agoivlastis - New Mexico Technology Assistance Program

Learning Objectives for Today

After today's webinar, participants will have a better understanding of:

- What “assistive technology”(AT) means and the kinds of devices it can include.
- The types of services offered by Assistive Technology Act Programs.
- How to contact your AT Act Program and how to access their services.
- Possibilities of ways to partner with your AT Program to better serve tribal members.
- **Short Quiz on AT and AT Act Programs**

What is the AT3 Center?

Assistive Technology Technical Assistance and Training (AT3) Center

The Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs receives a federally funded grant through the Administration for Community Living (ACL) in the US Department of Health and Human Service to create the AT3 Center.

The ATAP/AT3 Center provides training and technical assistance for State/Territory Assistive Technology Act Programs. The goal is to improve the ability of all 56 programs to serve persons with disabilities through increased access to and acquisition of needed AT.



AT Act Programs Service Delivery

- State/Territory-wide
- All Ages
- All Disabilities
- All Categories of AT
- [2022 ROI](#)

What is Assistive Technology (AT)?

- AT is any item/piece of equipment/software/product system used by individuals with disabilities in order to perform functions that might otherwise be difficult or impossible to do without it.
- Includes no/low-tech, mid-tech, and high-tech
- Services that assist with the selection, acquisition, and use of those items/equipment/software/product systems

AT Category Overview

- Computer Access
- Daily Living
- Environmental Adaptations
- Hearing
- Learning, Cognition, and Development
- Recreation, Sports, and Leisure
- Seating, Positioning, and Mobility
- Speech Communication
- Vehicle Modifications
- Vision



AT Act Program Core Services

- State Level Activities Include:
 - Device Demonstration
 - Device Short-Term Loan
 - Device Reutilization
 - Device Reuse
 - Device Exchange
 - State Financing Activities
 - Digital Accessibility
- State Leadership Activities Include:
 - Information & Assistance
 - Training
 - Public Awareness

What services can AT Act Programs provide?

- State Level and State Leadership services are provided by almost all 56 programs. There may be additional services in your state or territory as well.
- The best way to connect and learn more about your AT Program is to use the State/Territory AT Program Directory at <https://at3center.net>.

Device Demonstration Activities

- Device Demonstrations let people explore different types of AT. They can try out and compare various devices. They can see the similarities and differences between devices to assist them in making an informed decision.
- AT Programs have an entire library of different categories of devices that trained staff can demonstrate for individuals to decide which ones work best for them.

Device Short-Term Loans

- Device Short-Term Loans let people borrow AT for a limited time. By borrowing a device, people see if it is a good fit for them. Loans let people "try before they buy" to use in any environment (i.e., education, employment, community living).
- Most programs have an online library where you can see what specific devices are available to borrow.
- While programs differ, individuals can typically borrow a device for 5-7 weeks.

Device Reutilization

- Reutilization supports new homes for used AT and durable medical equipment (DME). When an original owner no longer needs AT/DME, the donated, gently used AT/DME is retrieved, repaired, refurbished, and reassigned to someone in need who cannot otherwise afford the needed equipment.
- Reutilization programs also provide for the exchange of assistive technology devices. This program is a person-to-person exchange, which functions like a free classified online marketplace
- Most programs have an on-line library of AT/DME available for reutilization.

State Financing Activities

- State Financing Activities help people get AT. Through non-AT Act Programs, grants, or cash loans, people can get the AT they need. In some instances, people get AT for free (i.e., 3D printing, AT fabrication).
- Most AT Programs provide lower interest financial loans to purchase needed AT or vehicle modifications. AT Act Programs are aware of other types of funding, and free services to help individuals get needed equipment.

More About AT Program Core Services

- Most services like device demonstrations and device short-term loans are available at no cost.
- Device reutilization programs may be available at no cost or at a fraction of the price of new equipment.
- State financing programs work with applicants to provide favorable terms and conditions.
- Typically, there is no eligibility criteria in order to use AT Program services. Nor are there complicated application processes.
- Programs are used by schools, employers, organizations, businesses, individuals, and many more!

What other kinds of help can AT Programs provide?

- Information & Assistance - each AT Program provides contact information so individuals can call and get their questions regarding AT answered.

Training – AT Programs provide training on areas such as AT devices and services; available funding/payment resources and other topics.

- Public Awareness – AT Programs use websites, social media, print materials, presentations and other outreach efforts to make people more aware of AT devices and services.

Explore AT

- Explore AT is a clearinghouse for information related to AT devices and services. Each webpage contains: case studies including people of all ages and disabilities in all environments of education, employment, and community living; tips; financial/funding information; videos; and links. These webpages will help you find AT solutions to help individuals do tasks that would otherwise be difficult or impossible to do.
- [Explore AT](#)

AT ACCESS Interface

- The AT3 Center will soon launch a new AT database network of AT.
- The goal of the *AT3 AT Access* interface will be to quickly, reliably and effectively connect the AT Act Community and consumers with appropriate Assistive Technology solutions. Individuals need a simple and intuitive way to search for AT. The AT ACCESS database will use an algorithm to better match the user with AT resources that are more likely be useful for the person's specific situation and needs.

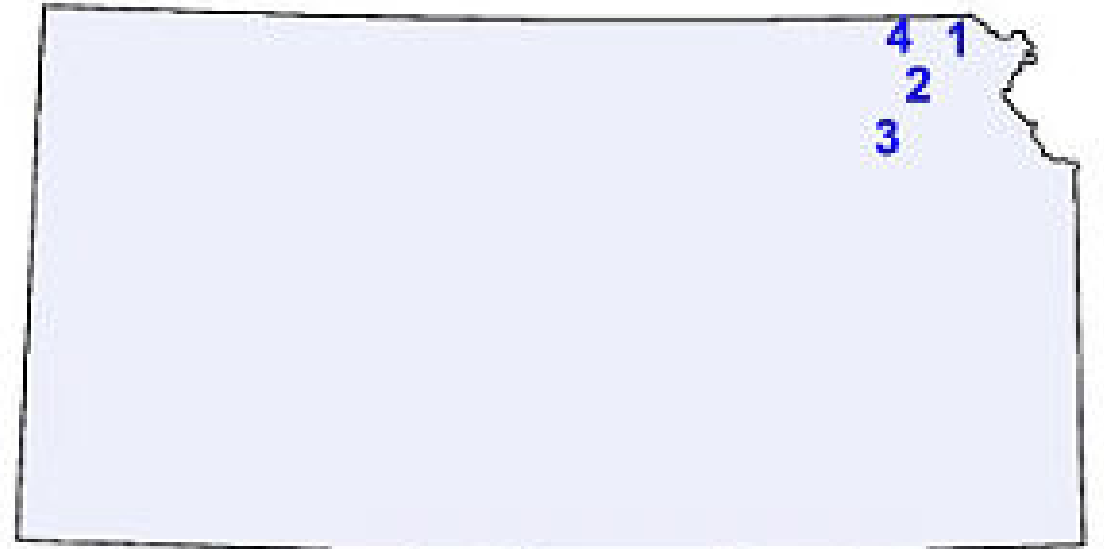
Are there ways to Partner with your AT Act Program to better serve Tribal Members?

Get together with your state or territory's AT Act Program director to identify common missions and priorities.

- For example, could there be ways to partner so students can get better access to appropriate AT in school or as they transition from school to employment or college? Are there ways to make it easier for persons to find what kinds of AT can help them do a job? Are there ways to make persons more accepting of AT as a way to help them around their homes or to enjoy their communities?

American Indians In Kansas

- Large number of American Indians living throughout the state.
- 4 Federally recognized reservations:
 - Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska
 - Kickapoo Tribe of Indians in Kansas
 - Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
 - Sac and Fox Nation



Kansas – Tried “Gatekeepers”

- American Indians of various tribal affiliations live across the state.
- ATK’s had individuals who were American Indian serve on the Advisory Council.
- ATK has had 3 staff who are American Indian.
 - Increased awareness in the southeast region.
 - ATK information was shared at social events.



Kansas – Invitations from service providers

- Kansas infant toddler local providers request information tables and device demonstrations routinely.
- Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation staff asked for a demonstration table at an event promoting social service information at the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation reservation.
 - Mother living on the reservation borrowed some low tech devices and told others about ATK.
 - Nothing happened for another 6 – 9 months.



Kansas - ATK staff met with Tribal leaders

- Based on the seeming success of the Birth to Three outreach, ATK staff requested an opportunity to conduct additional outreach and device demonstration events to address the needs of individuals of all ages and disabilities on two reservations. We enlisted assistance from a KU professor who was American Indian to help with our request.
 - Offered to highlight AT solutions for education, employment, recreation, and other areas.
- Staff received a polite letter declining ATK's request and heard nothing from the other tribal council.
 - Two individuals reached out on their own to express appreciation for our interest.

Kansas – invitation for a transition fair

- ATK staff received an invitation to participate in planning a transition fair on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation reservation 8-9 months after the birth to 3 event.
- Staff from ATK, local schools, vocational rehabilitation, regional transition councils, community colleges and technical schools participated.



Kansas – current efforts in last 12 months

- 3 of 119 AT Service Authorizations were for American Indians or First Nation.
- 2% of the individuals served by ATK identify as American Indian or First Nation.
- 2 ATK outreach or training events were conducted at the Kickapoo and Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation reservations.
- We recognize there is more work to be done.

NEW MEXICO TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Tracy Agiovlasis, Program Manager

AIVRS-TAC ~ 8.8.23

Native Nations and Pueblos in New Mexico

24 unique tribal governments

- Mescalero Apache, Jicarilla Apache, Fort Sill Apache
- Navajo Nation
- 20 Pueblos: Acoma, Cochiti, Isleta, Jemez, Nambe, Ohkay Owingeh, Picuris, Pojoaque, Sandia, San Felipe, San Ildefonso, Santa Clara, Santa Ana, Kewa, Taos, Tesuque, Ysleta del Sur, Zia and Zuni



Events and Trainings



Outreach Presentations - Event Table

- Navajo Nation
 - Navajo Technical University
 - Navajo Nation Advisory Council on Disabilities
- Education for Parents of Indian Children with Special Needs (EPICS)

Trainings – Technical Assistance

- Navajo Nation
 - Alamo Navajo School Board
- Education for Parents of Indian Children with Special Needs (EPICS)
- Hands On Training of Assistive Technology (HOW-AT) regional 1 day
- Assistive Technology Conference (ATC) annual 2 day

List of Interactions since 2017



- 2.10.17 - HOW-AT – Gallup AAC training
- 2.23.17 - HOW-AT Farmington AAC training
- 4.21.17 - HOW-AT Taos – AAC training
- 3.5.18 – Alamo Navajo School Board – Workforce Connections SW Regional offices Technical Assistance
- 9.20.18 – EPICS – AT for Learning Disabilities training
- 12.13.18 - Navajo Nation Advisory Council on Disabilities – 11th Annual Conference training
- 8.20.19 - HOW-AT Farmington Speech Generating Device training
- 6.23.19 - Native American Training Institute event table
- 9.17.19 – EPICS – AT for Notetaking and Literacy training
- 8.10.21 - Navajo Technical University –AT for Students training
- 9.18.21 - Native American College Career Connection Day event table
- 10.26.21 – Opportunity for Free Internet Native Americans Facebook Post (21 engagements)



AVAILABLE FREE SERVICES

- ***Device Demonstrations***
- ***Device Loans***
- ***Training***
- ***Technical Assistance***

How can we better serve?

Current connections:

- Individual contacts
- Attendance to general trainings

Challenges:

- FedEx requires physical address
- Shortage of therapists in New Mexico
- Culture – take care of our own

THANK YOU!



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Tracy Agiovlasis, Program Manager

Tracy.Agiovlasis@gcd.nm.gov

<https://www.tap.gcd.state.nm.us>

505-841-4464

What is a good next step?

- The State/Territory AT Programs Directory at <https://at3center.net> provides:
- The name and contact information for your state/territory AT Program director and other key activity staff.
- The program website which can show you how to access the AT Program's services in your area.
- You may also contact the AT3 Center to arrange an introduction to your AT Program director or to answer questions you may have.



AT3 Staff Contact Information

Marty Exline – Training and Outreach Lead

Email: marty.exline@ataporg.org

Kim Moccia – Technical Assistance Lead

Kim.Moccia@ataporg.org

David Scherer – PI and Grant Administration Lead

Email: dave.scherer@ataporg.org

Linda Jaco – Grant Administration Lead

Email: linda.jaco@ataporg.org

Website(s): www.at3center.net and www.at3center.net/explore-at/



Questions and Discussion!



The **Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP)** facilitates the coordination of state and territory assistive technology (AT) programs nationally to maintain and enhance a strong, effective, and efficient national network of state and territory wide AT programs. As part of this mission and effort, ATAP also provides technical assistance and support to its members through the **Assistive Technology and Training Technical Assistance (AT3) Center**.

The AT3 Center provides training and technical assistance for all **AT Act Section 4 State and Territory AT Programs** to support quality implementation of state-level and state-leadership activities.

ATAP and AT3 both support national assistive technology internet sites that make general AT information available to the public and other stakeholders. To learn more visit us at

<https://ataporg.org>
<https://at3center.net>

