



Annual Report 2018

*Unlocking
Access to Life
for 25 Years*

<https://at.mo.gov>

MISSOURI ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY (MoAT, for short), Missouri's statewide assistive technology program, strives to enhance the lives of all Missourians with disabilities, older Missourians and family members.

Our activities increase access to and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) devices and services.

At home, work, school or play, assistive technology provides choice, control and independence for persons with disabilities of all ages.



Photo Video Release

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RELEASER: MICHAEL S. HARRIS, Director, Missouri Assistive Technology Council
Approved by State Board of Education, Missouri Department of Education

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Return to: CaptionCall phone today

2018 AT A GLANCE

A GREAT RETURN ON INVESTMENT

FFY2018
Federal
Investment

\$586,719



\$4,617,807

Savings &
Benefits for
Missourians



Attendees at
MoAT's workshops,
presentations,
conference and other
training events



Requests for
individual assistance,
information and
support handled by
MoAT staff



Subscribers and
Followers on MoAT's
e-newsletter and
social media

In FY 2018,
MoAT delivered
7,345
assistive devices and
provided support
services to
23,705
Missourians
with disabilities,
family members
and professionals.

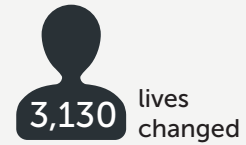


2018 KEY ACTIVITIES

Device Demonstrations

MoAT and its partners provided 2,069 device demonstrations to 3,130 Missourians to help them choose the assistive device that best meets their or a family member's needs. Device demonstrations lead to informed decision-making and prevent wasted expenditures due to "mismatched" AT.

2,069 demonstrations



Device Short Term Loans

Device loans allow individuals to borrow devices to use at school, work or in the community. Loans allow individuals to try out devices prior to purchase avoiding "incorrect" purchases. This year, 653 individuals borrowed 1,749 assistive devices. Using an average device cost of \$650, MO AT staff determined that school districts alone saved \$270,400 through the borrowing of devices.

1,749 devices borrowed



Assistive Technology Device Reutilization

MoAT and its 8 rural and metro partners across the state provided 2,782 gently used assistive devices to 1,915 individuals, saving them \$1,247,377 over the cost of buying new.

2,782 reutilized devices



Financial Loans for AT and Employment

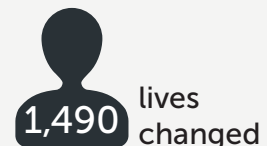
The Show-Me Loans program provided financial loans totaling \$223,904 that helped 40 individuals with disabilities or their families to obtain needed AT such as vehicle or home modifications, hearing aids, etc.

\$223,904
loaned to 40
individuals in need

Telecommunications Access Programs (TAP)

TAP provides adaptive equipment for seniors and persons with disabilities who have difficulty using the telephone or accessing the internet or e-mail because of their disabilities. A total of 2,084 devices were provided to 1,490 individuals to help them stay connected to family, friends and their community.

2,084 devices provided



Training

Throughout the year, 5,539 individuals with disabilities, professionals, schools district personnel and others attended MoAT trainings on AT devices, services, best practices and policy.

5,539 Missourians
educated on AT

SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT



Device Demonstration: Learning What's Possible

Being new to Missouri, Bryson was unsure what resources were available to help him address barriers he encountered due to his cerebral palsy. He visited one of MoAT's regional demonstration centers. Bryson was particularly interested in learning about assistive technology that could help him independently prepare his meals. Staff reviewed a variety of low-tech assistive devices, several of which were ideal in helping Bryson in his quest.

Device Reutilization: Staying Engaged. Saving Money

When Kimberly needed to replace her pediatric wheelchair, she turned to Accessibility Medical, a MoAT device reutilization partner in the Kansas City area. Accessibility Medical staff worked with Kimberly and walked through different aspects of the chair to ensure it was the right chair for her. She was able to purchase her new wheelchair for only \$48.75, a savings of over \$1,450 over the cost of the same chair brand new.



TAP for Telephone: Living Independently

Ruth lives alone. She was no longer able to make phone calls due to low vision. The Center for Independent Living in Columbia connected Ruth with the TAP for Telephone Program. Ruth tested many adapted phones designed for people with vision loss and found one with large numbers and a one-touch memory dialing button that met her needs. Her safety and independence restored, she is now able to continue living as she likes.



SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT



TAP for Internet: Staying Connected

The screen magnification software, large monitor and large-print keyboard Karen was provided through the TAP for Internet Program has enabled her to stay independent and connected. *“I would not know what to do without the equipment and it would be pointless to try to use my computer without it,”* Karen emphatically stated. The equipment provided has made her life easier and has allowed her to do research and follow politics online.

KAT: Just Being A Kid

Nerf guns, basketball and T-ball are at the center of Jace’s universe. Jace, who has hearing loss in both ears, was able to obtain a new set of behind-the-ear hearing aids through the Kids Assistive Technology Program. With his new hearing aids, Jace can hear his coach’s instructions and can communicate better with his teammates.



iCanConnect: Becoming An Entrepreneur

AT changes lives, for Brett it led to entrepreneurship. Through the iCanConnect Program, Brett was able to obtain several assistive devices that not only allowed him to address his own needs, but put him in a position to create his own AT training business. *“Getting this equipment has changed my life in so many ways,”* he shared with MoAT staff.



SERVICE DELIVERY HIGHLIGHTS

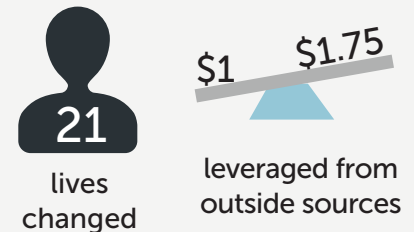
AT Demonstration and Reutilization Centers

MoAT partners with 13 rural and metro organizations around the state to provide local AT demonstration and reutilization sites, making it possible for individuals across the state to learn about AT and/or acquire devices.



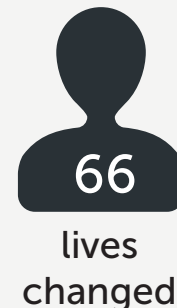
Kids Assistive Technology Program (KAT)

AT needed by children with disabilities is often costly for families. The KAT program, a last-resort funding source, is funded by the Department of Health and Senior Services-Bureau of Special Health Care Needs. KAT assisted 21 children with special health care needs this year. Moreover, for each dollar the KAT Program spent, an additional \$1.75 was leveraged through outside contributions, enabling the program to provide more devices and modifications to Missouri families.



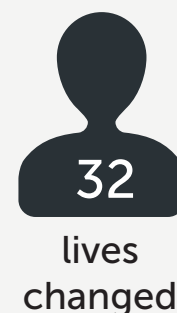
DeafBlind Equipment Program (iCanConnect)

MoAT administers the DeafBlind Equipment Program funded through the Federal Communications Commission. This program benefits Missourians who are DeafBlind by providing assessments, distance communication equipment and related training. During the year, 66 individuals with significant vision and hearing loss for whom distance communication had been difficult or impossible were served.



Money Follows The Person Assistive Technology Demonstration Program

Through the provision of assistive technology, home, and vehicle modifications intended to increase safety, independence and community access, MoAT assisted 32 individuals who transitioned from nursing facilities to community living. MoAT partners with the Department of Social Services and other stakeholders throughout the state in this program.



Information Technology Accessibility

MoAT collaborated with the Office of Administration-Information Technology Services Division to update and implement the state's information and communication technology standards, assuring that state websites, social media and other tools are accessible and available to all.





WHAT IS ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY?

Assistive technology is an umbrella term for the thousands of products that enable persons with disabilities and older individuals to be more productive and self-sufficient in their daily activities. Items range from simple to complex and can be used at home, work, school or in the community to reduce barriers, enhance participation and increase independence.

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