

## Living Better through Assistive Technology

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## Goals for Today...

- Tell you about/provide **general overview** of AzTAP programs & services
- The Nine Areas and Types of Assistive Technology
- Possible Funding
- Who should come to AzTAP



## The Arizona Technology Access Program

- AzTAP is a statewide, Phoenix-based program of the *Institute for Human Development* at Northern Arizona University
- Began operating in 1994
- Funded under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998
- US Department of Health and Human Services – Administration on Community Living
- Most services provided at no cost



## AzTAP's Mission or Purpose

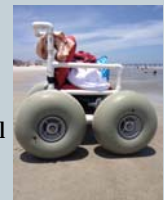
...is to connect people with disabilities with the assistive technology they need to participate as fully as possible in activities that matter to them.

## What is Assistive Technology or AT?

...Any item, piece of equipment or product system that is used to **increase, maintain or improve** the capabilities of individuals with disabilities

## Assistive Technology Categories

- Computers & Related Accessories
- Daily Living
- Environmental Adaptations
- Hearing
- Learning Cognition & Developmental
- Mobility, Seating & Positioning
- Speech Communication
- Vehicle Modifications & Transportation
- Vision

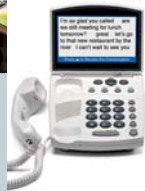


## Assistive Technology Supports a Person's Ability To:

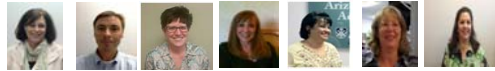
### Engage /Participate

- Carry out daily living tasks
- Communicate with family & friends
- Get around the home & community (mobility)
- Engage in play, hobbies and recreational activities
- Work/volunteer
- Socialize
- Learn

### AT (Tools)



## AzTAP Staff



- Jill Pleasant** MA, OTR/L – Program Director
- Clayton Guffey**, MSW, CRC, ATP, CEAC - Assistive Technology Specialist
- Heidi Lervik** MA, CRC - Assistive Technology Specialist
- Adi Kalika** - Administrative Specialist
- Martha Lewis** – Administrative Asst/Program Associate
- Janelle Bauerle** – Assistive Technology Specialist – ADE Loan Program Coordinator
- Laura LaFranier** – Assistive Technology Assistant

## AzTAP = Statewide Resource for Assistive Technology in Arizona



## Short Term Device Loans

- Devices are loaned to borrowers for 2 weeks
- Items are available for pickup or are shipped at no cost to the borrower
- **Loans help people decide whether the equipment is right for them – prior to purchase**



## AT Demonstrations & Consultations

### Demonstrations

- Guided, face to face, hands-on exploration of devices & features
- Assists consumer in the decision making process

### Consultations

- Individualized, in-depth, sessions with an assistive technology specialist at our center or at client's location (home, office, school)



## Training and Education

### Training programs at our office



### Training in the community – throughout Arizona



We do Webinars too!  
Learn at home or in your office

## AzTAP Offers 2 Financial Loan Program\$

### AzLAT & SEED Loan\$



- Loans from \$500 - \$20,000
- Low interest rates
- No prepayment penalties
- Flexible repayment terms (1 – 5 years)
- Assistance completing application
- Identification of other SS sources
- Guidance with device & vendor selection
- Intervention options to avoid loan default

**Criteria: Demonstrate ability to repay loan:**

- Sufficient monthly income
- credit worthiness



*Independence is priceless; we make it affordable*

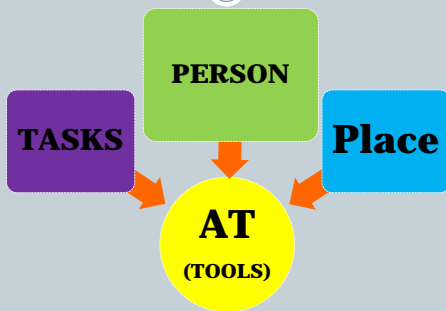
## Can Assistive Technology Help?



- Assistive technology is vital to more than a third of people with disabilities being able to take care of themselves at home.

• According to <http://www.disabled-world.com/disability/statistics/>

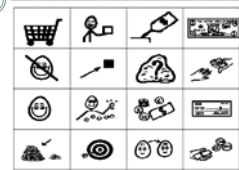
## Choosing the Right Assistive Technology:



AzTAP

## Low Tech Communication Aids

- Props & objects
- Paper and pencil
- Dry erase board
- Picture boards/books
- Spelling boards
- Word boards
- Eye gaze displays
- Single level voice message devices



## High Tech AAC Speech Generating Devices

- Multiple level voice output devices
- Dynamic display voice output devices
- Text-to-speech or other coding systems
- Spelling-only systems
- Computers with communication software
- iPads/tablets/smart phones w/ AAC Apps
- AAC devices with integrated EADLs



## Devices to help with voice amplification & Communication



## Assistive Listening Devices



Assistive Listening System Available



## Alerting Devices

These alarms have flashing strobe lights for people who cannot hear them. The alarms can be placed anywhere deaf or hard of hearing people require audible alarms.

- Telephones
- Alarm clocks
- Door bells
- Fire/smoke alarms



## Telecommunication Issues...

- Using one ear
- Cannot speech read
- Hearing aid compatibility
- Sound quality of phone
- Background noise



## Assistive Technology for Vision Loss



- Partial sight, or sight that isn't fully correctable with surgery, pharmaceuticals, contact lenses or glasses.
- Low vision can range from moderate vision impairment, such as tunnel vision or blind spots, to "legal blindness," to almost total blindness.
- Generally, there is some usable sight

## Technology and Strategies for Vision Loss

- Increase light and contrast
- Enlarge/magnify
- Proper positioning of light source – task lighting
- Control glare
- Tactile markings
- Add sound/speech

- Increase contrast between object and background
- **Paint or tape edge of step in high contrast color**
- **Use contrasting dish, silverware and placemats or table cloth colors**



## Video Magnifiers

- Levels of electronic magnification of:
  - Written information
  - Graphics
  - Small items needing attention to fine detail
- Controls for contrast and brightness
- Background colors
- Portable or stationary
- Speech – ability to read the print (some devices only)

### Choosing a specific model will depend on:

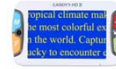
- Magnification needs
- Portability issues
- What the person wants to use it for - task
- Cost
- **Consult a low vision specialist**



**LifeStyle HD (High-definition) Desktop Video Magnifier \$1995**



**E-bot PRO iPad-compatible Read, Write and Distance Portable Video Magnifier with OCR \$3,495.00**



**CANDY 5 HD II Handheld Video Magnifier \$695**

## Technology for Mobility

- Firm cushion chairs/sofas
- Chairs with arms
- Risers to add height to furniture
- Rotating seat cushion
- Electric lift chairs
- Bed Rails
- Lap trays
- Canes, Walkers, Scooters



## Mobility: Structural Modifications

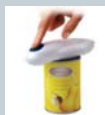
- Curb cuts
- **Ramps**
- Elevators
- Escalators
- **Electric lifts for stairs**
- Space for maneuverability in bathrooms, hallways, at entryways

## Mobility: Vehicle Adaptations

- Adapted controls
- Rotating seat
- Seat cushions
- Ramps, racks and lifts for wheelchairs and scooters



## Daily Living Aids



## Cognitive & Memory Aids

- Assist with medication
- Remember appointments
- Remember phone numbers
- Reminders to pay bills
- Low tech → High tech
- **Apps**

## Computer & Related Accessories

## Environmental Adaptations

## Play, Recreation, & Leisure

## Questions?

## AzTAP Contact Information

- **Call:** 602-728-9534; 800-477-9921
- **Visits by appointment:** 300 W. Clarendon Ave, Suite 475, Phoenix, AZ 85013
- **Email:** [askAzTAP@nau.edu](mailto:askAzTAP@nau.edu)
- **View our website:** <http://aztap.org> or scan our QR code