

WHAT IS ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY?

Assistive technology is devices and services designed to make your life easier, or to help you perform specific tasks. If you are one of the 600,000 Oklahomans with disabilities, assistive technology devices becomes the door to opportunity and can assist you in realizing your potential. Technology can be a great enabler and an equalizer of opportunity.

Assistive technology is any item or piece of equipment used to improve the capabilities of people with disabilities such as a scooter or wheelchair, aids to help those with low vision or blindness, devices to assist individuals with hearing impairments, specialized computer hardware and software, aids for daily living, and communication devices. Assistive technology allows people with disabilities to function independently in recreation, education, employment, and daily living activities.

Assistive technology in the classroom brings children with and without disabilities together to share social and educational experiences. In the office or work setting, assistive technology enables people with disabilities to utilize knowledge and skills to be productive. At home, assistive technology makes life easier and more enjoyable. From simple to complex, assistive devices provide more opportunities and greater personal independence for people with disabilities.

See Appendix A for the legal definition of assistive technology within the Assistive Technology Act.

TYPES OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY (AT)

For the purposes of this guide, the types of AT devices are divided into the following categories. Picture icons have been developed and included to represent each category of AT devices. These categories and icons have been used in this guide to quickly identify what types of AT devices are provided or covered by each funding source for eligible applicants. You may want to refer to this list when using the information on funding sources included in this guide.



Aids for Daily Living: devices for use in activities of daily living; such as, eating, bathing, dressing, toileting, grooming, cooking, cleaning, and home maintenance. Some medical devices such as glucose monitors, respirators and many other types of machines and related disposable supplies are also daily living aids.



Aids for Hearing Impaired: devices for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing; such as, hearing aids, TDDs, and visual alerting systems.



Aids for Vision Impaired: devices for persons who are blind or visually impaired; such as, magnifiers, braille, speech output devices, and large print computer screens.



Speech Communication: devices that provide a means for expressive and receptive communication for persons with limited speech; such as, electronic devices with speech output and/or non-electronic devices. Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC) devices are considered speech communications devices.