Where it's AT . . .

Missouri Assistive Technology

2005 - 2006

Annual Report

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Council Chair Introduction

Where it's AT . . .

Where is the world of assistive technology "at" these days? More specifically, where is it "at" in Missouri? Answering that very question is the intention in our 2005-2006 annual report.

The recent reauthorization of the federal Assistive Technology (AT) Act emphasized the need for states to place greater importance on programs that directly provide assistive technology to consumers. Missouri already had in place many programs to deliver direct access to AT, such as the Telecommunications Access Program for Telephone and Internet (TAP-T and TAP-I) providing adaptive telephones and computer adaptations for eligible Missourians. Through Show-Me Loans, consumers can borrow money to purchase assistive technology. Families and schools can apply for AT funding through, respectively, the Kids Assistive Technology program and the AT Reimbursement Program. To conduct device trials and to meet needs when devices go in for repair, the ETC program provides schools and agencies with short-term device loans. Furthermore, consumers are able to buy and sell pre-owned AT through the on-line exchange program Swap 'n Shop.

Expansion of access to AT through enhancement of device reutilization and device demonstration has been a priority of Missouri Assistive Technology this year. This priority was achieved by establishing three new services: the Missouri AT Recycling and Computer Recycling Programs (refurbishment programs) and the Braillewriter Repair Program (a repair service). The two recycling programs provide pre-owned durable medical equipment and computers that are cleaned, refurbished as needed, and offered to consumers through sale, loan or given away. The Braillewriter Repair Program provides accessible, inexpensive repair of braillewriters.

The provision of hands-on demonstrations of a full-range of assistive technology, along with training, outreach and other associated services is readily available at the demonstration centers established in Columbia, Springfield and Kansas City.

Despite a larger emphasis on placing assistive technology directly into the hands of consumers, none of MoAT's other services, such as information dissemination, technical assistance, training, nor any of the other programs have been reduced. These programs, which are also reviewed here, continue to meet consumer need.

Missouri has often been cited as a leader in the provision of AT and was recognized in 2005 with the Governor's Award for Quality and Productivity for customer service. While we are proud of "Where it's AT" in Missouri, we always strive to improve our ability to meet the AT needs of all Missourians with disabilities and make programs and services better and more efficient.

Marjorie Yates
Chairperson

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Policy Improvement & Technical Assistance

Accessible Housing

A Senate bill was introduced to establish an income tax credit for individuals with disabilities to help make their homes accessible. The bill would have provided for an income tax credit of up to $2,500 for out-of-pocket expenses such as building a wheelchair ramp or making a bathroom more accessible. The credit would have been structured so that even very low income Missourians could have benefitted. The bill was voted do pass out of committee but stalled on the Senate floor.

Medicaid Coverage of Assistive Technology

While much of the assistive technology (AT) coverage for adults that was eliminated in the 2005 session was not restored, coverage was reinstated for wheelchair accessories, wheelchair batteries and repairs, and eye glasses. There were a number of recipients and providers who testified during the session about the importance of coverage for augmentative communication devices, hearing aids, and other AT for adults.

Special Education Funding for Assistive Technology

Funding was again available this year for MoAT to reimburse school districts for assistive technology needed for a student's education as required in his or her IEP. Funds for the reimbursement program came through the Division of Special Education. Districts applied for funding when they had assistive technology expenditures for a student that ranged from $1,000 to $5,000. This was the fourth year for the funding and it is hoped that it will be available again for the 2006-2007 school year.

ETC, the short-term equipment loan program of MoAT, also received about $5,600 in funding through the Blindness Skills Task Force in the Division of Special Education to increase the number of vision-related devices available for borrowing. More information about both of these programs can be found later in the annual report.

MISSOURI DISABILITY LEGISLATIVE LISTSERV

Throughout the session, individuals and organizations were able to track legislation related to AT and other disability issues through the Missouri Disability Legislative Listserv. Over 400 persons and organizations kept up to date on legislation in 2006 through subscribing to the free service. The Listserv provided easy-to-read summaries of introduced bills and provided updates when bills were assigned to committees, scheduled for hearings or floor debate, amended, or when other legislative actions were taken. Issue areas such as Medicaid, special education, durable medical equipment, appropriations, disability tax issues, and a broad array of other issues were followed in 2006.

Training and Info Dissemination

Power Up Conference & Expo

"I enjoyed the conference . . . it was top-notch!"

"Excellent Presenters with excellent applications for students of all ages!"

"Keynote speaking!! Excellent"

"The Expo was the highlight!"

"Enjoyed the positive atmosphere, variety of topics, keynote speaker, and Accessibility!"

Looking for funding for AT? Need to learn about innovative devices available for people who are blind? Need low tech and simple-to-implement ideas? Want to try out new augmentative communication devices? Want to find out what practitioners are doing in other parts of the state? Need ways to integrate AT into the curriculum? Want to try out adaptive computer software and devices? Then the annual assistive technology Power Up Conference & Expo is the training venue of choice! Attendees enjoy two power-packed days full of technical training coupled with the motivation to increase access to assistive technology for people with disabilities.

Congratulations to individuals receiving awards at Power Up for improving access to AT for Missourians: Dr. Shelly Chabon & Walter Cecil!

Training

In addition to the 424 participants who attended Power Up, 1,430 Missourians received training on assistive technology by MoAT staff through 28 other training events.

MoAT staff assist persons with disabilities and service providers on a daily basis through phone and email. Assistance is provided in obtaining assistive technology, securing device funding, accessing the various MoAT programs discussed in this report, and gaining disability policy knowledge. During this fiscal year, MoAT staff handled 15,801 inquiries and requests for assistance by telephone and email.
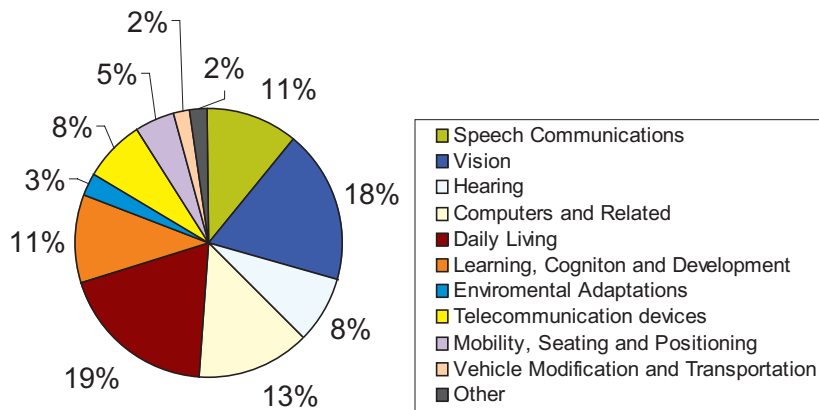
Device Demonstrations

Missouri Assistive Technology funded three Regional Assistive Technology Demonstration Centers this year. The Demonstration Centers are:

Columbia – Services for Independent Living/Show Me Tech
Kansas City – Coalition for Independence
Springfield – Missouri State University

The centers are charged with providing hands on demonstrations of a full range of assistive technology. A total of 5903 device demonstrations were done throughout the state in 2005-06. The Centers also provided training on AT and information on AT funding for 1429 individuals during 2005-06.

Demos by Device Type

Pie chart values: 2%, 2%, 11%, 5%, 8%, 18%, 3%, 8%, 13%, 11%, 19%

Legend:
- Speech Communications
- Vision
- Hearing
- Computers and Related
- Daily Living
- Learning, Cogniton and Development
- Enviromental Adaptations
- Telecommunication devices
- Mobility, Seating and Positioning
- Vehicle Modification and Transportation
- Other

AT in Action

Pat has been a long-time consumer of Show Me Tech (a regional demonstration center for Missouri Assistive Technology) exploring different types of AT for her physical disability. She has received adaptive computer equipment from TAP for Internet and has purchased various aids to daily living. Pat has even volunteered at the demo center when time allowed.

Newly diagnosed with macular degeneration, her eyesight was beginning to deteriorate. Knowing that Show Me Tech has a wide range of devices to accommodate vision loss, she contacted the staff at the center and arrange for a demonstration of low vision equipment. As a result, Pat was able to come away from the demonstration with a few low cost solutions to help her continue her daily life.

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Kids Assistive Technology (KAT)

The Kids Assistive Technology (KAT) program provides funding assistance to families who have children with disabilities under age 21 who have assistive technology needs. During the past year, $188,079 was provided through the program for a wide variety of home access improvements, vehicle access and a range of assistive technology devices. Program funds are provided through the Department of Health and Senior Services - Bureau of Special Health Care Needs. KAT was able to provide assistance to 111 children in 2005-06.
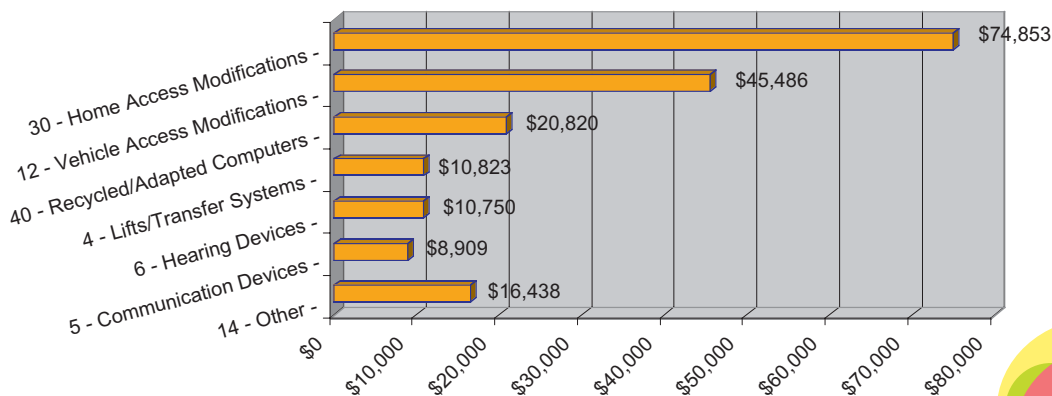
AT in Action

[1] A mother in West Plains was worried about the safety in bathing her 7-year-old daughter who has cerebral palsy and other disabilities. Ashley was getting too big to lift in and out of the tub without fear of injury. The family could not afford the costs involved to make the bathroom more accessible for Ashley. The KAT program was able to provide the funding to install a roll-in shower, widen the bathroom doorway, and make other access improvements. "There's no longer a fear of being dropped and its easier on everyone", according to Ashley's mother. "This way I can wheel her right into the tub unit. It's wonderful."

[2] A family in Linn County was seeking a standing frame for their 3-year-old daughter, Maddie, who had multiple disabilities. The purpose of the stander was to strengthen her leg muscles and hopefully to eventually assist her to stand on her own. The hope was that their health insurance would cover most of the cost of the stand, however due to a switch in insurers, the new insurer covered none of the cost. The KAT program was able to provide part of the funds to obtain the stander. According to Maddie's mother, "Getting Maddie upright and weight bearing is extremely important to her physical development. We are already seeing improvement".

KAT - Dollars Expended by Type of AT

Bar chart:
- 30 - Home Access Modifications: $74,853
- 12 - Vehicle Access Modifications: $45,486
- 40 - Recycled/Adapted Computers: $20,820
- 4 - Lifts/Transfer Systems: $10,823
- 6 - Hearing Devices: $10,750
- 5 - Communication Devices: $8,909
- 14 - Other: $16,438
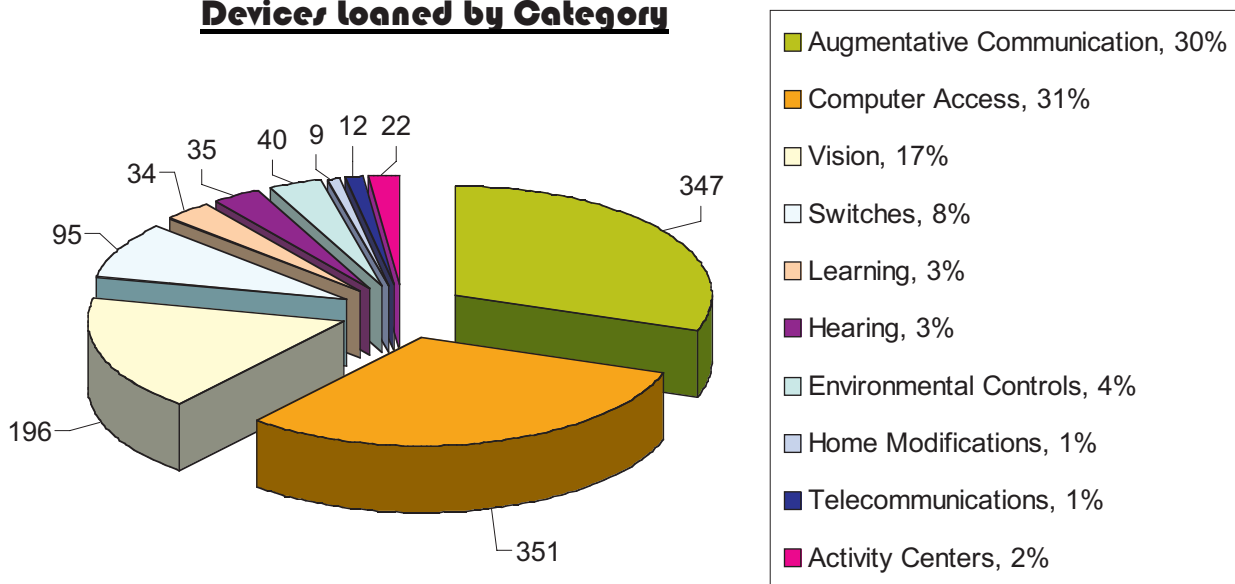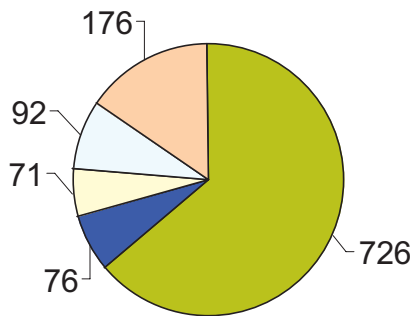
Equipment Technology Consortium (ETC)

In its seventh year, the ETC Program continues to meet the short-term assistive device loan needs of schools and agencies around Missouri. Three primary reasons underlie the reason the program is accessed: to provide borrowers the chance to obtain multiple items in order to compare and contrast them prior to purchase, to enable individuals to borrow a loaner device when their personal device is being repaired, and to give schools, universities and other organizations the chance to enhance knowledge among staff and students through actual hands on access to devices. The number of entities signed up to borrow has increased steadily over the years and has topped the 480 mark. This year, borrowers requested over 1,141 devices. Computer adaptations were the most often requested devices this year, with augmentative communication and vision related assistive technology comprising the second and third areas most often borrowed. Follow up surveying of borrowers continues to give the program and its level of services strong marks.

Devices loaned by Category

- Augmentative Communication, 30%
- Computer Access, 31%
- Vision, 17%
- Switches, 8%
- Learning, 3%
- Hearing, 3%
- Environmental Controls, 4%
- Home Modifications, 1%
- Telecommunications, 1%
- Activity Centers, 2%

Pie chart values: 347, 351, 196, 95, 34, 35, 40, 9, 12, 22

ETC - # loans by Agency

■	Education - 64%
■	Health - 7%
□	Developmental Disabilities - 6%
□	Vocational Service Providers - 8%
□	Organizations - 15%

AT in Action

Known primarily for being a source of assistive technology to borrow and try prior to making a determination about purchase, the ETC program commonly plays a second role as an emergency source of devices when personal ones need repair or when other problems arise.
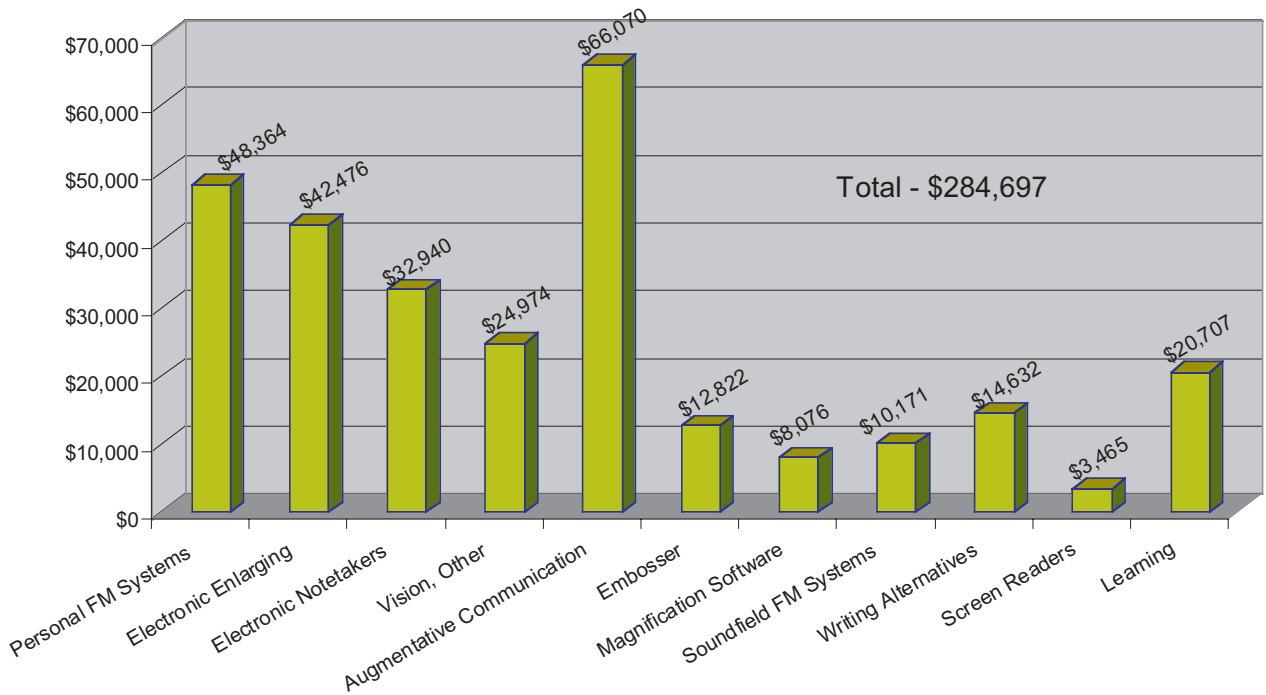
An assistive technology emergency has befallen Phyliss twice in recent years and both times ETC has been a source of assistance. Recently, Phyliss' Braille 'n Speak electronic notetaker – a device used by individuals who are blind — was in need of repair. A couple of years before, Phyliss' Braille 'n Speak was stolen and ETC had been able to help her. In both instances, life for Phyliss would have been very difficult without her Braille 'n Speak. By being able to obtain a loaner through ETC both times, Phyliss seamlessly was able to continue functioning both in her job as a Consumer Advocate for Job Point in Columbia, and at home.
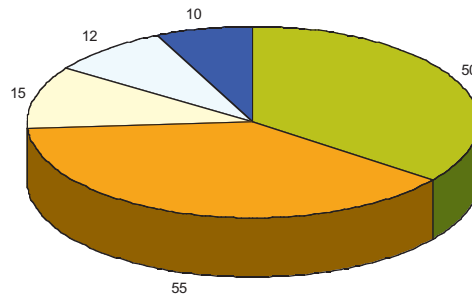

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Assistive Technology Reimbursement Program

   MoAT has been pleased to continue operating the AT Reimbursement Program funded by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Division of Special Education. The AT Reimbursement Program helps school districts offset the cost of purchasing assistive technology for individual students who have assistive technology written into their Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Schools, through an application process, are able to receive reimbursement on assistive technology purchases between $1,000 and $5,000. Such "higher end" devices as Braille embossers, augmentative communication devices, computer access systems and assistive listening systems comprise the bulk of items covered. School districts have noted the importance of this funding source and how the assistive technology that has been funded through it has had positive impacts on the students they serve.

AT Reimbursement: Dollars by Device Type

Total - $284,697

Device Type	Amount
Personal FM Systems	$48,364
Electronic Enlarging	$42,476
Electronic Notetakers	$32,940
Vision, Other	$24,974
Augmentative Communication	$66,070
Embosser	$12,822
Magnification Software	$8,076
Soundfield FM Systems	$10,171
Writing Alternatives	$14,632
Screen Readers	$3,465
Learning	$20,707

Applications by Disability Type

Pie chart values: 10, 12, 15, 50, 55

Legend: ◼ Vision, 36% ◼ Hearing, 39% ☐ Speech/Language, 10% ☐ Learning/Cognitive, 8% ◼ Physical, 7%
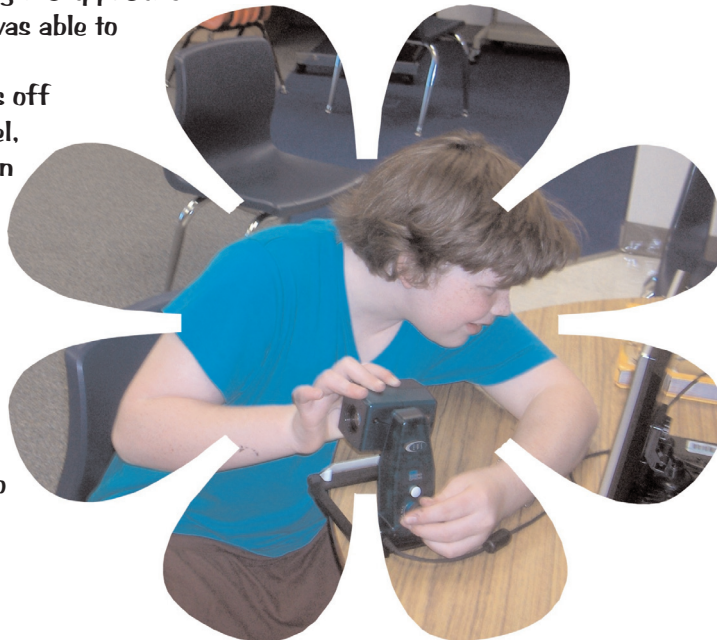
AT in Action

A significant milestone in a student's education is the transition from elementary school to junior high. The movement from class to class, the increased workload and more difficult assignments are, for some students, not easy adjustments to make. Students with disabilities often experience greater difficulties with the transition than their non-disabled peers.

This fall, Bethany, a likeable and talkative 11 year-old with low vision in the North Kansas City school district, will make the transition from elementary school to junior high. Key to her success will be the assistive technology she uses. Of particular importance will be the FlipperPanel the district obtained this past year through the AT Reimbursement Program.

Lightweight, compact and portable, the FlipperPanel is easily moved from classroom to classroom, unlike the essentially immobile CCTV Bethany had previously been using to enlarge print. The FlipperPanel's pivoting camera head provides Bethany the ability to switch between enlarging print material, viewing the chalkboard or seeing her teachers and peers. Overall, the FlipperPanel will be a more useful form of electronic enlargement for Bethany.
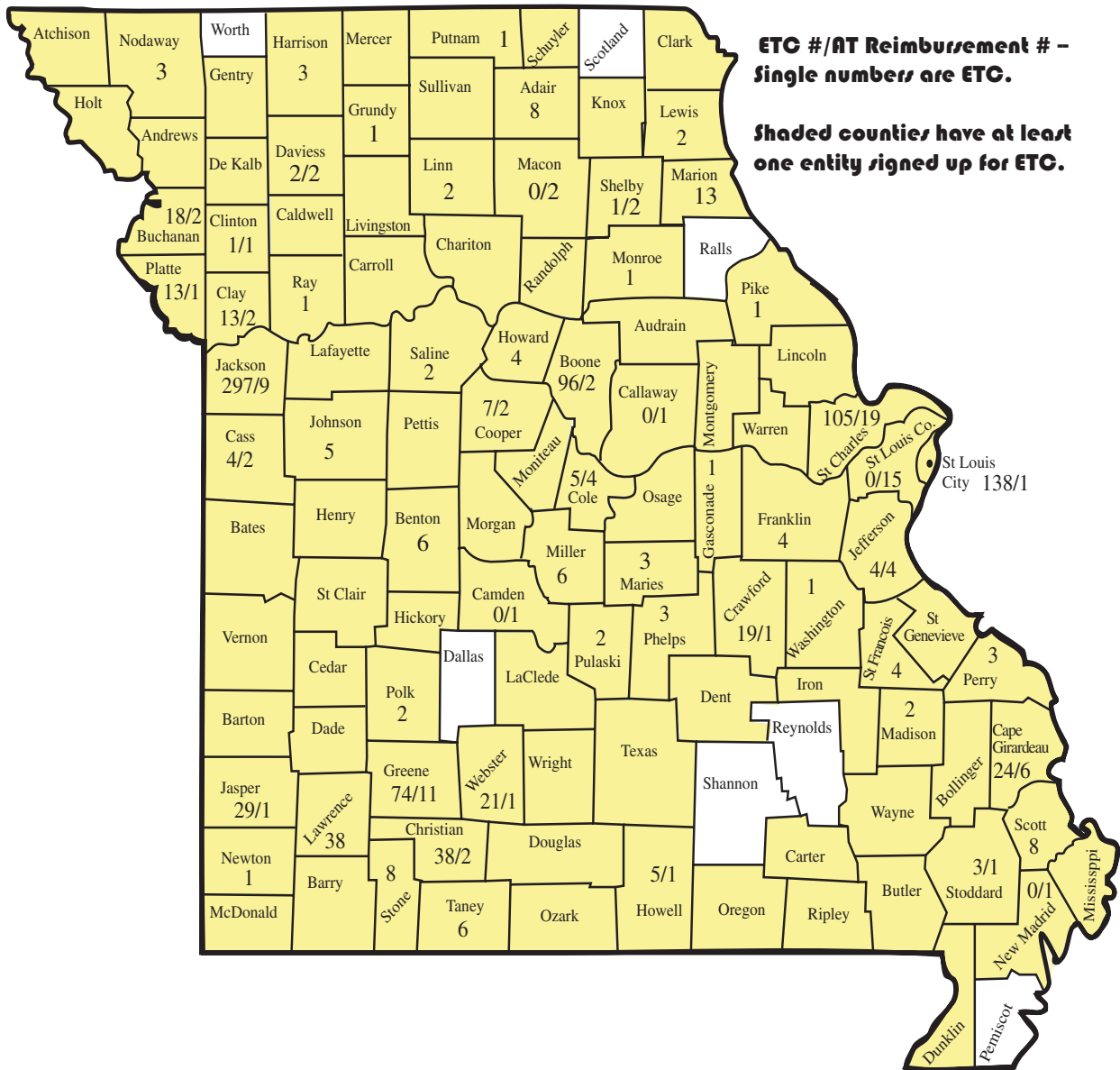
The district's decision on what device was appropriate was based on their conducting a device trial by borrowing several devices from the ETC program for Bethany to try. Foresight was shown by the district in submitting the application this year since by so doing, Bethany was able to become comfortable with how the FlipperPanel operates before she heads off to junior high. Besides the FlipperPanel, Bethany uses a Victor Reader, Braille 'n Speak and laptop with MAGic screen enlargement software as additional tools to help her academically.

Bethany reported that she most often uses the FlipperPanel when she reads and in science class. Little House on the Prairie and Harry Potter are two books she mentioned recently having read. Bethany hopes to one day become a teacher, though her immediate thoughts are on that often awkward transition to junior high.
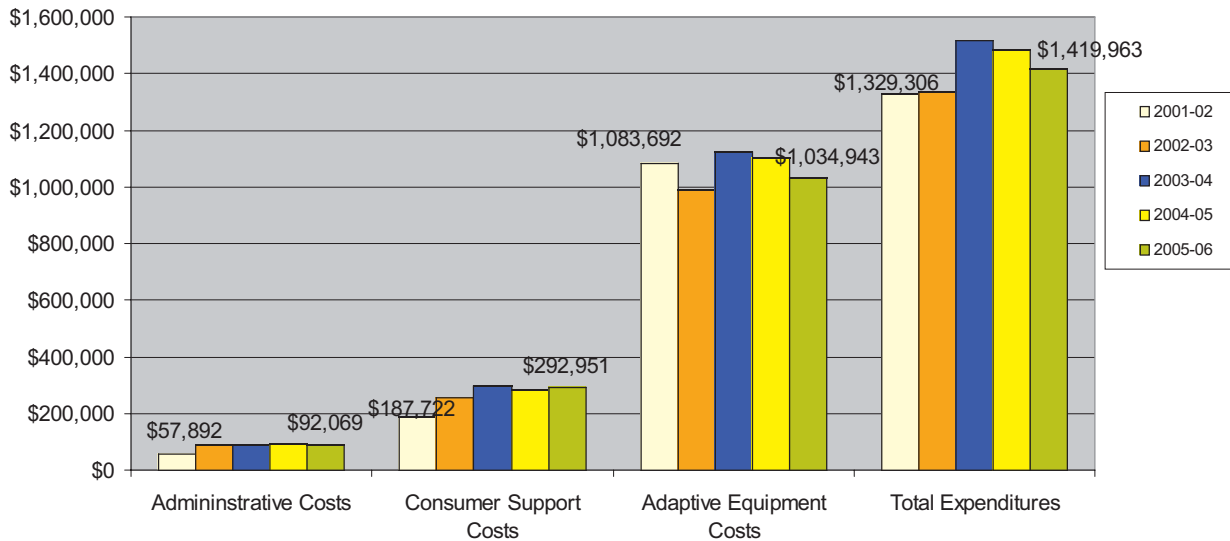
**ETC & AT Reimbursement
Presence and Distribution by County
7/1/05 - 6/30/06**

ETC #/AT Reimbursement # –
Single numbers are ETC.

Shaded counties have at least
one entity signed up for ETC.

Atchison

Nodaway 3

Worth

Harrison 3

Mercer

Putnam 1

Schuyler

Scotland

Clark

Holt

Gentry

Sullivan

Adair 8

Knox

Lewis 2

Andrews

Grundy 1

De Kalb

Daviess 2/2

Linn 2

Macon 0/2

Shelby 1/2

Marion 13

18/2 Buchanan

Clinton 1/1

Caldwell

Livingston

Chariton

Randolph

Monroe 1

Ralls

Platte 13/1

Clay 13/2

Ray 1

Carroll

Pike 1

Jackson 297/9

Lafayette

Saline 2

Howard 4

Boone 96/2

Audrain

Lincoln

Callaway 0/1

Montgomery 1

Warren

105/19 St Charles

St Louis Co. 0/15

St Louis City 138/1

Cass 4/2

Johnson 5

Pettis

7/2 Cooper

Moniteau

5/4 Cole

Osage

Gasconade

Franklin 4

Jefferson 4/4

Bates

Henry

Benton 6

Morgan

Miller 6

Maries 3

Crawford 19/1

Washington 1

St Francois 4

St Genevieve

Perry 3

St Clair

Hickory

Camden 0/1

Pulaski 2

Phelps 3

Iron

Madison 2

Vernon

Cedar

Dallas

LaClede

Dent

Reynolds

Cape Girardeau 24/6

Barton

Dade

Polk 2

Webster 21/1

Wright

Texas

Shannon

Wayne

Bollinger

Scott 8

Jasper 29/1

Lawrence 38

Greene 74/11

Christian 38/2

Douglas

Carter

3/1 Stoddard

0/1 New Madrid

Mississippi

Newton 1

Barry

Stone 8

Taney 6

Ozark

Howell 5/1

Oregon

Ripley

Butler

McDonald

Dunklin

Pemiscot

Telecommunications Access Program (TAP)

TAP Yearly Expenditures

Legend: 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06

- Administrative Costs: $57,892, $92,069
- Consumer Support Costs: $187,722, $292,951
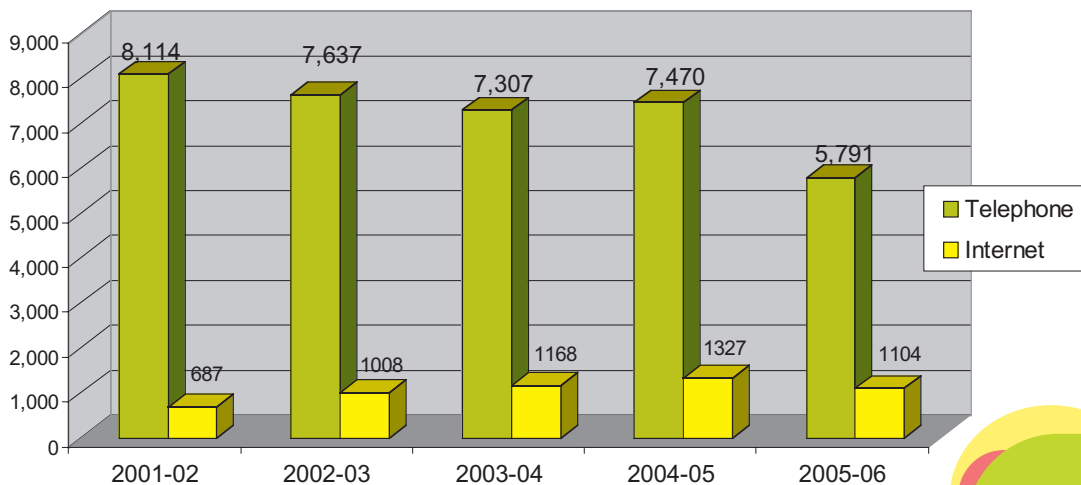- Adaptive Equipment Costs: $1,083,692, $1,034,943
- Total Expenditures: $1,329,306, $1,419,963

For Missourians with disabilities, the two Telecommunications Access Programs (Telecommunication Access for Telephone and Internet) have made purchasing products, applying for services, searching for jobs and even attending college classes via the telephone and Internet commonplace. TAP provides the adaptive telephone and adaptive computer equipment needed for basic access to telephone and Internet telecommunications for Missourians with hearing, vision, mobility and other disabilities.

A critical component of TAP is the delivery of consumer support services to assist individuals with disabilities select the most appropriate adaptive equipment and to assist with installation and use of the equipment provided. Adaptive equipment costs are 73% of TAP expenditures and consumer support costs make up 21% of total expenditures. Administrative costs continue to be very low at 6%.

TAP - # Devices Provided

Legend: Telephone, Internet

Year	Telephone	Internet
2001-02	8,114	687
2002-03	7,637	1008
2003-04	7,307	1168
2004-05	7,470	1327
2005-06	5,791	1104

TAP for Telephone

This year, 5791 adaptive telephone devices were provided by TAP for Telephone. A network of Independent Living Centers provides consumer support and helps ensure appropriate equipment matches through the use of demonstration devices. People with hearing loss comprise 68% of program recipients, while 15% have vision loss, and 4% have mobility issues which keep them from using traditional phones.

Follow-up data from program beneficiaries indicates an overall satisfaction rating of 98%, with most reporting they used the equipment to make emergency calls, to communicate with family and friends, and to live independently. Many individuals also noted that the phone allowed them to improve access to education and to get or maintain employment. Over 31% of individuals reported that they had been unable to use the phone for 6-20+ years prior to attaining the adaptive equipment!
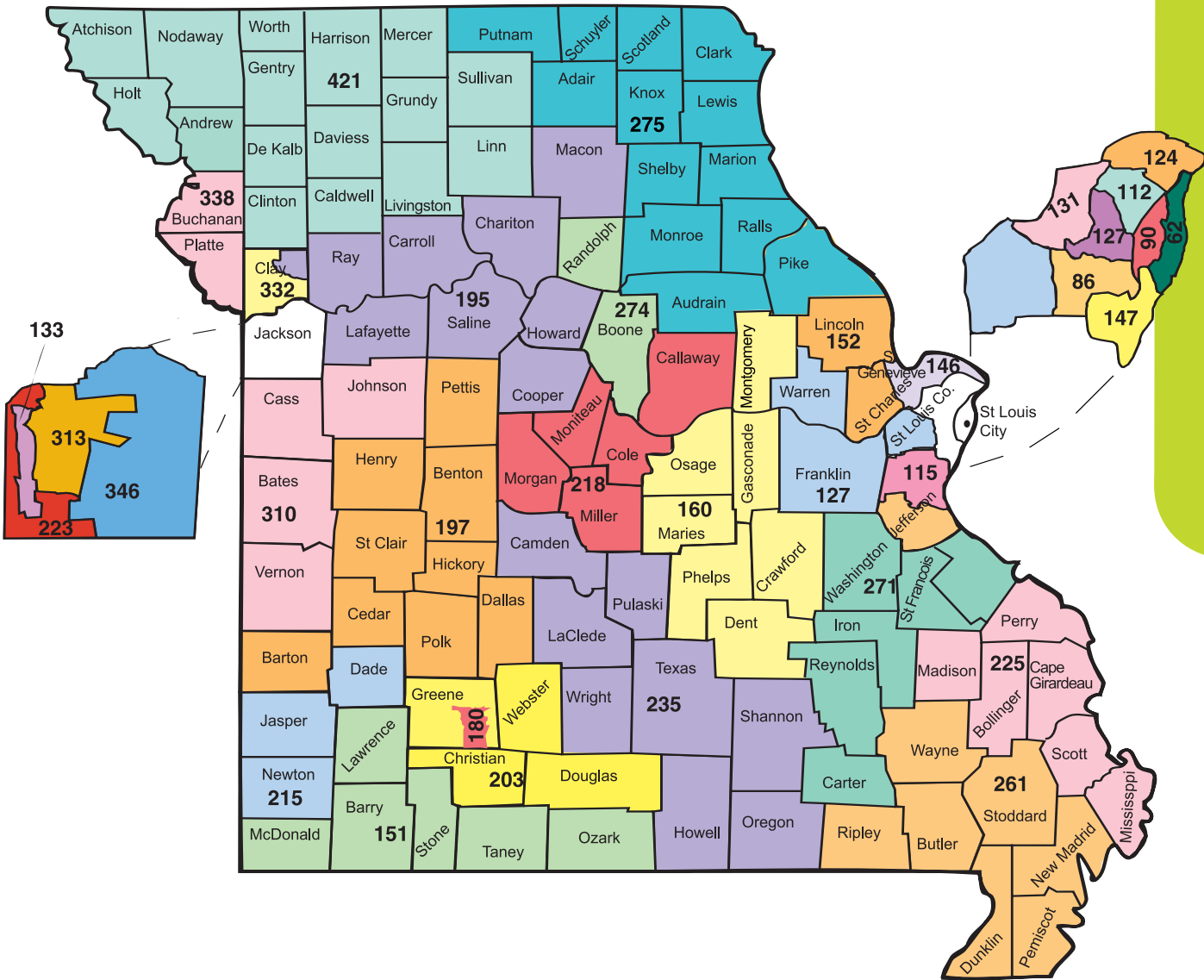
AT in Action

Sue is a very active independent grandmother who doesn't let anything slow her down. Sue wants to make her own phone calls without being dependent on her husband and others to help her despite her significant hearing loss. In December 2005, she tried out the A50 cordless phone and loved it. The volume and clarity of the phone were excellent. Unfortunately, the phone had problems with keeping a charge among other things. TAP had to recall all of the phones and thought the phone would not be available to consumers again. TAP-T worked with the distributor and the manufacturer of the phone and was able to reissue the phone for distribution early June 2006. Sue continued to work with us in getting the phone to work for her. Sue is a great example of a self-advocate.

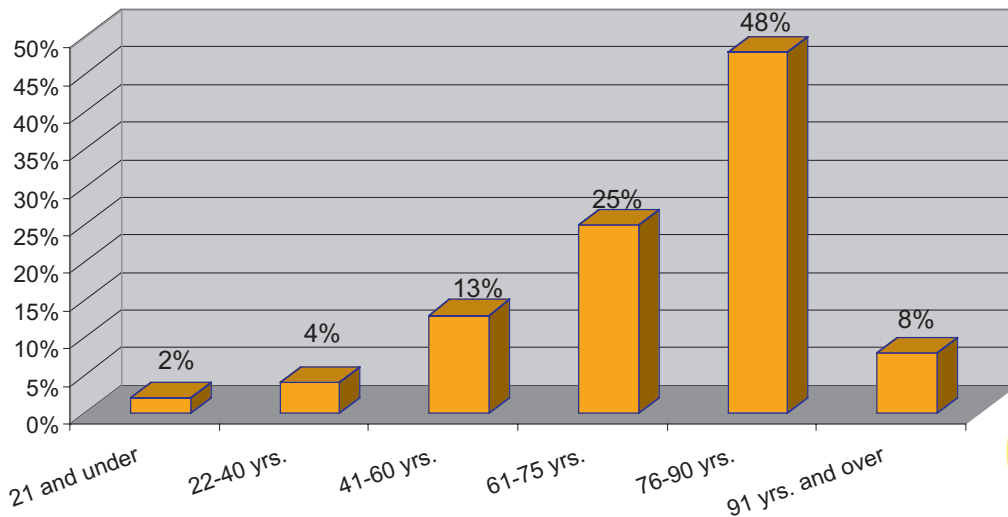## TAP for Telephone - Type of Equipment

264 · 130 · 177 · 12 · 840 · 4368
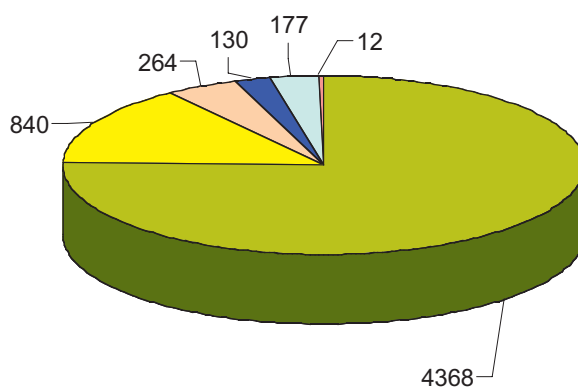
Legend	
Amplified Phones - 75%	Signalers - 15%
Hands Free Phones & Accessories - 5%	Voice Carry Over Phones - 2%
TTY's - 3%	Other

TAP Equipment Distribution Map

County	Value

Atchison · Nodaway · Worth · Harrison **421** · Mercer · Putnam · Schuyler · Scotland · Clark

Holt · Gentry · Sullivan · Adair · Knox **275** · Lewis

Andrew · De Kalb · Daviess · Grundy · Linn · Macon · Shelby · Marion

338 Buchanan · Clinton · Caldwell · Livingston · Chariton · Monroe · Ralls

Platte · Ray · Carroll · Randolph · Pike

Clay **332** · Lafayette · **195** Saline · Howard · **274** Boone · Audrain

133

Jackson · Johnson · Pettis · Cooper · Callaway · Lincoln **152**

313 · **346** · Cass · Henry · Benton · Moniteau · Cole · Montgomery · Warren · St. Genevieve **146**

223 · Bates **310** · St Clair **197** · Morgan **218** Miller · Osage · Gasconade · Franklin **127** · St Charles · St Louis Co.

Vernon · Cedar · Hickory · Camden · Maries · **160** · Crawford · Washington **271** · St Francois · **115** Jefferson

Barton · Dallas · Polk · LaClede · Pulaski · Phelps · Dent · Iron · Madison · **225** Cape Girardeau · Perry

Dade · Greene **180** · Webster · Wright · Texas **235** · Reynolds · Shannon · Bollinger

Jasper · Lawrence · Christian **203** · Douglas · Carter · Wayne · Scott

Newton **215** · Barry **151** · Stone · Taney · Ozark · Howell · Oregon · Ripley · Butler · **261** Stoddard · Mississsppi

McDonald · Dunklin · Pemiscot · New Madrid

124 · **112** · **131** · **127** · **90** · **62** · **86** · **147**

St Louis City

TAP for Telephone - Age of Recipients

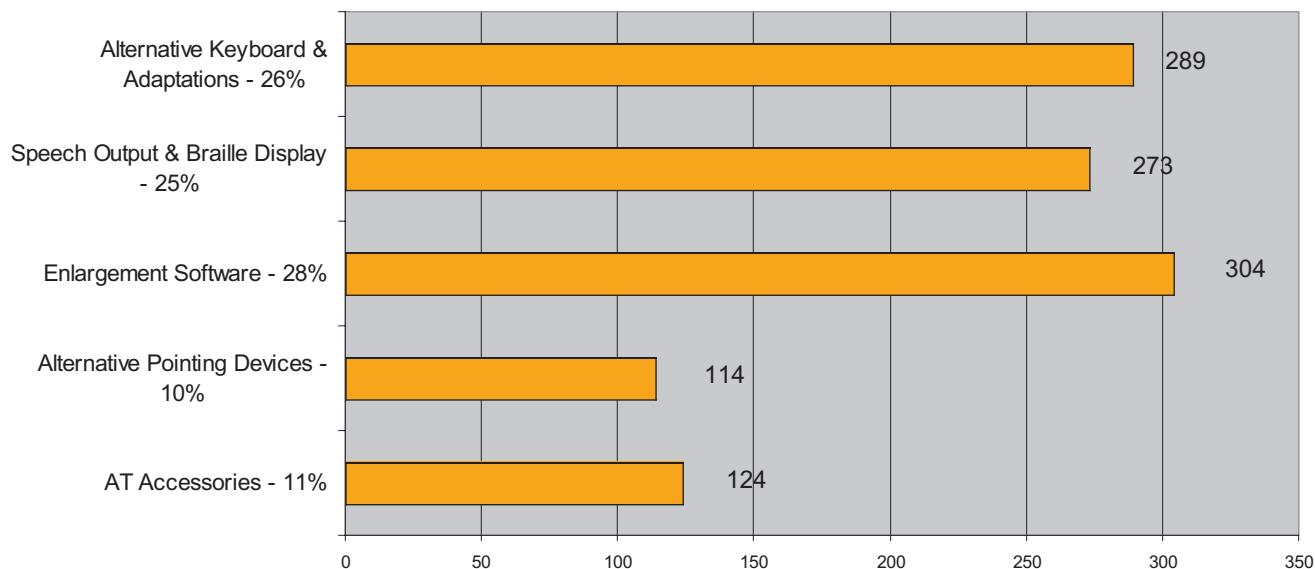| Age Group	Percentage
21 and under	2%
22-40 yrs.	4%
41-60 yrs.	13%
61-75 yrs.	25%
76-90 yrs.	48%
91 yrs. and over	8%

TAP for Internet

Missouri continues to be the only state in the nation whose telecommunications equipment distribution program includes the adaptive devices needed for Internet and email access. Every county in Missouri has consumers who have received adaptive computer equipment from the Telecommunication Access Program (TAP) for Internet over the life of the program.
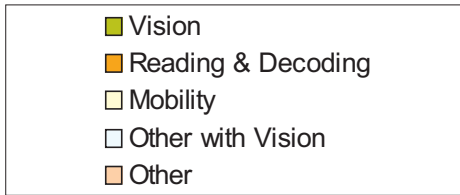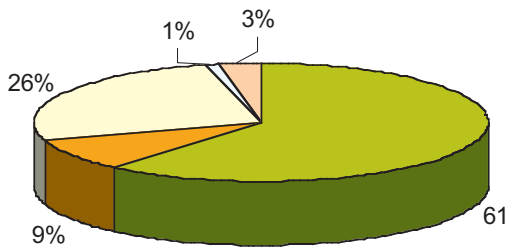
Adaptive computer equipment recipients range in age from two years of age to 96. People with vision disabilities continue to be among the most prolific users of the program with 60% of the equipment provided being speech, Braille output and enlargement software. People with physical disabilities represent 26% of the program applicants which is a bit of an increase over last year. Consumers with reading, decoding and/or comprehension disabilities represent 8% of the applicants.

TAP for Internet provided 1104 adaptive computer devices representing over 210 different devices.   Fifty-five percent (55%) of the program's consumers report that they are using the Internet and e-mail services from one to three times a day. Consumers report that they use email to keep in touch with friends and family (85%), use e-mail to make contacts with business (52%) and use e-mail to do business with the government (63%). The overall satisfaction rate for the program is at 97%.
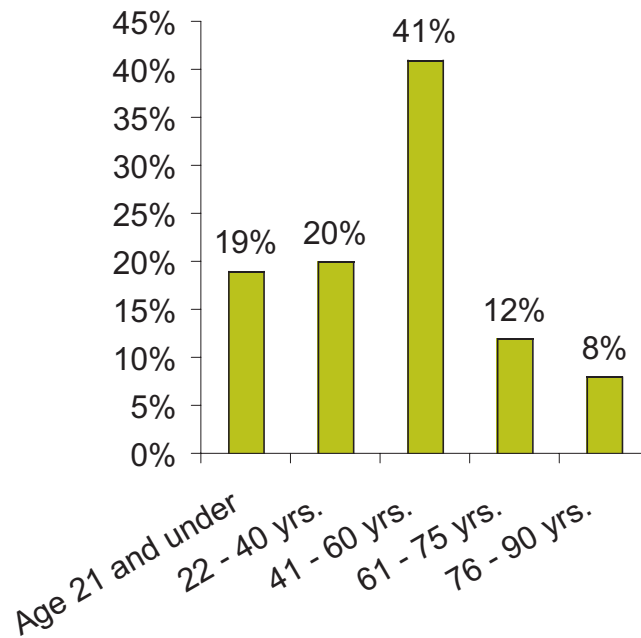
TAP for Internet Equipment

Category	Value
Alternative Keyboard & Adaptations - 26%	289
Speech Output & Braille Display - 25%	273
Enlargement Software - 28%	304
Alternative Pointing Devices - 10%	114
AT Accessories - 11%	124

Disability of Recipients

Legend:
- Vision
- Reading & Decoding
- Mobility
- Other with Vision
- Other

Pie chart values: 61, 9%, 26%, 1%, 3%

Age of Recipients

Age 21 and under	22 - 40 yrs.	41 - 60 yrs.	61 - 75 yrs.	76 - 90 yrs.
19%	20%	41%	12%	8%

AT in Action

Brett is so excited because he has graduated from kindergarten and will begin first grade next year. Brett is homebound but he will be participating in a first grade classroom for half days next year. His intelligence and his truly winning smile are sure to make him many friends in his first grade classroom.

Brett has Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), which makes it difficult for him to control his muscle movements which means he needs to use adaptive computer equipment for access. Brett is currently using the Comfort keyboard, which can be physically adjusted to his needs, a trackball that he uses to move his cursor and an AbleMart little red switch that he uses for his mouse click. He also has the Dragon Naturally Speaking voice recognition software that will allow him to access the computer using his voice on those days when he cannot use his keyboard and mouse.

Brett is such an intelligent young man and adaptive computer equipment he received through TAP-I will allow him to access and manipulate the information he needs to continue his education and to achieve his full potential.

Brett has a wonderful web site that tells his story. Be sure to visit it at: www.our-sma-angels.com/brett/index.htm

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Show Me Loans
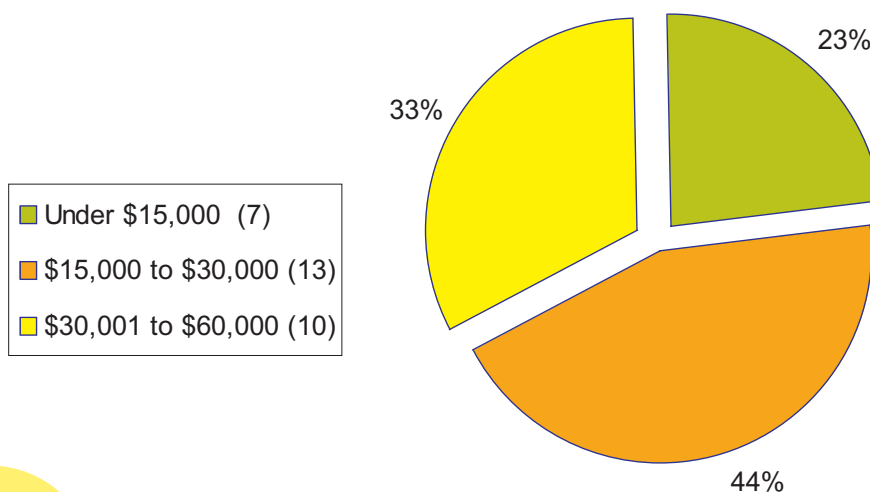
- Florissant: Parents are able to have a roll-in shower installed for their 13-year old son with cerebral palsy;
- Columbia: a 75-year-old man finds a way to afford much-needed hearing aids;
- Bolivar: a young man increases his independence through buying a lift to load his scooter in and out of his vehicle;
- Independence: a woman who is blind travels with more confidence when she is able to purchase a voice-output Global Positioning System.

Each of these individuals was among Missourians who obtained a low-interest loan through Show-Me Loans. A total of $90,700 in loans were provided in 2005-06 for a wide range of purposes: modifying homes to make them more accessible, installing wheelchair lifts and other access improvements on motor vehicles, purchasing a wide range of assistive technology devices.

Interest rates for the program averaging 3.28% were among the lowest in the country of any similar program. The average amount borrowed was $3,154 with loan amounts ranging from $750 to $10,000. Borrowers received an average term to repay their loans of 39 months.

During the year, 66% of all loan applications to the program were approved. The vast majority of borrowers had low or moderate incomes (23% had yearly incomes under $15,000 and 67% had yearly incomes under $30,000). Even with the high proportion of relatively low income borrowers, far less than 1% ($1,995) of the total amount borrowed has been defaulted since the program began. In 2005-06, borrowers repaid a total of $77,977 in principal and interest. The time to process and review loan applications dropped to 16 days during 2005-06. Loan applications were received and approved from Missourians in every region of the state.

Annual Income of Approved Borrowers

- Under $15,000 (7)
- $15,000 to $30,000 (13)
- $30,001 to $60,000 (10)

23%

33%

44%

Show Me Loans - AT by Dollars Loaned

Total Loans - $90,700

Category	Dollars
Vehicle Access (8)	$28,279
Hearing Devices (11)	$25,587
Home Access (7)	$29,125
Personal Mobility (3)	$6,724
Vision Devices (1)	$985
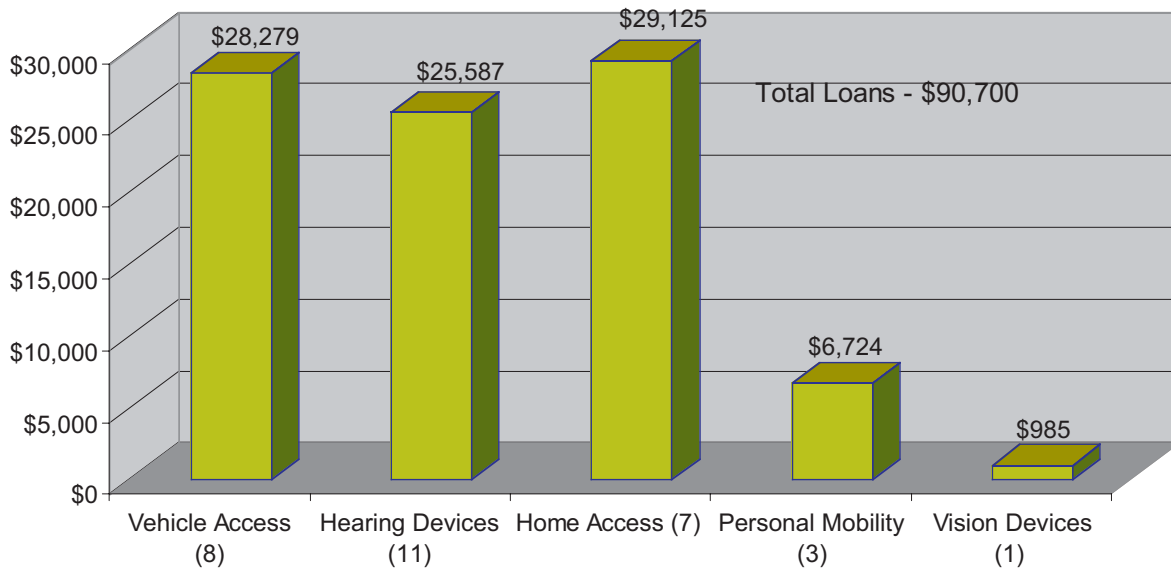
AT in Action

David from Osceola was trying to find a way to make his home more accessible. He was diagnosed with Multiple Schlerosis in 1992, and by 2003 he began to rely on a power wheelchair to get around. The width of doorways in his home, and size and layout of the bedroom, bathroom, garage and other features made it impossible for David to be independent. His children were grown and off to college, and David needed to make additions to the house to make it more accessible.

Among the additions that David and his wife made were an accessible bathroom that included a roll-in shower, a large clothes closet, and a utility room so laundry could be done upstairs instead of the basement.

David was able to partially finance the access improvements through a low-interest Show-Me Loan of $10,000 with a repayment term of 60 months. "Show-Me Loans was a key in making it possible to make my home accessible. We are so happy it existed as a resource for affordable financing".

Re-utilization Programs

MoAT operates three assistive technology re-utilization programs:
- Missouri AT Recycling Program for Durable Medical Equipment
- Missouri Computer Recycling Program
- Swap 'N Shop

Missouri AT Recycling (DME) Program

MoAT funds the Missouri AT Recycling Program for Durable Medical Equipment through the Coalition for Independence (CFI) in Kansas City, MO. This program provides recycled walkers, crutches, canes, commodes, shower chairs, manual and power wheelchairs, positioning equipment and miscellaneous wheelchair parts, (such as tires, cushions, arm rests, and footplates). Small fees are charged to individuals with disabilities based on their ability to pay to obtain devices from the recycling program.

The recycling process starts when a donation of equipment is made. Some organizations like the American Legion Post 237 of Richmond help to collect durable medical equipment throughout the year. CFI picks up the equipment periodically and with the help of volunteers, assesses it, repairs what needs to be fixed and sanitizes the equipment before it goes out to individuals throughout the state.
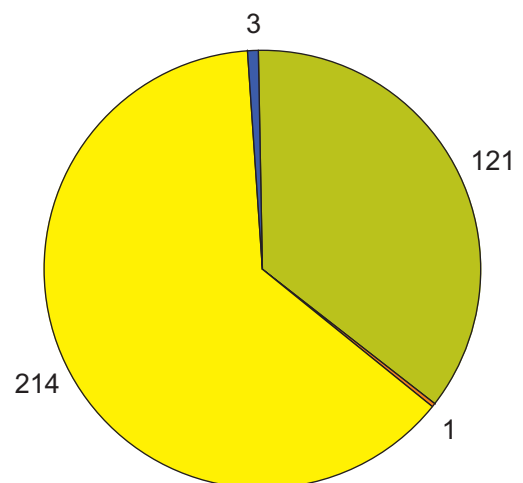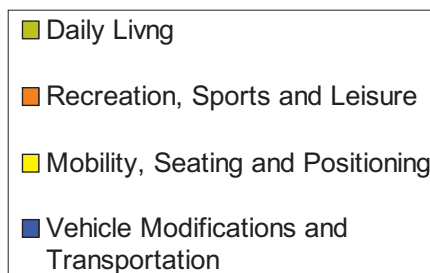
In 2005-06, 339 pieces of recycled equipment were placed with 310 individuals. By obtaining recycled equipment through this program, an estimated $139,000 was saved by consumers.

AT in Action

Tiara is an 8 year old with cerebral palsy. She was referred to the recycling program by her physical therapist. Through the program, CFI was able to provide Tiara with an appropriate stander, a specialized walker and training that would meet her needs. She was also referred to TAP for Internet for computer adaptations.

AT Recycling Categories (DME)

- Daily Livng
- Recreation, Sports and Leisure
- Mobility, Seating and Positioning
- Vehicle Modifications and Transportation
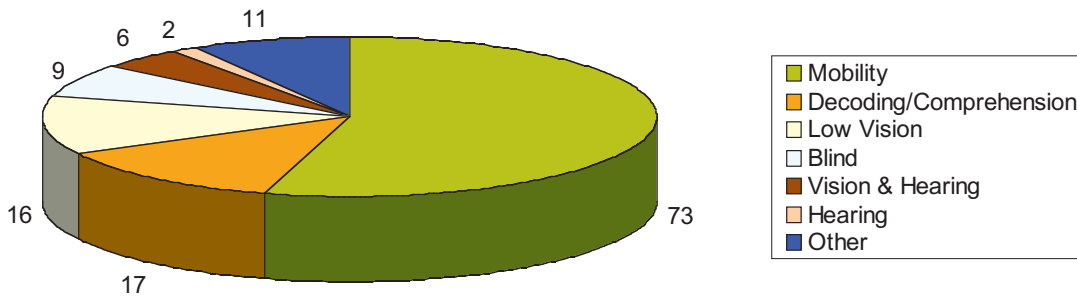
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121
214
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www.at.mo.gov
19

Computer Recycling Program

In collaboration with Coalition For Independence and Pan Educational Institute, MoAT operates a computer recycling program. This program provides low cost, refurbished computer systems (CPU, monitor, keyboard and mouse) to consumers with disabilities. A fee is assessed based upon the household income. Applications are processed and approved by MoAT.

These computers are used by individuals with disabilities to communicate with the world, obtain information, access government and business services, and support skill development and/or academic achievement.

In 2005-06, 134 applications out of 365 were approved at a projected cost savings of more than $66,672 to consumers obtaining recycled computers over new.

Disability of Applicants

Legend:
- Mobility — 73
- Decoding/Comprehension — 17
- Low Vision — 16
- Blind — 9
- Vision & Hearing — 6
- Hearing — 2
- Other — 11

AT in Action

Ron had been in law enforcement for several years before he had a series of strokes and heart problems. His disabilities required him to forge a new career path. He is currently enrolled in a local community college studying for a degree in the humanities. With this degree, he plans to become a victim rights advocate.

Ron needed a computer to help him complete his homework assignments. Along with adaptive equipment received through TAP for Internet, he is now able to pursue his goals with ease and confidence.

Re-utilization cont.

Swap n' Shop

The Swap n' Shop program is MoAT's consumer-to-consumer assistive technology exchange program. Consumers and service providers can sell, request or donate items through a frequently updated website and listserv. In 2005-06, the program saved consumers $580,816 while transferring 80 items. In addition, the program had 153 new pieces of equipment listed. The types of assistive technologies that were transferred include full size accessible vans, wheelchairs and stair lifts, and equipment for activities of daily living.

AT in Action

The Missouri Assistive Technology System Works! A mid-Missouri school district enrolled a new student with a vision disability a couple of years ago. The school district called Show-Me Tech in Columbia and borrowed some adaptive equipment from the ETC program to evaluate which items may be most helpful to the student. One of the items loaned was a CCTV.   The unit worked well for the student so the district purchased that model.   When the student left the district, Show-Me Tech was again contacted to see if they knew of anyone looking for a used CCTV.   It was suggested that the school list the unit on Swap 'n Shop.   Over the period of time of the listing, staff at Show Me Tech continued to refer people to the school. Such was the case in early May when a local couple visited Show-Me Tech specifically for a demonstration of electronic print magnifiers. After trying new models, they asked about availability of used ones.   The school district listing on Swap 'n Shop was given to them.
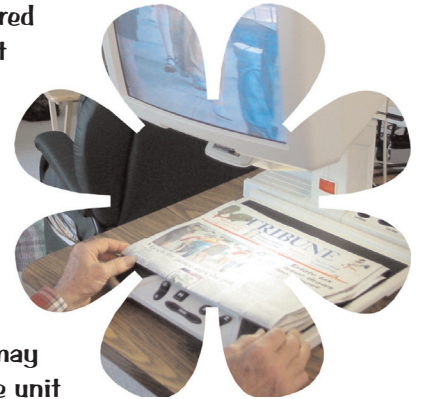
Marvin purchased the unit from the school.   Now he is happy he can read the daily newspaper, Reader's Digest and other materials to lead an ordinary life. He even was able to use it to read his owner's manual and fix his lawn mower.

SNS Transferred Equipment by Category
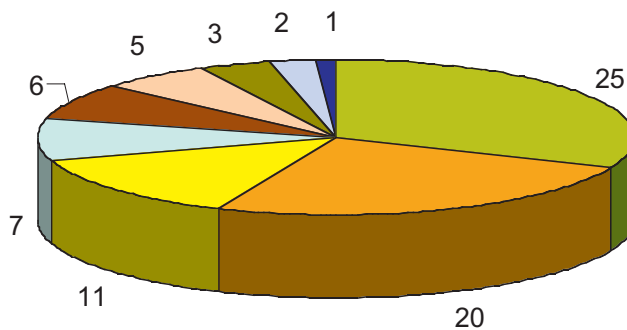
■ Accessible Vehicles-31%	■ Wheelchairs, etc.-25%	■ Mobility Aids-14%
■ Personal Management-9%	■ Hearing/Vision Technology-8%	■ Therapeutic Aids-6%
■ Architectural Access-4%	■ Vehicle Modifications-3%	■ Communication Access-1%

Council & Staff

Council Members during 2005 – 2006:

Consumer Representatives:
Marjorie Yates, Chair
Sharon LaRoussa, Chair-Elect
Teddi Brace
Nolan Crabb
Michael Goad
Marnie Gustafson
Chip Hailey
Rita Lynch
Kerri Morgan
Deana O'Brien
Karen Sack
one open position

Agency Representatives:
Jim Brinkmann, Past-Chair – RSB
Wayne Goddard (nominated) – Special Educ.
Dolores Hampton – DD Planning Council
Gary Harbison (nominated) – Health & Sr. Services
Neil Harms – Vocational Rehabilitation
Angela James – IL Center
Ed Kniest – Medical Services
Nancy Nickolaus – Mental Health
Molly White (nominated) – Dept. of Insurance

Legislative Representatives:

Senator Harry Kennedy   Representative Kevin Threlkeld

Staff:

Diane Golden, Ph.D., Director
Roselie Backer-Thompson, TAP for Internet Coord.
David Baker, Program Coordinator
Marty Exline, Policy Coordinator

Gay Jones, TAP for Telephone Coordinator
Mike Parker, Operations Manager
Kristine Rooff, Administrative Assistant
Brenda Whitlock, Training Coordinator

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Alternative format available on request.