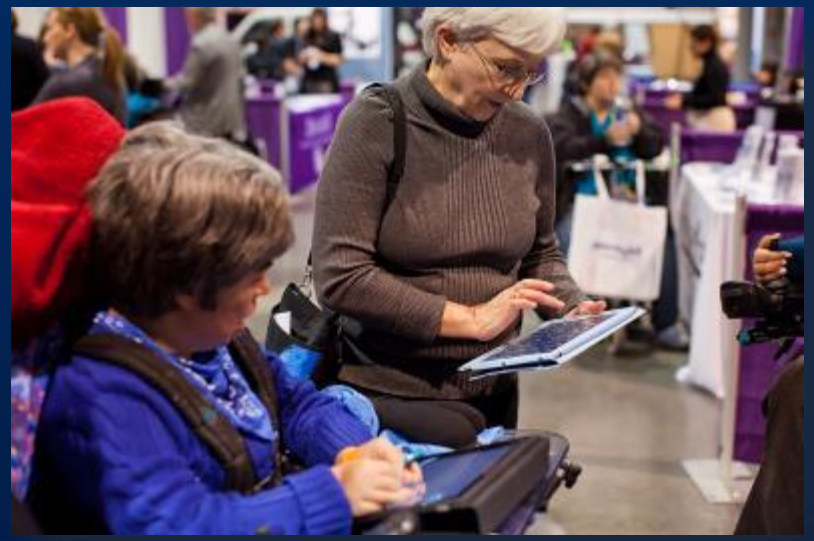
Expanding Outreach of Assistive Technology in Georgia

Tools for Life
AMAC Accessibility
College of Design | Georgia Institute of Technology
www.gatfl.gatech.edu
July 31. 2017

Tools for Life Mission

We’re here to help Georgians with disabilities gain access to and acquisition of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services so they can live, learn, work, and play independently in the communities of their choice.



Agenda

Assistive Technology Solutions Lab Tour and Visit

TFL Network: Coastal Regional Commission

Monday, July 31, 2017

Timeline and Agenda

2:30 PM	Pick up from Savannah International Trade and Convention Center and Travel to Coastal Regional Commission (CRC) office in Darien, GA (M
3:45 PM	Arrive at Coastal Regional Commission (CRC)
3:50 PM	Welcome and Introductions ▪Coastal Tools for Life AT Lab Tour & Experience •Assistive Technology Online Solutions Tool for Aging & Dementia •Meet TFL Network/Coastal consumers •Various Models of Collaboration in Georgia •Transformational Impact of Collaborations in Georgia •Share Data and Cost Savings
5:00 PM	Next Steps
5:15 PM	Pick up from Coastal Regional Commission (CRC) and travel to Skipper's Fish Camp
7:00 PM	Pick up from Skipper's Fish Camp and travel to Savannah International Trade and Convention Center
8:30 PM	Arrive at Savannah International Trade and Convention Center

Georgia Tech

TOOLS for LIFE

Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program

TRAINING

FUNDING

PUBLICATIONS

TFL WIKI

MEET THE TFL TEAM

MEET THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

DIRECTIONS/MAP

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

SCHEDULE A TOUR

Welcome | AT Services | Try AT | Get AT | AT Guides | Research

Welcome to Tools for Life

Tools for Life, Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program, is dedicated to increasing access to and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) devices and services for Georgians of all ages and disabilities so they can live, learn, work and play independently and with greater freedom in communities of their choice.

Tools for Life and the TFL Network work collaboratively together to accomplish

2015 IDEAS CONFERENCE

JUN 1 — Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island

2015 GATE SEMINAR

DEC 4 — Georgia Tech Student Center

WEBINARS

- Current Webinar Schedule
- Webinar Archives

TOOLS FOR LIFE APPFINDER

...for Living, Learning, Working, and Playing.

AT ONLINE EXCHANGE

gTRADE

AT FUNDING GUIDE

DOLLARS & SENSE

NAVIGATING THE AT FUNDING STREAM

Georgia DHS/DAS Mission

Department Mission: Strengthen Georgia by providing Individuals and Families access to services that promote self-sufficiency, independence, and protect Georgia's vulnerable children and adults.

Division Mission: The DAS Mission supports the larger goals of DHS by assisting older individuals, at-risk adults, persons with disabilities and their families and caregivers to achieve safe, healthy, independent a and self-reliant lives.

NWD Mission: To establish a coordinated NWD system that provides accurate information, comprehensive and timely assessments, and person-centered counseling for all individuals to facilitate informed choice and promote decisions to maintain, improve and sustain quality of life.

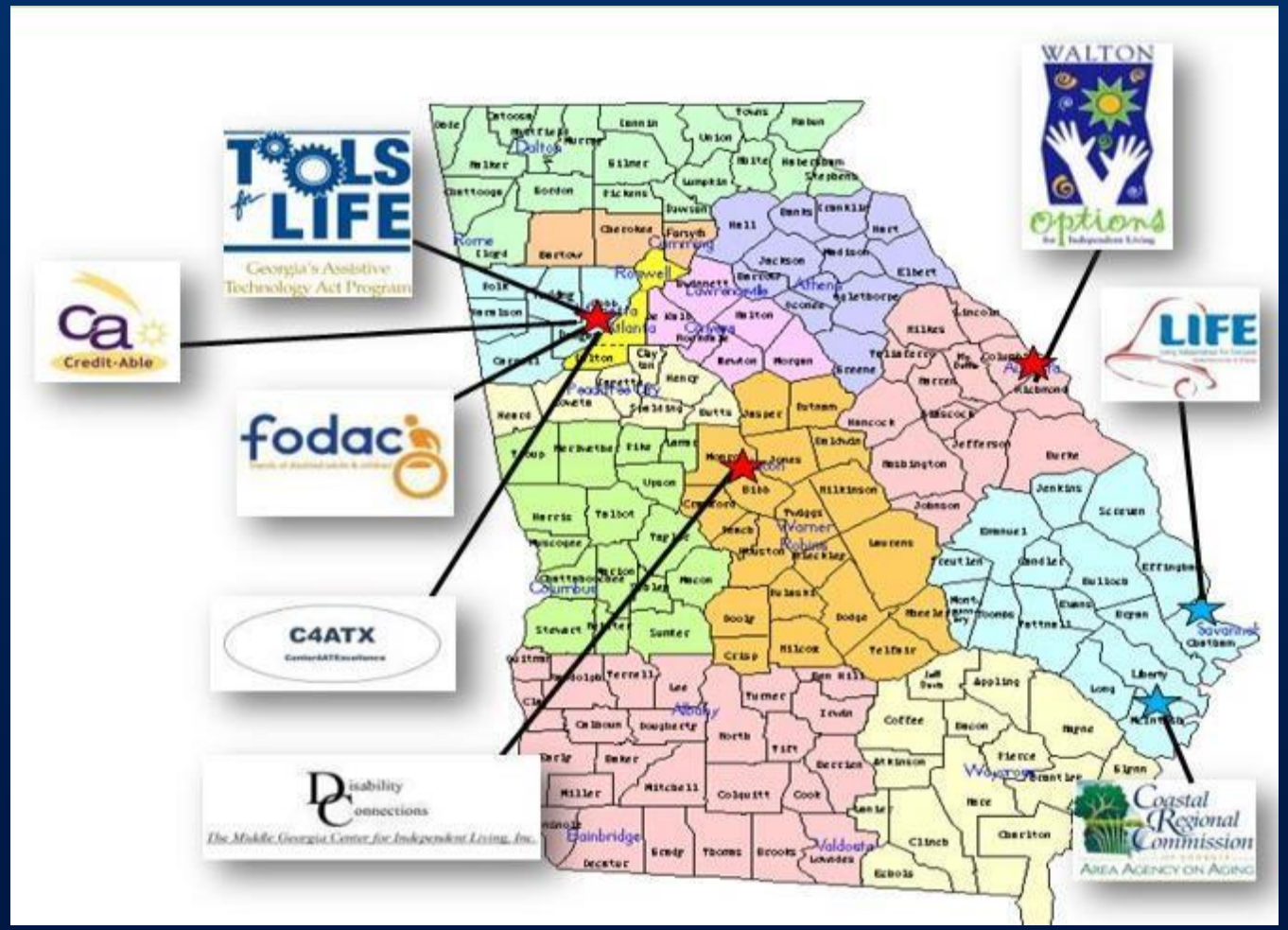
TFL and DAS – Growing Relationship

Since 1991, TFL has been developing relationships with Division of Aging Services. AAAs and the ADRC's throughout the state of Georgia.

This includes participating on various advisory boards and committees committed to ensuring assistance and resources for individuals with disabilities and/or naturally aging process.

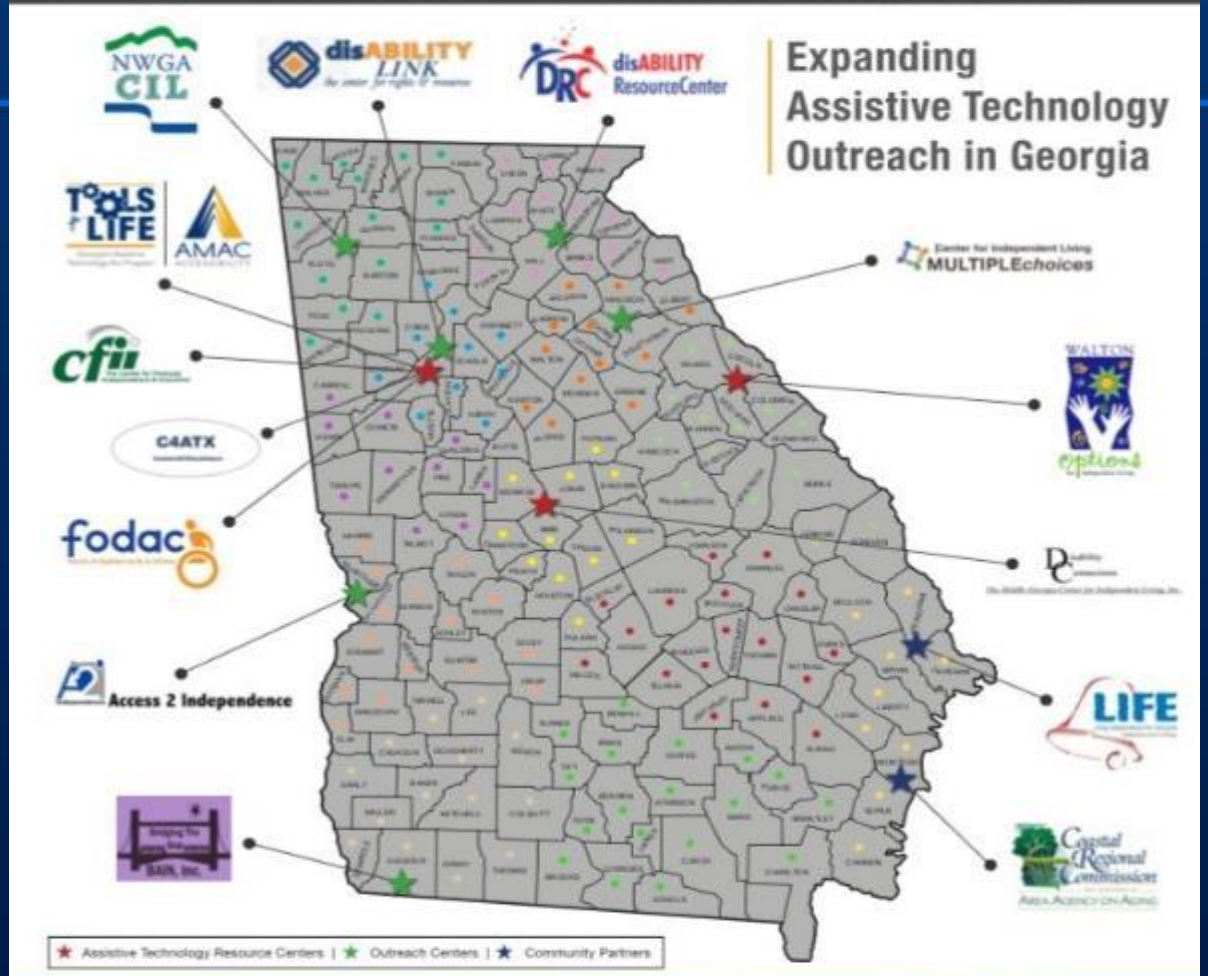
MFP representatives actively participate on the TFL Advisory Council.

TFL Network in 2014



Tools for Life Network

Assistive Technology Resource Centers, Outreach Centers, Community Partners and Affiliates



GEORGIA'S AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTERS

- Atlanta Regional Commission Aging Division
- Coastal Georgia Area Agency on Aging
- CSRA Area Agency on Aging
- Heart of Georgia Area Agency on Aging
- Legacy Link Georgia Mountains Area Agency on Aging
- Middle Georgia Area Agency on Aging
- Northeast Georgia Area Agency on Aging
- Northwest Georgia Area Agency on Aging
- River Valley Area Agency on Aging
- Southern Georgia Area Agency on Aging
- SOWEGA Council on Aging Southwest Georgia Area Agency on Aging
- Three Rivers Area Agency on Aging

AT and MFP – Expanding AT Access

- **Lead to AT Tool Kits in all AAA /ADRCs**
  - AT from all areas to support people with disabilities and the natural aging process

AT Solution Lab at MFP and Aging-related Conferences

- **AT Solution Lab at the Coastal Area Agency on Aging Georgia**
  - Coastal AAA/ADRC Won the *2016 AIRS Distinguished Service Award* for their work with the AT Lab.
  - Presented at the Awards Luncheon at the 2016 AIRS Conference in St. Louis.
  - AIRS is the premier professional membership association for community I&A with over 5000+ national and international members

2016 Toolkit Training with Representative Buddy Carter at Coastal

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AT and DAS – Success!

AT Evaluation Pilot program began August 2015:

Proof of Concept – AT is a Key Factor to Success

Started in 2 Regions:

- Atlanta Region (Urban)
- Southeastern Georgia Region (Rural)

TFL Customized AT Evaluation Process for MFP:

- In home and/or in nursing home
- AT Research support to determine appropriate AT to meet needs of individuals
- AT Report/Roadmap - extensive written report with AT recommendations and resources
- Follow-up and follow-along consultation

Building on these AT Services for DAS:

- AT Demonstration
- AT Lending Library – "Try Before You Buy"
- Quality AT Reuse - Bridging Gaps for smoother transitions

Success – Expanded to All Regions in Georgia in 2017

Need for AT Knowledge Transfer

- A Lot of Gaps in AT awareness and knowledge
- AT is undeniably linked to Successful Transitions and Independent Living
- Need to ask more questions – Some “don’t know what they don’t know…”
- Many Red “Flags”!
- Using AT to turn RED “flags” to Green “Flags”

Examples of Some "Red Flags"

Examples of many common hazards in the home

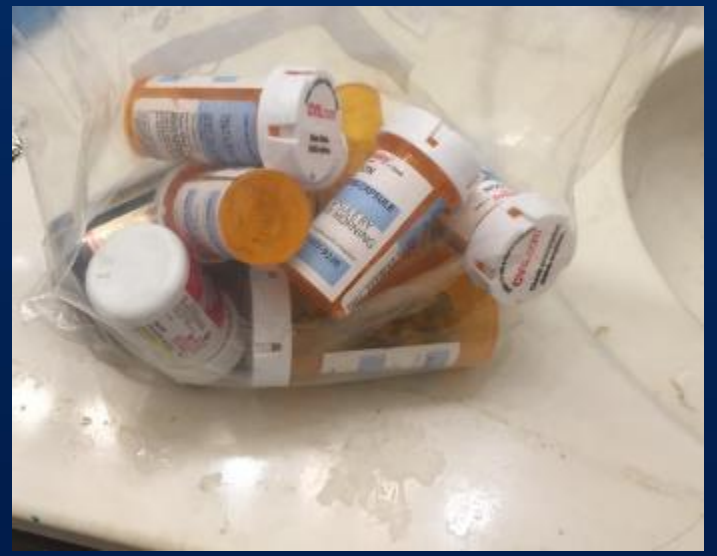
DME never used

Medication errors

Does this look familiar?

How many prescriptions?

How are they managed?



Tools for Life:
Transformational Partnerships

- **Direct Service:**
  - AT Evaluations – Aging in Place
  - AT Demonstration – Exploring what AT solutions are available
  - AT Lending Library – “Try Before You Buy”
  - AT Reuse – Bridging Gaps for smoother transitions (Ensuring safe, appropriate and effective Reuse)
  - Lead to AT Toolkits in every AAA and ILC and more AT Labs throughout Georgia
  - AT v. Waiting Lists

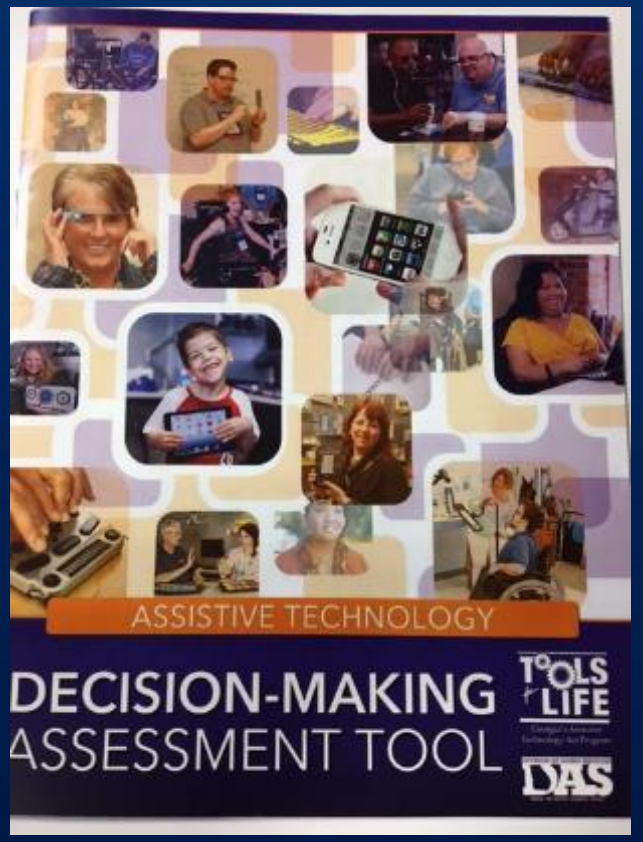
- **State Leadership:**
  - Providing AT training to AAA, ADRC and MFP - Options Counselors to build awareness and knowledge
  - Providing Technical Assistance - Policy for AT Consideration
  - Providing Technical Assistance – Ensuring Quality AT Services throughout Georgia

- **Development of National AT Decision Tree/Algorithm Tool based on DONR**

Development of National AT Decision Tool/Algorithms

- **Real-time Tool to Share What Works**
  - Learning from each other
  - AT solutions, strategies, resources
  - When to call in a professional
- **Smart-Sourcing Approach**
- **Hosted 2 Workshops – Georgia**
- **Hosted National Workshop at ATIA in 2017**
- **Growing into Specific areas – Dementia, Mental Health, etc.**

First Workshop held for AT Solution Tree



Cobb Senior Services Open House 2017

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Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program

TOOLS for LIFE
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AMAC ACCESSIBILITY

Disclaimer

Disclaimer: Produced by Tools for Life (TFL), which is a result of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended in 2004. TFL is a program of the Georgia Institute of Technology, College of Design, AMAC Accessibility Solutions and Research Center and was made possible by Grant Number H224C030009 from the Administration for Community Living. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HHS.