



Tools for Life: Your Assistive Technology Act Program

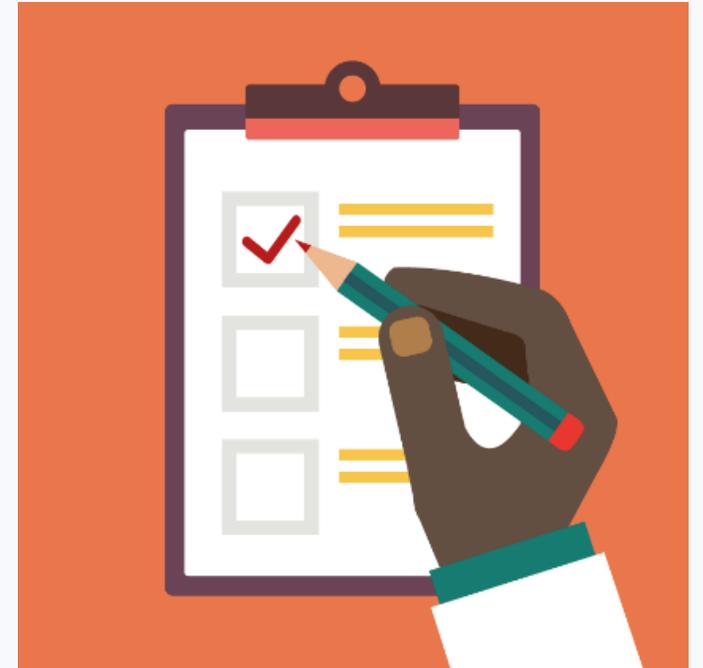
Georgia Power | ADAPPT
June 2020

Tools for Life | Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation |
College of Design | Georgia Tech

Goals for this Session

During our time together today we will cover:

- CIDI Services
- TFL core activities
- TFL and COVID-19
- Accessing the TFL Network and community partners
- Review funding resources
- Assistive technology strategies, and
- Training and outreach activities
- Q&A



Georgia Tech: CIDI and TFL



The Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation (CIDI) focuses on services and research in the world of accessibility. Research initiatives focus on accessible education, accessibility in the workplace, assistive technology, technology and aging, and much more. Services include Braille production, captioning and described media, digital accessibility, E-text, and assistive technology services (TFL).

Tools for Life (TFL), Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program, increases access to acquisition of assistive technology devices and services so Georgians of all ages and disabilities can live, learn, work, and play in the communities of their choice.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation (CIDI) at Georgia Tech. The header includes the Georgia Tech logo and the text "Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation COLLEGE OF DESIGN". A navigation menu lists "About", "Research", "Services", "Education", "Portfolio", "News & Events", "Contact", and "Member Log In". A search bar is also present. The main content area features a large photograph of a diverse group of people sitting around a long table in a meeting room. A man in a wheelchair is visible in the foreground, facing the group. Below the photo, the text reads "We Are Contributing to an Inclusive World". At the bottom, a paragraph states: "CIDI is recognized as a leader for services and research in accessibility. We are dedicated to an inclusive society through innovations in assistive and universally designed technologies, with a goal of addressing the full range of needs for accessibility. We are committed to the promotion of technological innovation and development of user-centered research, products, and services for individuals with disabilities."

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Tools for Life website. The header includes the Georgia Tech logo and the "TOOLS for LIFE" logo, with the text "Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program" below it. A navigation menu lists "HOME", "ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY", "TFL NETWORK", and "CALENDAR OF EVENTS". A search bar is also present. The main content area features a large banner with the text "Tools for Life and COVID-19" over a background of colorful virus particles. To the left of the banner is a vertical menu with links: "TRAINING", "FUNDING", "PUBLICATIONS", "TFL WIKI", "MEET THE TFL TEAM", "MEET THE ADVISORY COUNCIL", "DIRECTIONS/MAP", "JOIN OUR MAILING LIST", "HOW CAN WE HELP?", and "AT REFERRALS". To the right of the banner is a "COVID-19 RESOURCES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES" section with a "WEBINARS" sub-section listing events for May 20 and June 3, and a "JUN 16" event for June 16. Below this is a "TOOLS FOR LIFE APPFINDER" section with an app icon and the text "...for Living, Learning, Working, and Playing." Further down is an "AT ONLINE EXCHANGE" section with the "gTRADE" logo, and an "AT FUNDING GUIDE" section with the "DOLLARS & SENSE" logo and the text "NAVIGATING THE AT FUNDING STREAM". At the bottom, a "Welcome to Tools for Life" section contains a paragraph about the program's mission and a link to "accomplish our mission through:".

University System of Georgia (USG)

Georgia Institute of Technology

College of Design

Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation (CIDI)

Research
(formerly CATEA)

Tech & Aging

Accessible
Workplace

Student Research

Services & Education
(formerly AMAC)

Accessible Education

AccessText Network

Braille

Captioning &
Described Media

Customer/Student
Support

Digital Accessibility

E-Text

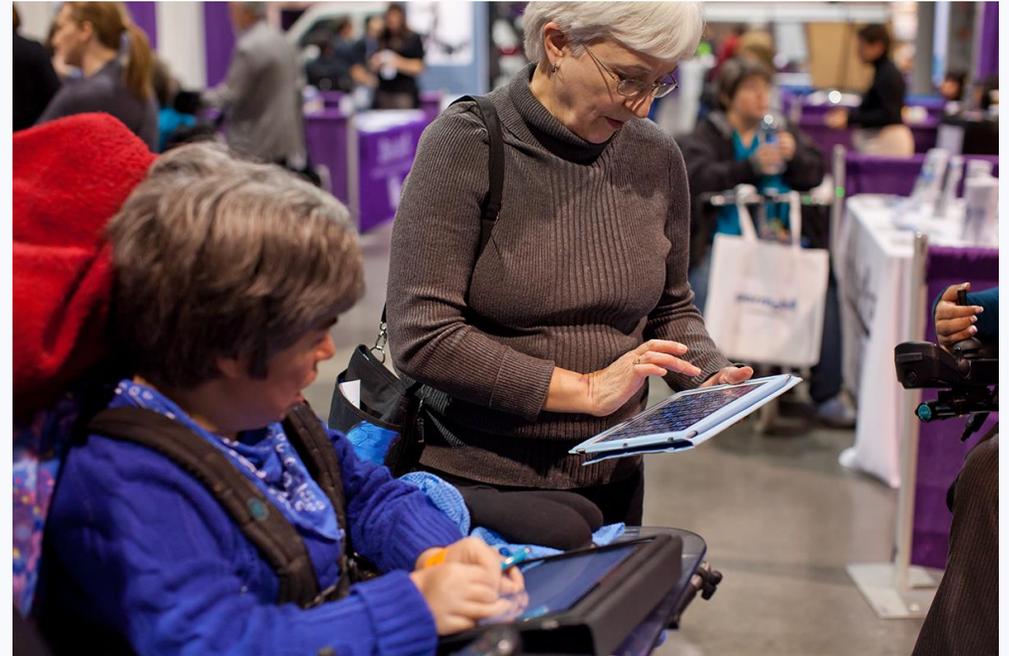
Tools for Life

Student
Accommodation
Manager

Tools for Life (TFL)



Tools for Life (TFL), Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program, provides Georgians of all ages and disabilities the opportunity to gain access to and acquisition of assistive technology devices and service so they can live, learn, work, and play independently in the communities of their choice.



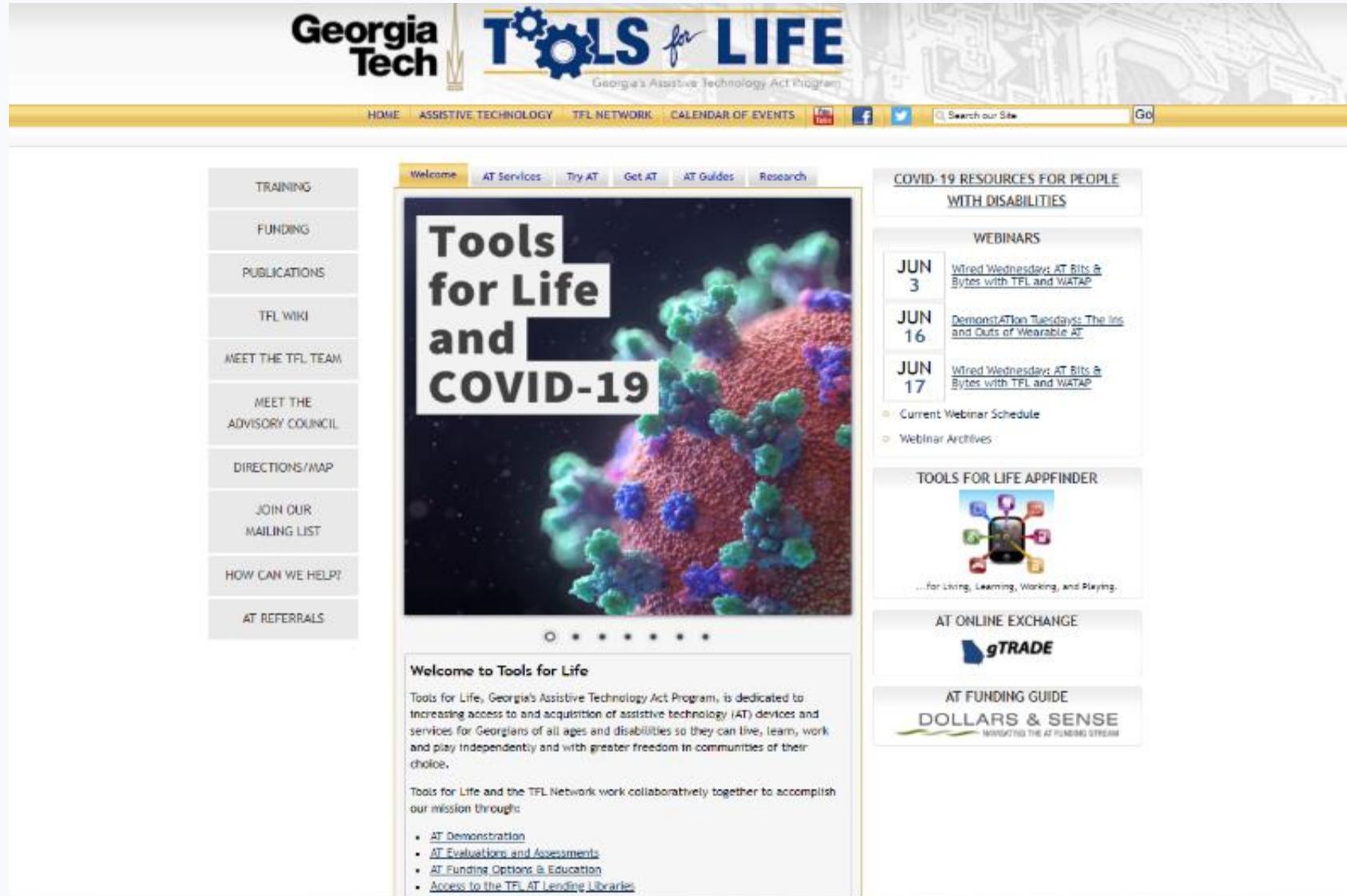
Tools for Life Core Services

As the Assistive Technology Program in Georgia, we are charged with core activities:

1. Information & Assistance
2. AT Assessments
3. AT Demonstrations
4. AT Equipment Lending
5. Training (Individuals and Groups)
6. Funding Education & Solutions
7. AT Reuse



Tools for Life Website



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Tools for Life website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Georgia Tech logo and the Tools for Life logo. Below the navigation bar, there is a search bar and social media icons. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Left Sidebar:** A vertical menu with buttons for TRAINING, FUNDING, PUBLICATIONS, TFL WIKI, MEET THE TFL TEAM, MEET THE ADVISORY COUNCIL, DIRECTIONS/MAP, JOIN OUR MAILING LIST, HOW CAN WE HELP?, and AT REFERRALS.
- Center:** A large banner image with the text "Tools for Life and COVID-19". Below the banner is a "Welcome to Tools for Life" section with a paragraph of text and a list of links: [AT Demonstration](#), [AT Evaluations and Assessments](#), [AT Funding Options & Education](#), and [Access to the TFL AT Lending Libraries](#).
- Right Sidebar:** A "COVID-19 RESOURCES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES" section, a "WEBINARS" section with dates (JUN 3, JUN 16, JUN 17) and links to "Wired Wednesday: AT Bits & Bytes with TFL and WATAP" and "Demonstration Tuesdays: The Ins and Outs of Wearable AT", a "TOOLS FOR LIFE APPFINDER" section with an image of a smartphone and the text "...for Living, Learning, Working, and Playing.", an "AT ONLINE EXCHANGE" section with the gTRADE logo, and an "AT FUNDING GUIDE" section with the DOLLARS & SENSE logo.

Tools for Life Network



Access the TFL Network to find your local:

- Assistive Technology Resource Center
- Outreach Center

Community Partners:

- Centers for Independent Living
- Aging and Disability Resource Centers

Tools for Life Network

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

Expanding Assistive Technology Outreach in Georgia

★ Assistive Technology Resource Centers | ★ Outreach Centers | ★ Community Partners

GEORGIA'S AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTERS

Atlanta Regional Commission Aging Division Chamblee, Clayton, Gwinnett, Douglas, Spalding, DeKalb, Henry, Rockdale	LegacyLink Georgia Mountains Area Agency on Aging Bartow, Clayton, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Heard, Lumpkin, Wilkes, Wilcox, Wayne, White	River Valley Area Agency on Aging Cherokee, Clay, Clinch, Fannin, Gilmer, Habersham, Hancock, Hardee, Heard, Henry, Jasper, Macon, Madison, McIntosh, Meriwether, Mitchell, Newton, Oconee, Wilkes
Coastal Georgia Area Agency on Aging Bryan, Bulloch, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, Long, McIntosh	Middle Georgia Area Agency on Aging Baldwin, Bibb, Cowart, Franklin, Harris, Wilkes, Wilcox, Putnam, Spalding, Taylor, Wilcox	Southern Georgia Area Agency on Aging Albany, Appling, Burke, Chatham, Wilkes, Wilcox, Clinch, Coffee, Crisp, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, Long, Wilkes
CSW Area Agency on Aging Baker, Calhoun, Charlton, Hancock, Jeffers, Jenkins, Lincoln, Wilkes, Wilcox, Wilkes, Wilcox, Wilkes, Wilcox, Wilkes, Wilcox	Northeast Georgia Area Agency on Aging Baker, Calhoun, Charlton, Hancock, Jeffers, Jenkins, Lincoln, Wilkes, Wilcox, Wilkes, Wilcox, Wilkes, Wilcox	Southwest Georgia Area Agency on Aging Baker, Calhoun, Charlton, Hancock, Jeffers, Jenkins, Lincoln, Wilkes, Wilcox, Wilkes, Wilcox, Wilkes, Wilcox
Heart of Georgia Area Agency on Aging Appling, Bibb, Bulloch, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, Long, Wilkes, Wilcox, Wilkes, Wilcox, Wilkes, Wilcox	Northwest Georgia Area Agency on Aging Baker, Calhoun, Charlton, Hancock, Jeffers, Jenkins, Lincoln, Wilkes, Wilcox, Wilkes, Wilcox, Wilkes, Wilcox	Three Rivers Area Agency on Aging Baker, Calhoun, Charlton, Hancock, Jeffers, Jenkins, Lincoln, Wilkes, Wilcox, Wilkes, Wilcox, Wilkes, Wilcox

TechSAge – In person and Online Education

GT Home

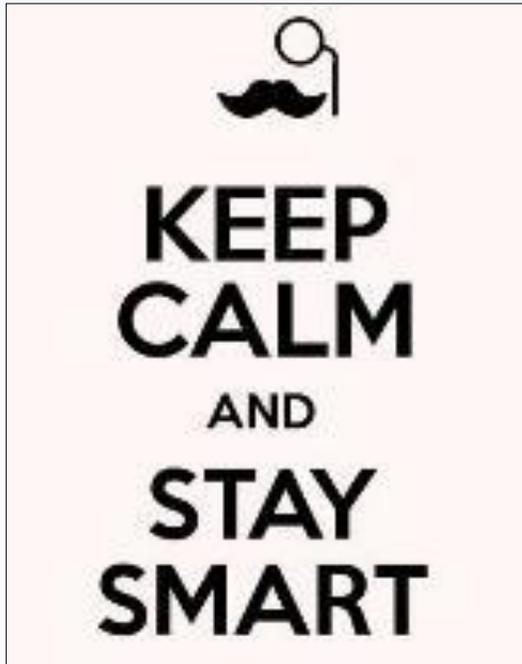


RERC on Technologies to Support Aging-in-Place for People with Long-Term Disabilities

An interdisciplinary collaboration with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Technologies to Support Aging-in-Place for People with Long-Term Disabilities (RERC [TechSage](#)) is a collaborative grant center based at the Georgia Institute of Technology and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Founded in 2013, [TechSage](#)

Our Response to COVID-19



The Tools for Life team is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by collecting and vetting resources for individuals with disabilities in the community, as well as their family and circles of support.

These resources are not meant to replace advice or instruction from a doctor or medical team.

These resources are here to educate and empower. We encourage you to take this information, do further research, and share what you've learned with your medical and support teams.

We ask that you share this information with anyone that will benefit.

We are in this together and together we are stronger. Stay safe and educated!

TFL COVID-19 Resource Guide



COVID-19 Resources for People with Disabilities

Contents [\[hide\]](#)

- 1 TFL Webinar Series
- 2 Connectedness/Virtual Platforms
- 3 Education
- 4 Entertainment and Recreation
- 5 Georgia Specific Resources
- 6 Helpful Apps
- 7 Planning Guides and Resources
- 8 Sanitization of Assistive Technology
- 9 Software
- 10 Speech/Communication
- 11 Workplace Accommodations

TFL Webinar Series [\[edit\]](#)

The Tools for Life team is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by collecting and vetting resources for individuals with disabilities in the community, as well as their family and circles of support. The resources in these webinars are not meant to replace advice or instruction from a doctor or medical team. These resources are here to educate and empower. We encourage you to take this information, do further research, and share what you've learned with your medical and support teams.

We ask that you share this information with anyone that will benefit. We are in this together and together we are stronger. Stay safe and educated!

[View the four part Webinar Series here.](#)

Connectedness/Virtual Platforms [\[edit\]](#)

Stay connected to family and friends through virtual platforms and resources to alleviate social isolation. You'll also find initiatives that companies have launched to keep people connected.

[View the full list of Connectedness/Virtual Platforms resources here.](#)

Education [\[edit\]](#)

Find all things education related in this section including: software, read-alouds, special education resources and more!

[View the full list of Education resources here.](#)

Entertainment and Recreation [\[edit\]](#)

Georgia Specific Resources [\[edit\]](#)

In this section you will find resources particularly useful for residents of Georgia including: local resources, government mandates, transportation information and more.

[View the full list of Georgia Specific Resources here.](#)

Helpful Apps [\[edit\]](#)

Visit the [Tools for Life App Finder](#) for apps on teleworking, social distancing, emergency preparedness and more.

Planning Guides and Resources [\[edit\]](#)

Organizations from across the country have provided planning guides and produced other resources for people with disabilities. These include information on developmental disabilities, emergency management, avoiding discrimination in care, complex needs and more! Check out this section if you are looking for specialized information.

[View the full list of Planning Guides and Resources here.](#)

Sanitization of Assistive Technology [\[edit\]](#)

Sanitizing assistive technology is essential!

[View the full list of Sanitization Resources here.](#)

Software [\[edit\]](#)

Many software companies are offering their products at free and discounted rates.

[View the full list of Software resources here.](#)

Speech/Communication [\[edit\]](#)

Find communication resources for all ages in this section. These include communication boards, speech therapy exercises to do at home and more.

[View the full list of Speech and Communication resources here.](#)

Workplace Accommodations [\[edit\]](#)

Here you will find resources for workplace accommodations.

[View the full list of Workplace Accommodation resources here.](#)

- TFL COVID-19 Webinar Series
 - Communication Options When Hospitalized
 - Solutions for Living, Learning, Working and Playing
 - Tips and Resources for Successfully Managing Mental Health
 - Strategies to Improve Your Executive Functioning
- DemonstrATion Tuesdays (vision series) – CEUs and CRCs offered!
 - The Ins and Outs of Wearable AT - June 16
 - Expand Your Vision with Video Magnification - June 23
 - Exploring Options for Non-visual Access - June 30
- Wired Wednesdays
 - Opportunity to provide AT demonstrations

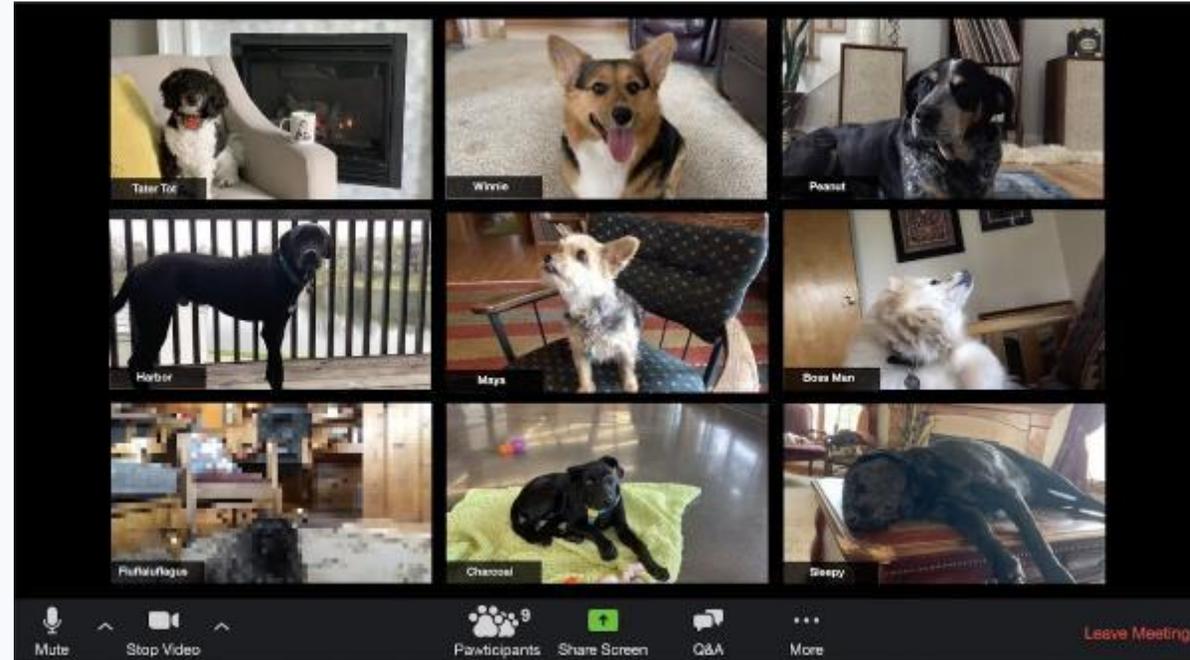


We're Always Online

We have been actively working on translation of in person trainings, tours and conferences to virtual.

The benefit that we always offer some online component for each of our trainings. Accessibility!

- Tours of the AT, Access, and AAC Labs
- Conferences with breakout sessions
- Virtual exhibit hall



Training

Training activities include but are not limited to:

- In person or virtual trainings
- Webinars
- Internal and external partner trainings
- Conferences



Variety of Topics:

- Assistive Technology (specific for disabilities)
- Funding
- Emerging Tech/Trends
- Disability awareness



More!

Information and Assistance

Phone

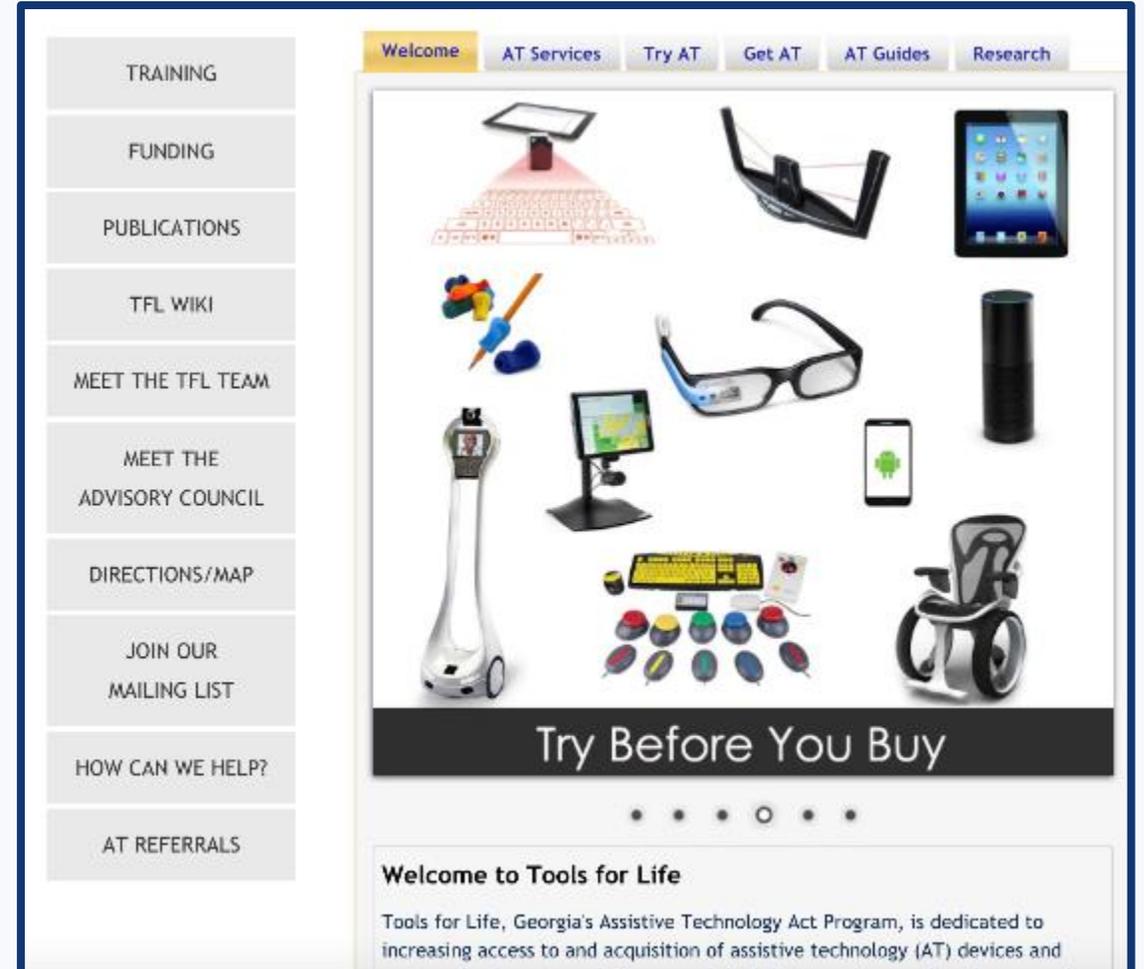
- 404-894-0541

Email

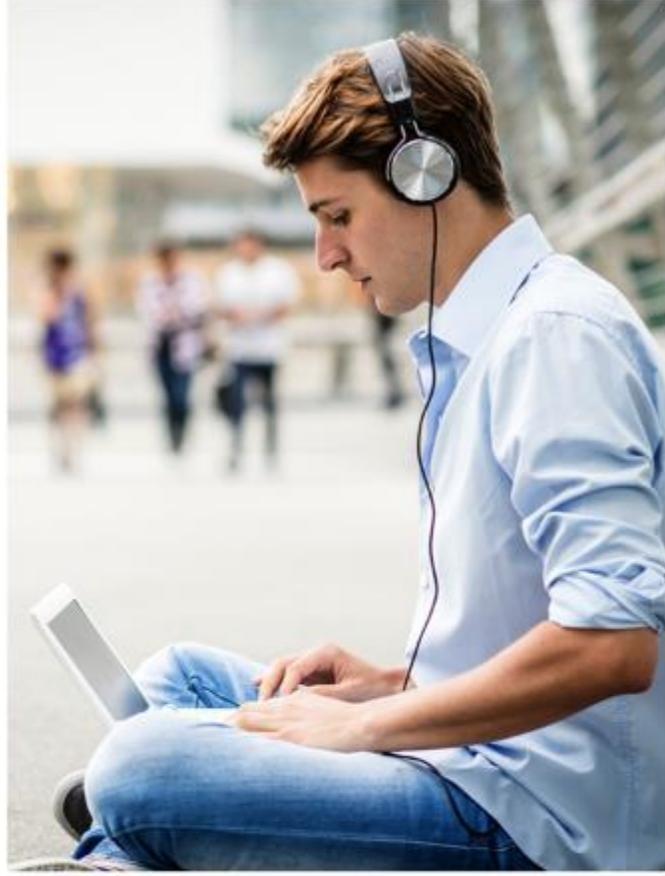
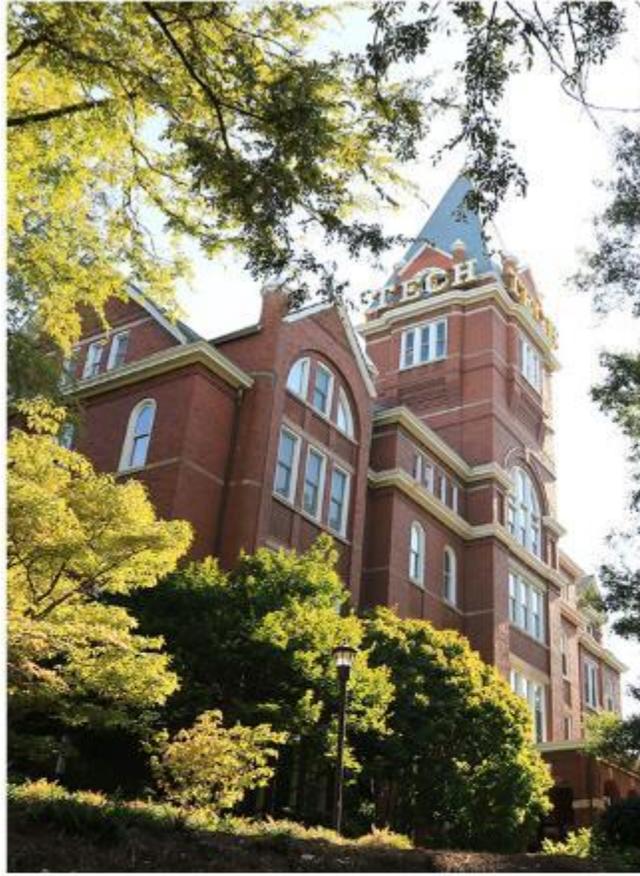
- info@gatfl.gatech.edu

How Can We Help?

- Online form
- Gives us information on what kind of assistance is requested



The screenshot displays the Tools for Life website interface. On the left is a vertical navigation menu with the following items: TRAINING, FUNDING, PUBLICATIONS, TFL WIKI, MEET THE TFL TEAM, MEET THE ADVISORY COUNCIL, DIRECTIONS/MAP, JOIN OUR MAILING LIST, HOW CAN WE HELP?, and AT REFERRALS. The main content area features a top navigation bar with links for Welcome, AT Services, Try AT, Get AT, AT Guides, and Research. Below this is a large image showcasing a variety of assistive technology devices, including a laptop with a Braille keyboard, a tablet, a smartphone, a wheelchair, a pair of glasses, a computer monitor, a keyboard, a mouse, a small robot, and a pair of colorful buttons. A dark banner at the bottom of the image reads "Try Before You Buy". Below the banner are five small circles, with the fourth one highlighted. At the bottom of the page, a "Welcome to Tools for Life" section contains the text: "Tools for Life, Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program, is dedicated to increasing access to and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) devices and".



Assistive Technology Services

What is Assistive Technology?

Assistive Technology (AT) is any item or piece of equipment that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of life, including at school, at work, at home, and in the community.



Assistive Technology Continuum

Observations and “Hanging out with Intent”

Assistive
Technology is a
***continuum of
tools,
strategies, and
services*** that
match a person’s
needs, abilities,
and tasks.

Low/No-tech

- pencil grip
- adapted books
- slant board
- highlighters, tape
- magnifiers
- color coding
- read to out loud
- picture schedule
- strategies for memory
- colored transparencies
- proof readers
- note taker
- dry erase board

Mid-Tech

- word prediction
- text to speech
- speech to text
- spell checkers
- talking calculators
- digital recorders
- organizers
- e-books
- adapted keyboard
- adapted mouse
- adapted toys
- CCTV
- apps under \$100

High-Tech

- computer/laptops
- tablets/phablets
- smartphones
- smart pens
- OCR scanner/software
- magnification software
- speech output devices
- switch, joystick access
- scanning access
- voice recognition
- environmental control devices
- apps over \$100

Guiding Principle and Public Law



Disability is a natural part of the human experience and in no way diminishes the right of individuals to:

- A. live independently;
- B. enjoy self-determination and make choices;
- C. benefit from an education;
- D. pursue meaningful careers; and
- E. enjoy full inclusion and integration in the economic, political, social, cultural, and educational mainstream of society in the United States.

Public Law 108-364

Why Assistive Technology?

For a person without a disability, assistive technology makes life easier.

For a person with a disability, assistive technology makes life possible.

Tip: USE AT! We have yet to meet a successful person who doesn't use any AT.



The “FAST” Track

Frustration

Anxiety

Stress

Tension

AT Helps

Assistive Technology (AT) strategies and solutions can help support individuals with a variety of disabilities in the workplace. AT helps to bridge the gap and provide solutions to problems with:

- Speaking
- Hearing
- Seeing
- Moving around
- Getting places
- Memory
- Cognition (thought processes and understanding)
- Daily living activities, such as dressing and preparing meals
- Socializing



Examples of AT for Learning Disabilities

- **C-Pen** is a reader pen that allows the user to scan printed text and have it read out loud to them.
- **Livescribe** is a smart notetaking pen that can record while the user is taking notes.



Examples of AT for Aging

- Smart devices such as Amazon Echo or Google Home for home management, reminders, and social interaction.
- Wearables such as a FitBit, Apple Watch, or ID Bracelet for safety measures and tracking health.
- Adaptive dinnerware for tremors or more ease while eating.



Team Approach

- Person with the disability
- Circle of support/Family of choice
- Teachers
- Case Managers
- Technologist
- Occupational Therapist
- Speech-Language Pathologist
- Physical Therapist
- Engineer
- Neighbors
- Bus drivers



AT Demonstrations

- Free of charge!
- Learn about devices
- What will work best?
 - Assist in making informed choices
 - Consumer's choice in devices



AT Lending Library

- Try before you buy!
- Loans are usually for 3 to 4 weeks
- Training on items before borrowed, if needed



AT Solutions Lab

- Communication Devices
- Durable Medical Equipment (DME)
- Games
- Hearing Solutions
- Medication Reminders
- Memory Solutions
- Mobility Aids
- Software
- Switches
- Tablets
- Vision Devices
- Workplace Solutions



COVID-19 Changes

- We are still providing direct AT services!
- Demonstrations are available through most web platforms
- How-To Guides are being created so that items can be loaned out more easily
- Loans are available to be shipped out
- Enhanced sanitization protocols



TFL AppFinder Updates

AppFinder

[About](#) | [Our Other Favorite Apps Databases](#) | [Helpful Links](#)

Welcome to the Tools for Life Database - Our Favorite Apps for Living, Learning, Working and Playing!

Search By:

Name:

OR

Notetaking
Organization
PDF reader
Personal Care and Safety
Productivity
Prompting
Readers
Relaxation
Scanner
Science
Screen Reader
Sign Language
Social Distancing ←
Speech
Spelling
Talking Calculator
Teleworking ←
Therapeutic Aids
Vision
Writing

Price:

Free Up to \$4.99 Up to \$9.99 All

Device Type:

Android
 iOS
 Microsoft
 Blackberry
 Chrome Extension

- The TFL AppFinder can be found on our website [on the right hand side of the page](#)
- Chrome Extensions are available under device type.
- ~400 Apps!
- Two new categories have been added since COVID-19
 - **Social Distancing**
 - **Teleworking**

Funding Resources

Georgia's Assistive Technology and Funding Guide

- Centers for Independent Living (CIL)
- Aging & Disability Resource Centers (ADRC)
- Area Agencies on Aging (AAA)



gTRADE/EdTRADE

- Resources for direct exchange of equipment between users
- gTRADE is for anyone in Georgia
- EdTRADE is specifically for K-12 institutions
- Users determine the terms of the exchange
- Stay tuned for updates to these 2 statewide resources!



Dollars and Sense

- Online database and resources for developing a funding strategy
- Informational resources
- Funding strategy worksheet
- Users can add and edit resources
- AT resources

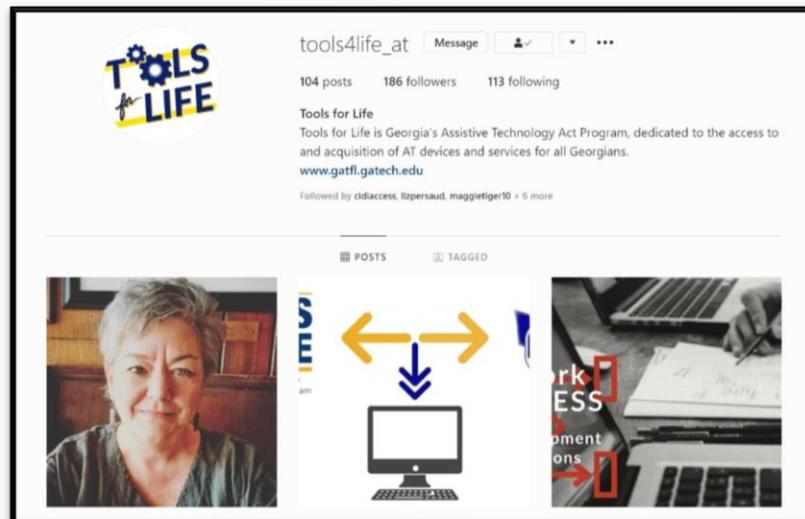


Social Media



Check us out online!

- Assistive technology news
- Events and conferences
- COVID-19 resources
- Research opportunities
- Tours and visits



Questions



Tools for Life Team



Carolyn Phillips

Director, Tools for Life

carolyn.phillips@gatfl.gatech.edu



Liz Persaud

Program and Outreach Manager

liz.persaud@gatfl.gatech.edu



Martha Rust

AT Access Team Manager

martha.rust@gatfl.gatech.edu



Danny Housley

AT Acquisition Manager

danny.housley@gatfl.gatech.edu



Gina Gelinas

Educational Outreach Manager

ggelinas3@gatech.edu



Rachel Wilson

AT Specialist

rachel.wilson@gatfl.gatech.edu



Tori Hughes Holder

Outreach Specialist

tori.holder@gatfl.gatech.edu



DeeDee Bunn

Speech-Language Pathologist

dbunn6@gatech.edu



Sam Peters

Program Specialist

speters37@gatech.edu



Ciara Montes

AT Specialist

ciara.montes@gatfl.gatech.edu



Ben Satterfield

Research Associate

rsatterfield8@gatech.edu



Sarah Endicott

Research Specialist

sarah.endicott@design.gatech.edu



Annabel Joyner

AT Lab Specialist

ajoyner8@gatech.edu



Sal Kibler

AT Services Intern

mkibler3@gatech.edu

Contact Us



Tools for Life, Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program

Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation (formerly AMAC Accessibility)
Georgia Institute of Technology

1-800-497-8665

www.gatfl.gatech.edu

info@gatfl.gatech.edu



facebook.com/gatoolsforlife



@tools4life_at



@tools4life_at

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, Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation (formerly AMAC Accessibility) 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.