



United States Department of Agriculture  
TARGET Center

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# Assistive Technology Program Overview

Rashida Owens  
Assistive Technology Program Manager

#NDEAM | #RehabAct50  
dol.gov/odep

# ADVANCING ACCESS & EQUITY

National Disability Employment  
Awareness Month

**Celebrating 50 years of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973**



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# Learning Objectives

What is Assistive Technology?

Assistive Technology Laws

TARGET Center Assistive Technology Services

Types of Assistive Technology

# What is Assistive Technology?

"Any item, piece of equipment, or product, whether acquired commercially, off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to **increase, maintain, and improve** the functional capabilities of Individuals with Disabilities."

-The Technology Related Assistance to Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1988  
(Tech Act)



# Who Uses Assistive Technology?

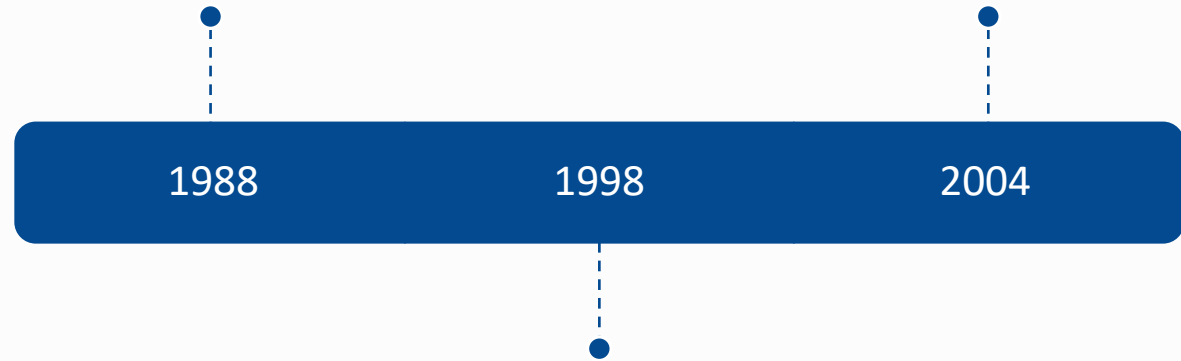
Assistive technology helps people who have difficulty speaking, typing, writing, remembering, pointing, seeing, hearing, learning, walking, and many other **things**. Different disabilities require different assistive technologies.

- Assistive Technology Industry Association

# Assistive Technology Laws

The Technology-Related Assistance  
for Individuals With Disabilities Act  
of 1988

Assistive Technology Act of 2004



1988

1998

2004

Assistive Technology Act of 1998



“For most of us technology makes things easier. For a person with a disability, it makes things possible”.

-JUDY HUEMANN, AMERICAN DISABILITY RIGHTS ACTIVIST

# USDA TARGET Center Assistive Technology Services

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RESOURCE



EVALUATIONS



TECHNOLOGY  
DEMONSTRATIONS

# Assistive Technology Loan Program

Provide USDA employees with Assistive Technology loans to bridge a gap in time before customers have access to permanent solutions or for a temporary disability.

Loans are for 30 days. Items will be shipped to customers.

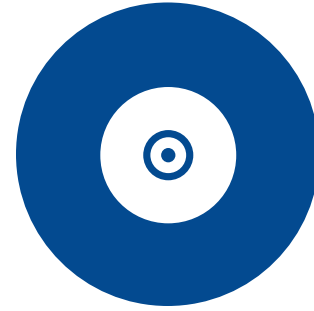
Not all Assistive Technology recommended is available through the Loan Program.



INDIVIDUAL  
TRAINING



GROUP/AGENCY  
TRAINING



IN-PERSON AT THE  
TARGET CENTER



VIRTUAL  
TRAININGS

# Assistive Technology Trainings

## Vendor Connections

The TARGET Center Assistive Technology Program (AT) partners with various vendors to help facilitate the acquisition process to obtain recommended AT products.



Vendors provide quotes and work with agencies to ensure a smooth purchase process.

# Assistive Technology Evaluation Process



Pre-Evaluation Form



Evaluation Meeting



Report

## Assistive Technology Evaluation

Please take a few minutes so that we best prepare for our time together.

Name

Email

USDA Agency

Select an Option

State

Select an Option

Disability Identification

Blind  
Cognitive  
Communication  
Deaf/Hard of Hearing  
Dexterity  
Low Vision

Limitations

# Requesting an Assistive Technology Evaluation

[HTTPS://WWW.USDA.GOV/TARGET-CENTER](https://www.usda.gov/target-center)

# Types of Assistive Technology



# Assistive Technology for Vision

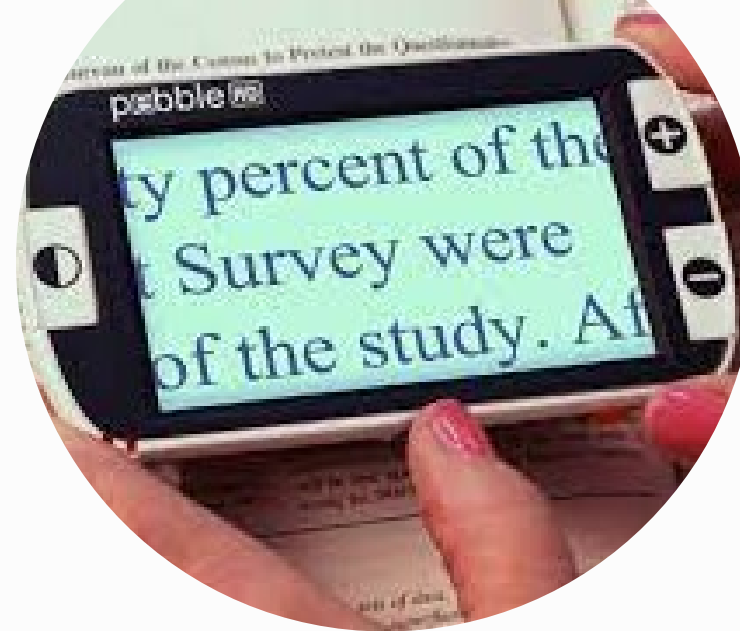
Magnifiers

Braille displays

Screen reading software

CCTV Magnifier

Large print materials



# Assistive Technology for Hearing

Personal amplification systems

Wireless TV listening systems

Vibrating alarm clocks

Face-to-face dual keyboard system

Captioned phone

Portable closed captioning system



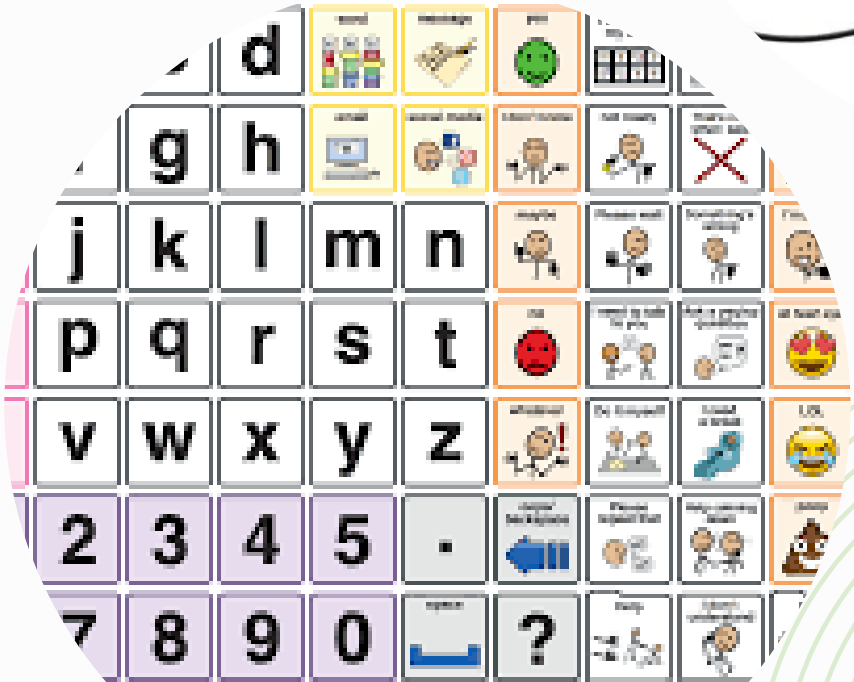
# Assistive Technology for Communication

Voice amplification systems

Speech output software

Augmentative Alternative Communication devices

Communication boards



# Learning, Cognitive, and Developmental Assistive Technology

Memory Aids

Reminder systems

Audio Books/eReaders

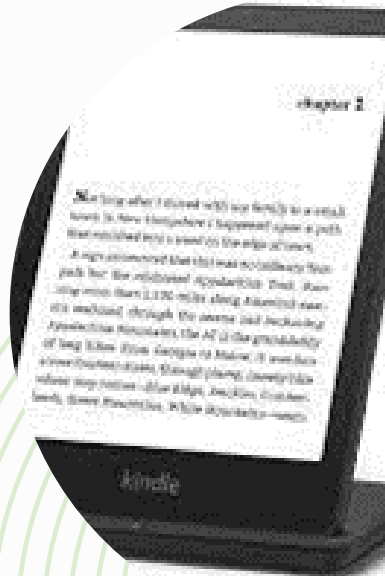
Notetaking Systems

Reader Pens

Literacy support software



read&write





# Mobility, Seating, and Positioning

Wheelchairs

Walkers

Canes

Scooters

Switches

Eyegaze systems





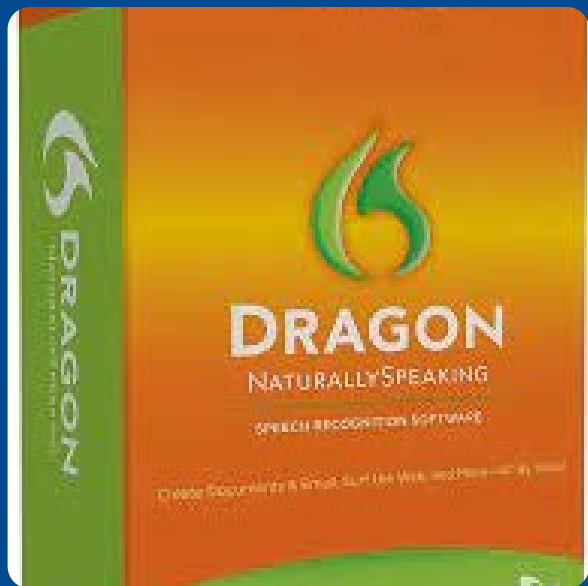
# Computers and Related Peripherals

Screen magnification software

Alternative keyboards and Mice

Voice recognition software

Large monitors



# Resources

Quality Indicators for Assistive Technology Services

<http://www.qiat.org>

Assistive Technology Industry Association

<https://www.atia.org/home/at-resources/what-is-at/>

National Assistive Technology Research Institute

<http://natri.uky.edu/index.html>

Center on Technology and Disability

<https://www.ctdinstitute.org/>



# Questions

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# Upcoming Workshop

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**Assistive Technology  
Program**

**Demonstration**

Tuesday, October 12, 2023

# Thank you

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# Current and Upcoming Meetings

## OCTOBER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
<b>10/2/2023</b>	<b>10/3/2023</b>	<b>10/4/2023</b>	<b>10/5/2023</b>
<p>10:00 AM – 11:00 AM  <b>USDA TARGET Center Assistive Technology Program</b>                      Rashida Owens                      Assistive Technology Program Manager</p> <p>12:00 PM – 1:00 PM  <b>USDA TARGET Center Ergonomics Program</b>                      Stephanie Bradley                      CEAS, CAE                      Ergonomics Program Manager</p>	<p>11:00 AM – 12:00 PM  <b>Rethinking Disability and What It Means to Be Disabled</b>                      Dr. Theresa Haskins                      Haskins Consulting</p> <p>1:00 PM – 2:00 PM  <b>(Neuro) Diversity Includes You</b>                      Dr. Theresa Haskins                      Haskins Consulting</p>	<p>11:00 AM – 12:00 PM  <b>Nurturing Workplace Well-Being and Supporting Mental Health (Part 1 of 2)</b>                      Dr. Theresa Haskins                      Haskins Consulting</p> <p>1:00 PM – 2:00 PM  <b>PTSD Is More Common Than You Think</b>                      Alla Weinberg                      Spoke &amp; Wheel</p>	<p>10:00 AM – 11:00 AM  <b>Empowering Lives Through Assistive Technology Solutions</b>                      Donny Osborn                      Boundless AT</p> <p>12:00 PM – 1:00 PM  <b>Department of Defense Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program (CAP)</b>                      Erin Sanderson                      CAP</p>
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<b>HOLIDAY</b>	<b>10/10/2023</b>	<b>10/11/2023</b>	<b>10/12/2023</b>
	<p>11:00 AM – 12:00 PM  <b>Autism Inclusion and the Pathway to Neurodiversity</b>                      Dr. Theresa Haskins                      Haskins Consulting</p> <p>1:00 PM – 2:00 PM  <b>Lessons from Unpredictable Journeys: Insights from Temporary and Situational Disabilities (Part 1 of 2)</b>                      Dr. Theresa Haskins                      Haskins Consulting</p>	<p>11:00 AM – 12:00 PM  <b>Creating a Trauma-Informed Workplace</b>                      Alla Weinberg                      Spoke &amp; Wheel</p> <p>1:00 PM – 2:00 PM  <b>Nurturing Workplace Well-Being and Supporting Mental Health (Part 2 of 2)</b>                      Dr. Theresa Haskins                      Haskins Consulting</p>	<p>10:00 AM - 12:00 PM  <b>USDA TARGET Center Ergonomics Demonstrations (Virtual/Onsite)</b>                      Stephanie Bradley                      CEAS, CAE                      Ergonomics Program Manager                      Stephen DiCarlo                      Humanscale                      Howard Flowers                      BodyBilt</p> <p>1:00 PM - 3:00 PM  <b>USDA TARGET Center Assistive Technology Demonstrations (Virtual/Onsite)</b>                      Rashida Owens                      Assistive Technology Program Manager</p>

# Contact Information

TARGET Center Website

<https://www.usda.gov/target-center>

TARGET Center Email

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