

Treasure Chest: How to Find Treasures in Funding for AT Purchases

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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 Website

Georgia Tech **TOOLS for LIFE**
Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program

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WEBINARS

JUN 9 [Wired Wednesday: AT Bits & Bytes with TFL and WATAP](#)

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TOOLS FOR LIFE APPFINDER

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

AT ONLINE EXCHANGE



Partners with DAS-CARES ACT Funding

- Tools For Life, in partnership with Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) Division of Aging Services (DAS) funded with COVID-19 Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) Rapid Response and the ADRC No Wrong Door (NWD) funding
- **Goal** is to address and improve Social Isolation/Connectedness and Activities of Daily Living for older adults and people with disabilities
- **Assist 39 consumers** with assessing need, procuring and providing setup/training/support of AT
 - At least 3 in each of Georgia's 12 Area Agency on Aging (AAA)
- **Provide assessments to 16 consumers** and identify AT solutions
 - Maximum of 1 in Atlanta area
 - At least 1 from each of the 12 AAA

— **Contract period- April 5, 2021- September 30, 2021**



Department of Human Services
Division of Aging Services



Shepherd Center

shepherd.org

TFL Objectives:

- The Pandemic amplified an existing problem of social isolation and loneliness, which has been known to exacerbate health problems and contribute to poor quality of life. With this project, we have the ability to address these concerns and offer options to improve these situation through AT!
- **TFL will:**
 - Provide 4 trainings for DAS Staff/Counselors to best equip everyone with knowledge of AT to make referrals to TFL
 - May 20th
 - June 23rd
 - July 22nd
 - August 19th
 - Work directly with consumer to determine appropriate AT that will assist in connecting with family, friends and/or community
 - Assess AT needs to improve Activities of Daily Living of consumers
 - Provide training, setup, and support of AT with consumer



The Shepherd Center

Shepherd Center is a private, not-for-profit hospital specializing in medical treatment, research and rehabilitation for people with spinal cord injury, brain injury, stroke, multiple sclerosis, spine and chronic pain, and other neuromuscular conditions.



Assistive Technology Center

- Assistive technology
 - Environmental control, aug com, computer
- Adaptive driving
- Seating clinic
- Rehab Equipment



Financial Access

- Traditional financing
- Employment
- Third-party funders
- Where do you turn?



Payers of Last Resort

- Organizations that cover the cost *after* a third party has exhausted their funds/responsibility to pay
- More and more people are relying on these services
 - Medicaid/Medicare
 - Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund



What barriers have you encountered?



Statistics to Think About

Disability Employment Statistics for June 2021

Ages 16 years and older

- **Labor Force Participation Rate**
 - People with disabilities: **21.3%**
 - People without disabilities: **67.7%**
- **Unemployment Rate**
 - People with disabilities: **10.9%**
 - People without disabilities: **5.9%**

Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP)



What Kind of Funding?

- Grants
- Loans
- Supports
- Services
- Demonstrations



Grants: The Holy Grail



The Ultimate Goal

- Grants = money you don't have to pay back
- Increasingly hard to find as an individual
- Some organizations have limited funds
- Funds go **FAST**



Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund

- Direct grant to people with traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries
- Grant can be used for home mods, AT or vehicles/equipment
- \$10,000 max, can be used over time
- www.bsitf.georgia.gov



Co-Pay Assistance



Patient Advocate Foundation

- Co-Pay Relief Program
- Diagnosis specific
- First come, first served
- 1-866-512-3861
- www.patientadvocate.org



The Assistance Fund

- Co-pay assistance
- Healthcare expenses
- Premiums/Incidentals
- 70 diagnosis specific programs
- www.tafcares.org



Patient Services Incorporated

- Medications
- Co-Pays
- Insurance plan navigation
- legal advice
- 1-800-7741
- www.patientservicesinc.org



Here for a Reason

- Can provide up to \$500 for DME
- Out of pocket costs
- Medical supplies
- www.hereforareason.org



Home Modifications/Alterations



Important Considerations

- Owning vs renting
- Fair Housing Act
- Reasonable Accommodations
- Cost sharing



FODAC

- DME
- Supplies
- Computers
- Vehicle mods
- Home mod vendors
- 770-491-9014
- www.fodac.org



Department of Community Affairs

- Partnership with SILC
- Weatherization programs
- Community support
- Rental assistance
- 404-679-4840
- www.dca.ga.gov



HOME Program

- Local government resource
- Community Development Block Grants
- Repairs and mods
- Craig Goebel, Director
- 770-822-5190



Community Development Block Grants

- Home owners may be eligible
- HUD Program
- Ms. Tanikia Jackson, Official Representative for HUD Grant Programs
- 770-822-7863



AT Acquisition



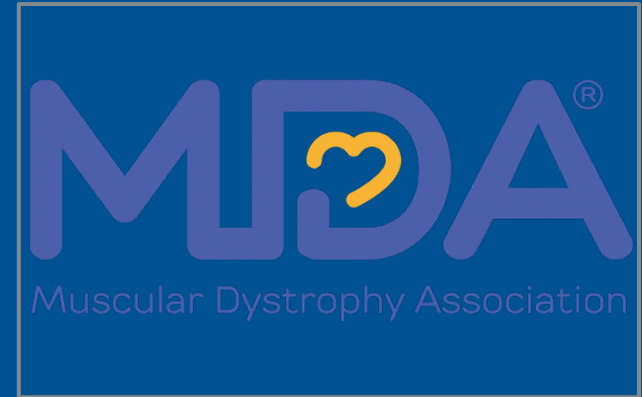
Vocational Rehabilitation

- Focus on employment
- Here to work with you
- Provide supports to acquire training and gainful employment
- Know the process for requesting or reporting to a counselor
- www.gvra.Georgia.gov



MDA

- National equipment assistance program
- Equipment repair/maintenance
- Peer support
- <https://www.mda.org>



GA Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

- Programs
 - TEDP - hearing/Communication
 - iCanConnect - dual sensory
- Income qualifications
- Information access
- No cost to qualified applicants
- www.gcdhh.org



Georgia Lions Lighthouse

- Vision and hearing programs
- 1 pair of glasses every three years
- Mobile eye clinic
- Up to two digital hearing aids
- Sliding scale for hearing aids
- Income requirements
- <https://lionslighthouse.org>





Walton Options for Independent Living STAR Program



- Walton Options for Independent Living is a Center for Independent Living (CIL).
- We provide services and resources to help people with all types of disabilities live independently within the community.
- We believe all persons including those with disabilities, should be able to participate in their community. We promote equality, inclusion and independence through **Personal Choice, Personal Responsibility, Community Access, Education and Employment.**
- We have 3 Offices – Augusta, GA, North Augusta, SC, and Walterboro, SC serving 16 Counties in GA and 10 Counties in SC.
- The Augusta Office is a STAR Network Hub. We clean and repurpose older equipment as well as connect consumers to Assistive Technology Resources.

706-724-6262

In Georgia

803-279-9611

In South Carolina

Medicaid Waivers



New Options Waiver, COMP

NOW/COMP

ID/DD

DBHDD

Supportive Employment,
residential services,
medical equipment
supplies, Vehicle
adaptation, behavioral
Supports



Independent Care Waiver Program

ICWP

- 21-64
- Hospital level of care
- Physical/TBI

Personal support, home health, specialized medical equipment, supplies, counseling, emergency response system, home mods

Alliant GA Medical Care
Foundation

1-800-98200411

www.gmcf.org



E&D/SOURCE

Elderly and Disabled Waiver Service Options Using Resources in Community Environment

- Elderly/Disabled
 - Hospital level of care
- Service coordination, adult daycare, alternative living services, personal care, home delivered meals, respite care
- Contact local ADRC to apply



GA Pediatric Program

Georgia Pediatric Program

- Medically fragile children
- multiple diagnoses

Nursing services, personal care supports, IV therapies, wound care, bathing, meals, housekeeping, tube feedings, GI care

Healthforce GA
770-458-8500



Internet Access



FCC Broadband Benefit Program

- The Emergency Broadband Benefit will provide a discount of up to \$50 per month toward broadband service for eligible families and households who are struggling to stay connected during the COVID19 pandemic. A discount of up to \$100 for the purchase of a laptop, desktop, or tablet from participating providers.
- To learn more about the program and see if you qualify, visit:
<https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit>



Planning for the Future



Achieving a Better Life Experience Accounts

- Tax free savings plan for disability related expenses
- Save without impacting benefits
- STABLE Visa card for paying for expenses
- Add up to \$15k/year, if employed \$12,760 of income can be added
- Five different investment options



Criteria for Qualifying

- Acquired a disability before age 26
- Meet one of the following:
 - Be entitled to SSI or SSDI
 - Have a condition under the Compassionate Allowances
 - Be able to “self-certify” their disability
- Account can be setup by beneficiary or a parent/guardian



Qualified Expenses

- Basic Living Expenses
- Housing
- Transportation
- Education
- AT
- Employment Training
- Personal Support Services
- Legal Fees
- Health and Wellness
- Financial Management

<https://www.georgiastable.com/qualified-expenses/>



Apply for GA STABLE

- www.georgiastable.com
- 1-800-439-1653
- team@stableaccount.com



Funding Resources

Georgia's Assistive Technology and Funding Guide

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



Questions



THE TOOLS FOR LIFE TEAM



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