# Missouri Assistive Technology 2021 Annual Report

[Featured Image at the top of the page centered: Missouri Assistive Technology Logo.]

Cover image description, clockwise from upper left to middle

1. A man sitting on a wheelchair on a ramp leading to the interior of a truck;
2. A resource fair table covered in a blue tablecloth displaying several pieces of assistive technology equipment
3. A girl eating her meal while her device assists in feeding her with a spoon;
4. A young man looking at the camera wearing a white and black knit cap sitting in his wheelchair
5. A man seated in a chair demonstrating his camera device set shown on a computer monitor
6. A young man sitting in a wheelchair smiling at the camera wearing headphones utilizing assistive technology equipment
7. Two young girls, one looking at the camera, while the other girl views a tablet
8. A young man sitting at a desk and selecting apps on his tablet
9. A teenage boy sitting in a chair smiling at the camera while using a video game controller connected to an adaptive gaming kit.]

Assistive technology is an umbrella term that includes both the devices and related services that enable persons with disabilities and older individuals to be more productive and self-sufficient in their daily activities. Items range from simple to complex and can be used at home, work, school or in the community to reduce barriers, enhance participation and increase independence.

## Missouri Assistive Technology (Mo-A-T)

As Missouri’s federally funded Assistive Technology Act Program, Missouri Assistive Technology, also known as Mo-A-T, strives to enhance the lives of all Missourians with disabilities, older Missourians, families, and service professionals. Our activities increase access to and acquisition of assistive technology (A-T) devices and services. At home, work, school or play, assistive technology provides choice, control, and independence.

[Page 2 image descriptions displayed in an L shape]:

1. A young man wearing a bright orange shirt sitting in a wheelchair. In the background a gray van is displayed with a ramp leading into the exterior of the vehicle
2. A young woman is viewing the camera while cuddling with her white robotic pet dog
3. A boy is smiling for the camera is a gray shirt and primary-colored shorts demonstrating his new shower head and shower seat in the showering area
4. Two MO-A-T staff are standing next to a resource table filled with various AT equipment.

## 2021 AT A GLANCE

### Assistive Technology: A Great Return on Investment

FY’ 2021 Federal Investment: $610,995.00

Savings and Benefits to Missourians: $3,112,079.00

10,311 requests for individual assistance information and support were responded to by staff via phone call, email, and in-person.

2,062 individuals attended Mo-AT’s free workshops and presentations in person and on-line.

14,048 readers of our newsletter, Know AT with the Help of Mo-A-T.

13,565 utilized our social media channels.

In FY 2021, Mo-AT delivered 6,837 assistive devices and provided support services to 18,381 Missourians with disabilities, family members, and professionals.

### Device Demonstration

One of our most valuable services is the demonstration of assistive devices. Many individuals who can benefit from assistive technology may not be aware of specific solutions or what devices are available. A-T device demonstrations allow individuals to compare features and make informed decisions based on hands-on experience. In FY ’21, 1,823 individuals participated in 1,456 demonstrations.

### Device Reutilization

Device Reutilization gives second life to assistive technology and durable medical equipment that is no longer needed by its original owner. Locations around the state accept donations of gently used devices that are cleaned, refurbished, and reassigned at little to no cost to Missourians in need. This past year, 2,597 reutilized devices were provided to 1,911 Missourians saving them $658,163.00 over buying new.

Device Reutilization Featured Story: Family time should be fun and enjoyable, not strenuous, and exhausting. Aaron’s manual wheelchair was simply not a good option for traveling distances or on hilly terrain and was leaving his parents too fatigued to enjoy all the activities a local amusement park had to offer. Aaron’s parents reached out to Accessibility Medical, a Mo-A-T device reutilization partner in the Kansas City area, in search of a solution. A tilt-in space reclining power wheelchair with elevating leg rests and attendant controls was available for a nominal price. Aaron and his family are now able to fully enjoy their next family trip.

Device Reutilization Featured Story Image alt text: Aaron is sitting in a wheelchair and to the left of him is displaying his brand-new wheelchair.

### Device Loan

Mo-A-T's short-term device loan program provided 1,791 devices to individuals enabling them to try devices in their own environments for the purpose of making an informed decision about whether the equipment will meet their real-life needs.

### Financial Loan

29 reduced interest-rate loans were approved through the Show-Me Loans Program to empower Missourians with disabilities and/or their families to purchase A-T, adapted vehicles or undertake home modifications.

### Money Follows the Person Assistive Technology Demonstration Program

Community transitions were improved for 61 individuals participating in the Money Follows the Person Program (MFP) via the provision of assistive devices to increase independence.

Money Follows the Person Featured Story: Mr. Harris spent part of the past year in a nursing home recovering from multiple medical challenges. His true desire, though, was to transition back to the community into his own home, which was made possible when he connected with the Money Follows the Person Program. Due to mobility challenges and limited upper body strength, Mr. Harris was in need of several pieces of AT to help increase his independence and ensure his safety. Funds provided through the AT Demonstration Program enabled Mr. Harris to secure the needed devices.

Featured Story Image alt text: A man is wearing a fedora hat, white collared shirt and khaki pants sitting in a recliner with a rolling walker in front of him.

### Assistive Technology Reimbursement Program

The ATR program made possible greater access to educational opportunities for 256 Missouri public school students who have assistive technology identified in their IEPs. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education funds the ATR program.

Image displayed at the right: A young girl with blond hair half up with a pink bow sits at a computer desk with a computer monitor in front of her.

### Telecommunications Access Programs (TAP)

TAP provided 1,156 adaptive devices to seniors and persons with disabilities who have difficulty using the telephone or accessing the internet or email because of their disability, allowing them to stay connected with family, friends, and their community.

TAP Featured Story: Mary has had steadily declining hearing loss for the last several years making it difficult to have phone conversations about her health care with her case manager and others. After being shown several different high-quality adapted phones through a TAP provided in-home demonstration, Mary selected a phone appropriate for her needs that has enabled her to converse more efficiently and easily with her case manager, family, and friends.

TAP Featured Story Image: A woman wearing a navy-blue shirt sitting in a brown recliner smiles for the camera as she holds up an adapted wireless telephone.

### Deafblind Equipment Program (ICANCONNECT)

Mo-A-T’s Deafblind Equipment Program provided telecommunications assessments, equipment, and training during the year to 46 Missourians with significant combined vision and hearing loss for whom telecommunications had been difficult or impossible.

### Kids Assistive Technology Program (KAT)

Assistive Technology needed by children with disabilities is often costly for parents and families. KAT, a last resort funding source, enhanced 27 households when no other options existed. This program is funded through the Dept. of Health & Senior Services - Bureau of Special Health Care Needs.

KAT Featured Story: Clara is a fiercely independent 5-year-old who has an Anoxic brain injury and other disabilities that affect her functional mobility. Funding assistance from the KAT Program allowed Clara’s family to convert their bathroom from inaccessible to accessible through the addition of a grab-bar (installed at Clara height) and a special tub that features a cut-out and door, providing Clara with independent access. For Clara, her new bath is definitely a happy place.

KAT Featured Story Image: Clara is wearing a lavender shirt and black pants and is pulling on a safety bar in the bathtub to demonstrate how she safely can exit the bathtub.

### Robotic Pet Project

“He barks at me every morning when I turn on the lights. It is a comforting feeling to know that I am not alone.” 2021 Participant Quote.

Featured Image alt text to the left of quote: A young man wearing a black and white Nike shirt is holding a light tan robotic pet dog. The robotic pet dog is wearing a red bandana.

The pandemic brought isolation and loneliness to many of Missouri’s seniors and people with disabilities. Seeking a counter to the negative impacts of social isolation, Mo-A-T teamed up with the UMKC Institute for Human Development and the Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging to introduce the Robotic Pet Project, a low-cost, low tech, fun and creative way to brighten lives during dark times.

Featured images starting at the middle page at the right side of the page:

1. A woman is smiling for the camera as a tan robotic pet dog is sitting in front of her on a table
2. A wan wearing a blue and white striped shirt is sitting in a chair holding a tan robotic pet dog with a red bandana on his lap
3. A young girl wearing a pink and maroon colored camo shirt is holding in the right hand a light tan robotic pet dog and in her lap a robotic pet cat that is orange and white
4. A group of six women pose for the camera while holding their various robotic pet cats and dogs. The cats are gray and white while the dogs are light tan in color.]

Like real cats and dogs, the furry four-legged battery-operated pets bark, whine, purr and even roll over for belly rubs. The program was an instant hit with over 232 individuals “adopting” a pet and in return receiving comfort and companionship.

The program was made possible through No Wrong Door CARES Act funding.

[Featured Image at the bottom left of the page: A woman wearing a knitted light tan sweater is petting her gray and white robotic pet cat.]

## Missouri Assistive Technology (Mo-A-T)

Featured Image description at the top of the page centered: Missouri Assistive Technology Logo.

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Featured images description at the left-hand side of the page in vertical order:

1. A girl is seated in her wheelchair buckled in;
2. A boy wearing a gray shirt and orange shorts is standing near a table covered in various A-T magnifying equipment pointing at instructions for a device;
3. A boy wearing a yellow shirt is seated and viewing the camera.

Missouri Assistive Technology is funded through the Administration for Community Living of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and maintains coordination and collaboration efforts with partners through the state of Missouri.

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