

Assistive Technology for Kansans



**2016 - 2017
Annual Report**

State Financing Activities

State financing activities increase access to and funding for assistive technology devices and services. Programs assist individuals with disabilities with funding AT devices and services by administering and/or supporting financial loan programs and/or other systems that make funding available or reduce costs to acquire devices.

Financial Loan Program This Year . . .

- Made 42 loans this year to enable borrowers to purchase needed AT
- Average income of borrowers approved for a financial loan was \$36,425
- Average interest rate of approved loans was 5.5%
- Total amount loaned was \$317,280 with 42 devices acquired

Type of AT	# of Devices Financed	Device %	Dollar Value of Loans	Dollar %
Vision	1	2.38%	\$1,372	0.43%
Hearing	9	21.43%	\$32,507	10.25%
Speech	0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%
Learning/Cognition/Developmental	0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%
Mobility/Seating/Positioning	3	7.14%	\$8,996	2.84%
Daily Living	7	16.67%	\$40,175	12.66%
Environmental Adaptations	0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%
Vehicle modifications, Transportation	20	47.62%	\$231,487	72.96%
Computers and Related	2	4.76%	\$2,743	0.86%
Recreation/Sports/Leisure	0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%
Total	42	100.00%	\$317,280	100.00%

Acquisition State Financing Program This Year . . .

- Served 1,079 individuals
- A total of 1,327 devices/services were funded with a value of \$601,500

Type of AT	# of Devices Acquired	Device %	Dollar Value of Devices	Savings %
Vision	340	25.62%	\$70,721	11.76%
Hearing	613	46.19%	\$109,412	18.19%
Speech	50	3.77%	\$114,972	19.11%
Learning/Cognition/Developmental	24	1.81%	\$10,655	1.77%
Mobility/Seating/Positioning	107	8.06%	\$74,596	12.40%
Daily Living	117	8.82%	\$33,312	5.54%
Environmental Adaptations	36	2.71%	\$60,875	10.12%
Vehicle modifications, Transportation	16	1.21%	\$103,482	17.20%
Computers and Related	20	1.51%	\$22,250	3.70%
Recreation/Sports/Leisure	4	0.30%	\$1,225	0.20%
Total	1327	100.00%	\$601,500	100.00%

Consumer Satisfaction for All State Financing Activities This Year...

- 90.19% for the ratings of highly satisfied and satisfied.



Blake is nine years old and uses a power wheelchair at school in a neighboring school district that he and his family selected. He had to use a manual wheelchair at home since his family didn't have an accessible vehicle. Blake's mom contacted Assistive Technology for Kansans to see if there was any help available for them. After looking at van options with ATK staff, the family agreed they needed a van with a drop lift, passenger row removed for tie downs, and the front passenger seat removed with tie downs installed. ATK staff raised 1/3 of the van's cost through nonprofit donations. Blake's mom applied for a K-Loan to pay for the rest of the van. Now Blake has his power wheelchair at home and is reported to be "super talkative" now that he's independent. The van is also a big asset to his grandfather who uses a power wheelchair and his five-year-old sister and Mom love it too. The family doesn't have to pay for specialty transportation any longer and everyone is off to church, shopping, the park, and eating out. Life couldn't be better.

Reuse Activities

Reassignment programs refurbish assistive technology devices and provide them as a permanent reassignment, at reduced or no cost, to individuals who need the devices or repair devices for individuals who would otherwise have non-functional devices.

Reassignment Program This Year . . .

- 835 individuals received refurbished or repaired devices
- Total amount saved by consumers was \$748,674

Type of AT	Device #	Device %	Savings \$	Savings %
Vision	8	0.96%	\$10,900	1.46%
Hearing	0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%
Speech	0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%
Learning/Cognition/Developmental	0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%
Mobility/Seating/Positioning	375	44.91%	\$477,541	63.78%
Daily Living	447	53.53%	\$255,854	34.17%
Environmental Adaptations	0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%
Vehicle modifications, Transportation	0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%
Computers and Related	1	0.12%	\$1,100	0.15%
Recreation/Sports/Leisure	4	0.48%	\$3,279	0.44%
Total	835	100.00%	\$748,674	100.00%

Consumer Satisfaction for Reuse Activities This Year...

- 99.04% for the ratings of highly satisfied and satisfied.



Mom is so thankful for the power wheelchair. It allows her to move around so much easier and to be safe. She has severe neuropathy and diabetes and took a fall in the summer of 2016. She tried a walker, but it was difficult. One day she slipped on the kitchen floor and broke her right leg just below the knee. She had to have plates put in to set the bone. She was sent to rehab for therapy but had too many strength issues to start using a walker again. Rehab staff refused to dismiss her to her home unless she was mobile. She's on a fixed income and couldn't afford a power wheelchair. Thanks to Assistive Technology for Kansans' reuse program, she got a power wheelchair and was able to go home. She also received a hospital bed and a commode. Mom says she's thankful every day for the supports she received.

Device Loan Activities

Short-term device loans enable individuals or entities to borrow and “try-out” devices. A short-term device loan is not a permanent reassignment, but enables individuals to have direct access to devices, often in the environment where they will be used.

Device Loan Program This Year . . .

- Provided equipment to 488 borrowers
- Total of 606 devices were borrowed
- Purposes were –
 - 62.30% to assist in decision-making
 - 0.20% to serve as a loaner during device repair or while waiting for funding
 - 34.84% to provide a short-term accommodation
 - 2.66% for other purposes

Type of Individual or Entity	Number of Borrowers	%
Individuals with disabilities	377	77.25%
Family Members, Guardians, Authorized Representatives	16	3.28%
Representatives of Education	49	10.04%
Representatives of Employment	2	0.41%
Representatives of Health, Allied Health, Rehabilitation	8	1.64%
Representatives of Community Living	31	6.35%
Representatives of Technology	5	1.02%
TOTAL	488	100.00%

Type of AT Device	Number	%
Vision	32	5.28%
Hearing	26	4.29%
Speech Communication	96	15.84%
Learning/Cognition/Developmental	168	27.72%
Mobility/Seating/Positioning	87	14.36%
Daily Living	113	18.65%
Environmental Adaptations	7	1.16%
Vehicle Modifications, Transportation	1	0.17%
Computers and Related	67	11.06%
Recreation/Sports/Leisure	9	1.49%
Total # of Devices Loaned	606	100.00%

Consumer Satisfaction for Device Loan Activities This Year...

- 97.75% for the ratings of highly satisfied and satisfied.



A grandmother who was raising her two-year-old granddaughter with cerebral palsy contacted Assistive Technology for Kansans to borrow devices for standing, walking, learning, and communicating. The grandmother and her granddaughter borrowed multiple devices in each of the AT categories. They prioritized her being able to independently walk so she could have the same experiences as other two-year-old children. After multiple loans, they selected a gait trainer and decided they were ready to pursue more independence in learning and communication. ATK staff loaned an iPad with a blue-tooth scanning switch to reduce fatigue and help her activate all areas of the touchscreen. Both devices were funded and the family continues to work with ATK to consider equipment needed as she grows.



Device Demonstration Activities

Device demonstrations provide individuals a guided experience with assistive technology devices with the assistance of someone who has technical expertise related to the device. Device demonstrations support an informed decision about assistive technology by comparing the features and benefits of assistive technology. Referrals to AT vendors, professionals, and funding sources are often made following the demonstration.

Device Loan Program This Year . . .

- Provided 447 demonstrations to decision-makers with a total of 754 individuals participating
- Total of 2,965 referrals were made –

45.83% to a funding source	23.17% to a service provider
15.28% to a vendor	14.10% to a repair service

Type of AT Device	Number of Demonstrations	%
Vision	74	16.55%
Hearing	55	12.30%
Speech Communication	55	12.30%
Learning/Cognition/Developmental	130	29.08%
Mobility/Seating/Positioning	34	7.61%
Daily Living	43	9.62%
Environmental Adaptations	18	4.03%
Vehicle Modifications, Transportation	4	0.89%
Computers and Related	25	5.59%
Recreation/Sports/Leisure	9	2.01%
Total	447	100.00%

Type of Individual or Entity	Number of Participants	%
Individuals with disabilities	377	77.25%
Family Members, Guardians, Authorized Representatives	16	3.28%
Representatives of Education	49	10.04%
Representatives of Employment	2	0.41%
Representatives of Health, Allied Health, Rehabilitation	8	1.64%
Representatives of Community Living	31	6.35%
Representatives of Technology	5	1.02%
TOTAL	488	100.00%

Consumer Satisfaction for Device Demonstration Activities This Year...

- 96.95% for the ratings of highly satisfied and satisfied.



Kirk wants to work from home and needed technology to help him achieve his goal. He worked with Assistive Technology for Kansans staff and Kansas Rehabilitation Services to determine what technology he needed since he is blind and has arthritis. After device and software demonstrations and short-term loans, he received a laptop with JAWS, Duxbury, and Open Book; a scanner; a smart phone with tactile markers; and a Braille Focus 40 for Braille display. He is studying to pass the exam to work as a vision specialist serving individuals living in rural Kansas.

Training and Information & Assistance Activities

Training is conducted to increase knowledge, skills and competencies regarding assistive technology. Information and assistance activities are responses to requests by telephone, email, or other means for information about assistive technology products, policies, and funding and provides referrals to appropriate entities for additional support.

Training This Year . . .

- A total of 3,278 individuals participated in training activities

Training Type of Individual or Entity	Number of Participants	%
Individuals with disabilities	1,088	33.19
Family Members, Guardians, Authorized Representatives	878	26.78
Representatives of Education	235	7.20
Representatives of Employment	222	5.77
Representatives of Health, Allied Health, Rehabilitation	520	15.86
Representatives of Community Living	322	9.82
Representatives of Technology	12	0.37
Unable to categorize	0	0.00
TOTAL	3,278	100%

Public Awareness Collaboration/Training Example:



Assistive Technology for Kansans partnered with Families Together, Inc., the state's parent training organization, to host a "Mothers Matter Too" event. Moms, grandmothers, and foster moms wanted to learn about education and health resources, effective advocacy strategies, and to meet with other moms to gain tips on reducing stress. ATK and Families Together staff shared information in a relaxing environment that allowed moms to learn while receiving facials, manicures, and massages. ATK staff met one-on-one with each attendee to discuss possible AT solutions. Gift baskets with treats and resource information were given to each mom and to the cosmetologists and massage therapists for use with future customers.



Information & Assistance This Year . . .

- A total of 8,311 individuals were served by information and assistance activities. An additional 58,096 participated in public awareness activities.

I&A Type of Individual or Entity	Number of Recipients	%
Individuals with disabilities	2,473	29.76
Family Members, Guardians, Authorized Representatives	2,716	32.68
Representatives of Education	898	10.80
Representatives of Employment	208	2.50
Representatives of Health, Allied Health, Rehabilitation	1,023	12.31
Representatives of Community Living	845	10.17
Representatives of Technology	148	1.78
TOTAL	8,311	100%



The Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorder Center at The University of Kansas Medical Center annually hosts a Parkinson's Disease Symposium that attracts over 1,000 individuals with Parkinson's and their care givers. KU Medical Center staff invited Assistive Technology for Kansans to share information about assistive technology services and provide short demonstrations of devices that could benefit individuals with Parkinson's. During the

course of the event, ATK staff developed relationships with KU Medical Center staff and caregiver support groups. Plans are underway with KU Medical Center staff to replicate this event in other regions of the state and collaboration on an equipment lending library serving individuals with Parkinson's. Community recreation organizations and caregiver support groups are coordinating education outreach events in two different regions with a focus on how accessible recreation opportunities can help address some symptoms of the disease in addition to use of other types of assistive technology.

Alternative formats are available upon request by contacting Assistive Technology for Kansans management office at 620-421-8367 or ssack@ku.edu.

The data in this report is for the federal fiscal year of October 1 through September 30 as reported in the State Grant for Assistive Technology Progress Report through the Management Information System of the Rehabilitation Services Administration.

This program receives funding under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended (P.L. 108-364) administered by the Rehabilitation Services Administration, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services at the U.S. Department of Education. Any opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position of the U.S. Department of Education and no official endorsement by the department should be inferred.