How to Fund Assistive Technology: Navigating through Complex Funding Streams

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Jackie Wilks, The Center for Financial Independence & Innovation (CFII)
Naomi Walker, The Georgia Advocacy Office (GAO)

May 30, 2012
Credits are Available

- **CEUs** will be administered thru GA Tech Professional Education. To receive your verification form, send an email with this webinar title and date, your full name, DOB and organization to transcripts@pe.gatech.edu.

- **CRCs** will be administered thru Tools for Life and approved by Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC). To receive your verification form, send an e-mail with your name, organization, city, state and e-mail address to Liz@gatfl.org
At the end, please evaluate us:

Please fill out this brief survey on today’s webinar:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/L6FBG2N
Welcome Jackie Stapleton!

• The new TFL part time team member!
• AT Funding and Resource Specialist
• Jackie@gatfl.org
Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come.

~Anne Lamott
Tools for Life
Georgia’s Federal AT Act Program

- On February 1, 2012 we joined:
  - The Alternative Media Access Center (AMAC)
  - Georgia Institute of Technology
  - Enterprise Innovation Institute [EI2]
  - www.amacusg.org
Tools for Life: Mission

Tools for Life increases access to and acquisition of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services for Georgians of all ages and disabilities so they can live, learn, work, and play independently in the communities of their choice.
Tools for Life
Georgia’s Federal AT Act Program

• Developed Georgia’s Plan for AT
• Serve individuals of all ages & all disabilities in Georgia
  • Over 45,000+ thru various activities throughout the year
• TFL Network
  • Assistive Technology Resource Centers
  • Lending Libraries
  • Training and Demonstrations
  • AT Reuse
  • AT Funding Education/Assistance and Resources
Tools for Life Network

- AT Lending Library (try before you buy)
- AT Evaluations & Training
- AT Demos – Promote Choice
- Resource and Referral
- AT Funding Assistance (CFII)
- DME Reuse (FODAC)
The Need for Alternative Funding

• Funding is the greatest barrier for individuals with disabilities to acquire assistive technology

• Third party funding sources are not increasing and their eligibility criteria are narrowing

• Traditional credit financing for assistive technology has not been available for individuals with disabilities
What to do when someone needs AT?

- Many agencies are “payers of last resort”
- Develop an AT Funding Plan
- Determine which equipment is needed as a medical necessity, which is needed for educational purposes, which is needed to reach vocational goals.
- There is no agency that can pay for all AT - Leverage and toggle all resources!
Direct AT Service Activities

- Web-based Funding Guide

- A resource for locating funding sources for AT devices and services. This guide was developed to make the funding process easier and to assist consumers in getting the assistive technology they need.

- New resources added frequently!
DOLLARS & SENSE
NAVIGATING THE AT FUNDING STREAM

HOME
GETTING STARTED
FUNDING SERVICES AND SERVICE PROVIDERS
SAMPLE MATERIALS
AT RESOURCE CENTER

CLICK HERE TO GET STARTED
OR CALL 800-497-8665
Dollars and Sense Homepage

Getting Started

What is Dollars and Sense? How do I use it?
Learn about the key features of the Dollars & Sense Funding Guide and how to use it to find assistive technology funding sources and service providers.

What is assistive technology?
Learn about what assistive technology is, including the different types of assistive technology that are available.

How can I learn more about assistive technology?
Find out about Internet resources for learning more about assistive technology; includes links to key Web sites.
### DOLLARS & SENSE
**Navigating the AT Funding Stream**

#### Search Results

- **Search again...**
- **227 records were found.**

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<tr>
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<td>356</td>
<td>Access of the Chattahoochee Valley, Inc.</td>
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<td>357</td>
<td>American Cancer Society - Georgia (Southeast) Division</td>
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<td>358</td>
<td>American Parkinson Disease Association - Atlanta Chapter</td>
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<td>359</td>
<td>American Printing House for the Blind, Inc.</td>
<td>Louisville, KY</td>
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<td>Arthritis Foundation - Georgia Chapter</td>
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<td>Atlanta Alliance on Developmental Disabilities - Georgia Family Support</td>
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<td>Atlanta Champions - Atlanta Chapter of</td>
<td>Orlando</td>
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DOLLARS & SENSE
NAVIGATING THE AT FUNDING STREAM

HOME

GETTING STARTED

FUNDING SERVICES AND SERVICE PROVIDERS

SAMPLE MATERIALS

AT RESOURCE CENTER

Dollars and Sense Homepage | Resource Center

AT Resource Center

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. How can I get funding to pay for home modifications?
There are a variety of different funding opportunities for home modifications. Listed below are a few:

- Georgia Dream Homeownership Program
- Credit-Able – Georgia’s Alternative Loan Program for Georgian’s with disabilities
- Social Security PASS Plan, allows for individuals to save money for a specific purchase
- 211- United Way telephone number to find human service answers
- Aldergate, homes for developmental disabilities
- Brain and Spinal Cord Trust Fund
- Joni Foundation
- USDA Rural Development Section 502 Rural Housing Loan Guarantee - The purpose of this loan program is to enable eligible low- and moderate-income rural residents to acquire modestly priced housing for their own use as a primary residence. The program is available for the purchase and repair of existing and newly constructed dwelling. There is no required down payment, but families must be able to afford the mortgage payments, including taxes and insurance. In addition, applicants must be without adequate housing and be unable to obtain credit elsewhere, yet have acceptable credit histories.
AT Resource Center

Legal Information - Assistive Technology Laws

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was enacted in 1990, and amended in 2008, to provide protection for people with disabilities against discrimination on the basis of their disabilities. The law is comprehensive in its coverage and the 2008 amendment clarifies definitions and intended coverage.

**Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (PL 105-394):** The Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act (Tech Act) was passed in 1988, amended in 1994, and continued as the Assistive Technology Act of 1998. The Act authorizes the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) to fund a project in each state that is designed to engage in activities that serve as a catalyst to effect positive systems change which, in turn, will increase access to assistive technology devices and services by people with disabilities in that state. Tools For Life is the AT Act project in Georgia.

**Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) as amended in 1997 (PL 105-17):** The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a law designed to ensure that all students receive a “free appropriate public education” (FAPE) in the “least restrictive environment” (LRE). Federal funding is provided to states that submit a state plan to the federal government to assist in providing special education classes and supplemental aids and services.

**Rehabilitation Act of 1998 (PL 105-220):** The purpose of the Rehabilitation Act is to assist
Direct AT Service Activities

- FREE resource for finding and exchanging assistive technology (AT) devices online
- Place an ad requesting items for sale, donation, or needed
- gTRADE and Tools for Life encourages members to offer AT devices and information for sale or by donation to others who may benefit from using technology and equipment no longer in need by others
- This online equipment exchange program was developed to make AT devices and services available and accessible to Georgians with disAbilities
- [www.gtradeonline.org](http://www.gtradeonline.org)
## Items Listed as Available on Gtrade

Filter list by:

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Posted</th>
<th>Type</th>
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<td>All Categories</td>
<td>All Postings</td>
<td>All Type:</td>
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Click on the name of the category to filter the results.

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<td>PACMate</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>Albany, GA</td>
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<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>Vision</td>
<td>MeastroTrekker GPS</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>Albany, GA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>Vision</td>
<td>ZoomText 9.0 Magnifier/reader</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Vision</td>
<td>AMIGO</td>
<td>$600</td>
<td>Ellijay, GA</td>
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<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>Daily Living Aids</td>
<td>Accessible sink with chrome faucet</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>Marietta, GA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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ReBoot

- ReBoot is a nonprofit, statewide, collaborative effort dedicated to actively promoting independence for people with disabilities through Assistive Technology & computer reuse.

- ReBoot has placed over 10,000 reused computer systems with people throughout Georgia, the Southeast, and the United States.

- ReBoot acquires the equipment, evaluates it, repairs it (if needed), loads licensed software, distributes the equipment to people with disabilities, and trains the person on the equipment.

Touch the Future, Inc. – www.touchthefuture.us
Friends of Disabled Adults and Children

• FODAC is a statewide provider of Durable medical equipment

• Distributed 20,000 wheelchairs and thousands of other pieces of DME since 1986

• Internationally, 65 countries have received some equipment over those years.

• FODAC’s programs include:
  • Durable medical equipment - wheelchairs and mobility aids
  • Ramps for Champs – home access ramps and modifications
  • ReMount – wheelchair and scooter lifts for vehicles
  • Disposable medical equipment – catheters, braces, liquid nutrition, etc.

www.fodac.org
Goal of the Georgia AT Depot

• AT Depot endeavors to break down the barriers which prevent individuals with disabilities, their families, and service providers from acquiring and effectively using Assistive Technologies to gain greater independence.

• To insure that AT products are available to Georgians with disabilities at lower prices

• Eliminate Funding Barriers

• www.ATDepot.org
Georgia AT Depot

- GA AT Depot’s mission relates to filling orders & providing product at discounts.

- AT services are referred to and provided by the TFL Network and participating ATRCs. They will assist with:
  - Purchase consulting
  - Training
  - Product implementation
WELCOME

Your Source for Assistive Technology Discounts in Georgia

AT Depot endeavors to break down the barriers which prevent individuals with disabilities, their families, and service providers from acquiring and effectively using Assistive Technologies to gain greater independence.

The Georgia AT Depot is a state-wide buying Cooperative for Assistive Technology for customers in the state of Georgia. The Georgia AT Depot is modeled after the Maryland AT Co-op, which has operated a successful cooperative buying program since 1998. The Georgia AT Depot is a collaborating partner with the Maryland Co-op. In this way we can provide Georgia customers the best discounts possible.

AT Depot, the Georgia Assistive Technology Cooperative, is based in the Georgia Tools for Life Network. This provides Georgians with several immediate advantages:

- A network of local Assistive Technology Resources Centers (ATRCs) to serve AT Depot Customers with:
  - Training & Professional Development
  - Product demonstrations
  - Implementation services
  - Product Support

Credit-Able is Georgia’s Alternative Financing Program for Assistive Technology

- Providing low-interest loans
- Working through participating credit unions
- Enabling Georgians with disabilities access to affordable financing
- Used for Assistive Technology and Home & Vehicle Modifications

The Center for Financial Independence & Innovation

- A nonprofit organization dedicated to helping individuals with disabilities and their family members advance their financial independence and security.

Computer and AT Device Reuse programs

The Southeastern Technology Access and Reuse (STAR) Network is the distribution model that provides reused assistive technology (AT), computers, durable medical equipment, and home care equipment to centers that are members of the Network in Georgia and the Southeastern United States.
Private Grants

- Friends Of Man, is a 100% charity, providing food, clothing, medicine, DME, AT, eyeglasses, hearing aids and prosthetics. No dental coverage outside of Colorado per residency requirements. *Referrals must come through a professional.* applications@friendsofman.org; www.friendsofman.org

- Joni and Friends, Christian Fund for the Disabled: Funds for AT, rehabilitation, special treatment, educational opportunities. CFD up to $2,500 [www.joniandfriends.org](http://www.joniandfriends.org)

- Texas Center for the Visually Challenged, is a computer refurbishing program averaging of 350-400 pc's per year with grand total of 3500 distributed to date. Individuals can apply from the US and Canada; [www.handicapability.org](http://www.handicapability.org)
Private Grants

- The Ideal Group, Inc. specializes in online conference calls, accessible math resources, and real time closed captioning. [http://ideal-group.org/at/](http://ideal-group.org/at/)

- GiveTech is a non-profit organization based in San Francisco, CA that gives computer input devices to individuals who can not input in traditional ways on computers. [www.givetech.org](http://www.givetech.org)
Project Endeavor

- Provide deaf and hard of hearing Americans with access to high-speed internet
- Affordable devices including touch tablets and phones
- Link to see if eligible
- www.projectendeavor.com
Contact us for daily pricing on equipment!

If you applied for Project Endeavor before April 13, these products are available to you.

iPad 2  iPod Touch  Acer Aspire 5250  CapTel 800i  Epic  iPhone 4s
Bridging Apps

• Previously SNAApps4Kids
• Easter Seals' guide to explore ways to find funding for iPads and similar devices.
• Many funding resources listed
• Bridging Apps has an IEP and iPad Pilot program that can apply
• www.bridgingapps.org
Funding Sources Directory

You asked, and we listened. We have received many questions from the BridgingApps community about how to get a device funded. We have begun to compile a list of organizations that grant iPads and similar devices to families who have children with special needs. Please use this list as a guide to explore ways to find such funding.

Help us add more! If you are aware of any other funding sources, please click on the plus sign to add more.

Entries for Funding Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Link to the Program Page or Application</th>
<th>Program Description</th>
<th>Specify Scope of Funding Source</th>
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<tr>
<td>tx.us</td>
<td>This program is through DARS (Texas Department of Rehabilitation Services). Here is the official website: <a href="http://www.dars.state.tx.us/dhhs/stap.shtml">www.dars.state.tx.us/dhhs/stap.shtml</a></td>
<td>Texas, devices specifically for speech-generation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>washingtonaccessfund.org</td>
<td>The Washington Access Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) established by and for people with disabilities in Washington state. Washington Access Fund provides</td>
<td>United States</td>
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</table>
First Hand Foundation

- Not-for-profit - First Hand assists individual children with health-related needs when insurance and other financial resources have been exhausted
- First Hand accepts applications worldwide
- Treatment: Clinical procedures, medicine, therapy, prosthesis, etc.
- Equipment: Wheelchairs, assistive technology equipment, care devices, hearing aids, etc.
- Displacement: Lodging, food, gas, parking and transportation for families of seriously ill children who must travel during treatment
- Vehicle modifications: Lifts, ramps and transfer boards
First Hand Foundation

our story
our outreach
request our help
support our mission
volunteer
news and events
contact us

Golf Tournament

Register now for our annual golf tournament, held on May 8th at The National Golf Club of Kansas City.

Apply for funding

The First Hand Foundation is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that provides funding so individual children may have access to health care that would otherwise be impossible. Our mission is to directly impact the health status of a young life. Since our inception in 1995, First Hand has distributed more than $15 million to impact 146,000 lives in 76 countries.

2800 rockcreek parkway • kansas city, mo. 64117 • (816) 201-1569 • Copyright © 2012 First Hand Foundation

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Challenged Athlete Foundation

- [www.challengedathletes.org](http://www.challengedathletes.org)
- Recognizes the athletic greatness inherent in all people with physical challenges and supports their athletic endeavors by providing unparalleled sports opportunities that lead to success in sports — and in life.
- Grants
  - Access for Athletes
  - Operation Rebound
2012 Aspen Medical Products
San Diego Triathlon Challenge

October 21, 2012

Join challenged athletes, able-bodied athletes, celebrities, sports legends and professional athletes for the best day in triathlon.

Register Here
Crime Victims Compensation Program (CVCP) was established for two primary purposes, to assist victims with debt incurred as a result of violent crime, and to encourage victims to participate in the criminal justice system.

Eligible program applicants can receive compensation for up to $25,000 to help with medical and dental care, mental health counseling, economic support, crime scene clean-up, and funeral expenses when the costs are not covered by other sources.

http://cjcc.ga.gov/00/channel_title/0,2094,43676881_169285446,00.html
Starkey Hearing Foundation

• Hear Now is Starkey Hearing Foundation’s domestic, application-based program committed to assisting those permanently residing in the U.S. who are deaf or hard of hearing and have no other resources to acquire hearing aids.

www.starkeyhearingfoundation.org
I don't believe in disabilities, I believe in ability.

—Bill Austin, founder

Our mission is to bring understanding among people through hearing care by focusing on awareness, education, protection and treatment, so the world may hear.
At the end, please evaluate us:

Please fill out this brief survey on today’s webinar:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/L6FBG2N
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