





ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY: A GREAT RETURN ON INVESTMENT

2020
Federal
Investment
\$603,736



Savings &
Benefits to
Missourians
\$3,884,012



2020 AT A GLANCE

DEVICE DEMONSTRATION

One of our most valuable services is the demonstration of assistive devices. Many individuals who can benefit from assistive technology may not be aware of specific solutions or what devices are available. AT demonstrations allow individuals to meet with an AT professional and compare the features and benefits of a particular AT device or category of devices.

This year **2,052** people took part in **1,581** demonstrations.

DEVICE LOAN

Our device loan program offers a wide variety of assistive technology devices for Missouri residents to borrow for trial. The purpose of device loans is to give individuals the opportunity to try devices so that they can make informed decisions prior to purchase.

In FY '20, **1,971** AT devices were loaned to **680** individuals, school districts, businesses, agencies and other parties.

DEVICE REUTILIZATION

Assistive Technology Reutilization is a program that obtains equipment that is no longer being used by its original owner and transfers it to someone in need.

During the past year, **1,741** consumers received a total of **2,497** devices resulting in a savings of \$622,420 compared to the price of new equipment.

DEVICE FINANCING

To help Missourians with disabilities obtain needed AT devices and services to help them live, work, and learn independently, MoAT provides device financing through its Show Me Loans, Kids Assistive Technology, Assistive Technology Reimbursement and Money Follows the Person programs.



CAROL WINS WITH DEVICE DEMONSTRATION

Carol was one of hundreds of Missourians who visited a MoAT Demonstration Center to see, try and learn more about assistive technology. Like many visitors, Carol could not believe how many devices there were that could help her live more independently. Carol was looking for a device that could help with the barriers she faced due to macular degeneration. During her visit at the Springfield demonstration site, she explored an array of devices and found one that met her needs.

For the year just completed, **35** individuals obtained financial loans totaling \$320,172 and an additional **300** recipients acquired devices valued at \$633,997 from other financing programs that directly provide AT using external funding sources.

TAP RECIPIENTS

The Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) provides adaptive equipment to seniors and people with disabilities who have difficulty using the telephone or accessing the internet.

A total of **1,441** adaptive devices were provided during the year to **977** qualified individuals.

AT TRAINING AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

Through trainings and public awareness events, **4,662** individuals with disabilities, professionals, school district personnel and others learned about AT devices, services, best practices and policy.

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

MoAT provided **50,000+** Missourians information regarding assistive technology devices and services, funding and other disability-related topics by e-mail, telephone, via our website and social media platforms, and through various publications.



A DEVICE LOAN OPENS THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION FOR FISHER

Fisher, a student in Poplar Bluff, met MoAT staff during an on-site visit. Fisher was a candidate for an augmentative communication device due to the fact that he was unable to effectively express himself. A device loan was arranged and support was provided to help his team implement the loaned device. During the 5-week trial period, Fisher quickly learned how to navigate the device to express his thoughts. Upon completion of the loan, Fisher received his own device.

NICO GETS A LIFT WITH DEVICE REUTILIZATION

Each year, Missourians save thousands of dollars by accessing one of MoAT's device re-utilization centers across the state. Nico, who lives in Kansas City, was able to obtain a Tilt-in-Space power wheelchair through his local re-utilization center. His wife reported that since Nico received the device, she has noticed a positive change in his mood, something he has struggled with since he first acquired his disability. [Pictured at right: Nico in his new wheelchair.]





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.

SHARON'S WORLD OPENS AFTER CONNECTING WITH THE DEAFBLIND EQUIPMENT PROGRAM

For years, Sharon, a resident of Clay County, was isolated from family, friends and the community due to her disability. When she was connected to the DeafBlind Equipment Program through her case manager, Sharon was able to receive a Braille notetaker and training. As a result, she is now able to communicate with friends and family, as well as access other services such as books through the Wolfner library.

THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT THANKS TO ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY REIMBURSEMENT

The assistive technology Andy received through the ATR Program has significantly increased both his independence and his academic success. Andy, who is non-verbal and has difficulty reading and writing, is now able to express himself through dynamic display communication via the Proloquo2Go app. In addition, he is able to independently read with the use of Snap & Read, a text-to-speech app, and create written text through the use of the Co:Writer app.



MISSOURI ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY (MoAT)

As Missouri's federally-funded Assistive Technology Act Program, MoAT strives to enhance the lives of all Missourians with disabilities, older Missourians, families and service professionals. 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.

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