



# Assistive Technology (AT) Act 1988

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/STATUTE-118/pdf/STATUTE-118-Pg1707.pdf>

\*Link to 2004 amendment

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# History of the AT Act

- It was passed to help increase awareness of assistive technology, access to assistive technology and acquisition of assistive technology.
- Originally passed in 1988 and was reauthorized in 1994, 1998, 2004, and 2022. The current reauthorization lasts through FY 2026.
- When it was reauthorized in 2004, it was converted from a competitive grant program to a formula grant program (a grant that is typically awarded based on a formula) for State AT Programs (Section 4 formula grantees) and Protection and Advocacy AT Programs (Section 5 formula grantees).
- When it was reauthorized in 2022, the goal was to update and modernize it, which would increase access to assistive technology devices and assistive technology services for individuals with disabilities. Specific changes include expanding the scope of certain technical assistance to support grant recipients with data collection, increasing collaboration between agencies that are implementing certain assistive technology grants and state agencies that receive other sources of federal funding for this technology, and adding a more specific focus on older adults in these programs.
- In FY 2005, Congress amended the AT Act to eliminate the separate Alternative Financing Program (statewide programs that help people with any disability get the financing they need for assistive technology) authorization and instead authorized an AT State grant program that is inclusive of financing activities (which is helpful for low income populations), including alternative financing loan programs. Each State Grant for Assistive Technology program includes financing activities.
- In FY 2015 through this fiscal year, congress has continuously appropriated funding apart from the AT Act for the purposes of creating Alternative Financing program grants.
- There are currently 56 State Assisted Technology programs for approximately 50,000,000 individuals with disabilities in the United States.



# 2004 Amendment

*“Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.*

*“Sec. 2. Findings and purposes.*

*“Sec. 3. Definitions.*

*“Sec. 4. State grants for assistive technology.*

*“Sec. 5. State grants for protection and advocacy services  
related to assistive technology.*

*“Sec. 6. National activities.*

*“Sec. 7. Administrative provisions.*

*“Sec. 8. Authorization of appropriations.*

\*This presentation covers aspects in sections: 2, 4 & 7  
(link to the full amendment is on slides 1 & 4)



## Sec. 2. Findings and purposes

### Findings:

- Over 54,000,000 individuals in the United States have disabilities, with almost half experiencing severe disabilities that affect their ability to see, hear, communicate, reason, walk, or perform other basic life functions.
- Technologies impact upon the lives of individuals with disabilities in the United States has been comparable to its impact upon the remainder of the citizens of the United States

### Purposes:

- To support State efforts to improve the provision of assistive technology to individuals with disabilities through comprehensive statewide programs of technology-related assistance, for individuals with disabilities of all ages
- To provide States with financial assistance that supports programs designed to maximize the ability of individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives to obtain assistive technology devices and assistive technology services



# Sec. 4. State grants for assistive technology

Some of the State level activities:

The State shall support State financing activities to increase access to, and funding for, assistive technology devices and assistive technology services (which shall not include direct payment for such a device or service for an individual with a disability but may include support and administration of a program to provide such payment), including development of systems to provide and pay for such devices and services, for targeted individuals and entities described in section 3(16)(A).

## **DEVICE REUTILIZATION PROGRAMS:**

**The State shall directly, or in collaboration with public or private entities, carry out assistive technology device reutilization programs that provide for the exchange, repair, recycling, or other reutilization of assistive technology devices, which may include redistribution through device sales, loans, rentals, or donations (Similar deal with device loan programs).**



## Sec 4 continued

...from a portion of the remainder of the funds after the Secretary makes the allotments described in clause (i), the Secretary shall— “(I) from 50 percent of the portion, allot to each State or outlying area an equal amount; and “(II) from 50 percent of the portion, allot to each State or outlying area an amount that bears the same relationship to such 50 percent as the population of the State or outlying area bears to the population of all States and outlying areas, until each State has received an allotment of not less than \$410,000 and each outlying area has received an allotment of \$125,000 under clause (i) and this clause...

Unfortunately, the statement of “until each State has received an allotment of not less than \$410,000” has not always been met (according to:<http://www.cfilc.org/issues/issues.php?id=10> ). CFLIC mentions that, “while we greatly appreciate the fact that the final FY 2014 budget provided an increase for the AT Act programs, the amount finally included was still insufficient for all states to receive the minimum grant authorized in the law in 2004 (\$410,000).”



## Sec. 7. Administrative provisions

In administering this Act, the Rehabilitation Services Administration shall ensure that programs funded under this Act will address the needs of individuals with disabilities of all ages, whether the individuals will use the assistive technology to obtain or maintain employment, to obtain education, or for other reasons

The Secretary shall assess the extent to which entities that receive grants under this Act are complying with the applicable requirements of this Act and achieving measurable goals that are consistent with the requirements of the grant programs under which the entities received the grants.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION.**—If the Secretary determines that an entity that receives a grant under this Act fails to substantially comply with the applicable requirements of this Act, or to make substantial progress toward achieving the measurable goals described in subsection (b)(1) with respect to the grant program, the Secretary shall assist the entity, through technical assistance funded under section 6 or other means, within 90 days after such determination, to develop a corrective action plan.



# Money Allocation by State

<https://acl.gov/about-acl/assistive-technology-act-funding-allocations>

ACL State Grants for Assistive Technology Awards (ATSG) for the States/Territories  
FY 2023 Annual Allocation

2/16/2023

State/Territory	Grantee	State Grants for Assistive Technology (ATSG)
Alabama	Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services	\$527,213
Alaska	AK Division of Vocational Rehabilitation	\$479,585
Arizona	ABOR for and on behalf of Northern Arizona University	\$709,371
Arkansas	ARKANSAS REHABILITATION SERVICES	\$537,055
California	CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION	\$1,389,580
Colorado	University of Colorado Denver	\$556,313
Connecticut	State of Connecticut Department of Rehabilitation	\$474,852
Delaware	University of Delaware	\$466,034
District of Columbia	Department on Disability Services Rehab Svcs Adm	\$420,843
Florida	Florida Dept. of Education	\$901,920
Georgia	Georgia Tech Research Corporation	\$719,749
Hawaii	Hawaii Department of Human Services	\$502,630
Idaho	Regents of the University of Idaho	\$481,765
Illinois	Illinois Department of Human Services	\$732,712
Indiana	Indiana Division of Disability & Rehabilitation	\$566,664
Iowa	University of Iowa	\$512,453
Kansas	The University of Kansas Center for Research, Inc.	\$471,102
Kentucky	Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation	\$544,664
Louisiana	Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals	\$571,966
Maine	MAINE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	\$515,144
Maryland	MARYLAND TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE	\$582,807
Massachusetts	Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission	\$608,910
Michigan	Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity	\$769,584
Minnesota	Minnesota Department of Administration	\$573,147
Mississippi	Mississippi Department of Rehab Services	\$456,061
Missouri	SOCIAL SERVICES, MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF	\$640,121
Montana	University of Montana	\$495,943
Nebraska	NE ST DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	\$513,065
Nevada	Nevada Department of Health and Human Services	\$483,917
New Hampshire	UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$483,217
New Jersey	NJ Department of Labor and Workforce	\$595,220
New Mexico	New Mexico Governor's Commission on Disability	\$502,108
New York	NYS JUSTICE CENTER FOR THE PROTECTION OF PEOPLE	\$879,064
North Carolina	North Carolina Dept. of Health & Human Services	\$669,884
North Dakota	North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services	\$420,292
Ohio	Ohio State University	\$688,203
Oklahoma	Oklahoma State University	\$502,903
Oregon	Oregon DHS OFFICE OF FINANCIAL SERVICES	\$499,269
Pennsylvania	Temple University CSHE	\$824,150
Rhode Island	Rhode Island Department of Human Services	\$421,120
South Carolina	University of South Carolina	\$600,090
South Dakota	South Dakota Department of Human Services	\$465,723
Tennessee	Tennessee Department of Human Services	\$540,753
Texas	The University of Texas at Austin	\$1,148,952
Utah	UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY	\$525,864
Vermont	Vermont Agency of Human Services	\$455,370
Virginia	Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Serv	\$604,536
Washington	University of Washington Center for Technology and Disability Studies	\$585,320
West Virginia	WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CORPORATION	\$477,892
Wisconsin	Wisconsin Department of Health Services	\$553,517
Wyoming	University of Wyoming	\$410,843
American Samoa	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation	\$125,744
Guam	University of Guam	\$127,709
Northern Mariana Islands	CHMI Council on Developmental Disabilities	\$125,829
Puerto Rico	University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus	\$489,781
Virgin Islands	University of the Virgin Islands	\$126,699
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$31,058,302</b>

ACL Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT) Awards for the States/Territories  
FY 2023 Annual Allocation

2/24/2023

State/Territory	Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT)
Alabama	\$68,021
Alaska	\$50,000
Arizona	\$98,206
Arkansas	\$50,000
California	\$529,577
Colorado	\$78,443
Connecticut	\$50,000
Delaware	\$50,000
District of Columbia	\$50,000
Florida	\$293,971
Georgia	\$145,757
Hawaii	\$50,000
Idaho	\$50,000
Illinois	\$171,022
Indiana	\$91,858
Iowa	\$50,000
Kansas	\$50,000
Kentucky	\$60,862
Louisiana	\$62,409
Maine	\$50,000
Maryland	\$63,208
Massachusetts	\$94,270
Michigan	\$135,652
Minnesota	\$77,030
Mississippi	\$50,000
Missouri	\$63,250
Montana	\$50,000
Nebraska	\$50,000
Nevada	\$50,000
New Hampshire	\$50,000
New Jersey	\$125,075
New Mexico	\$50,000
New York	\$267,717
North Carolina	\$142,405
North Dakota	\$50,000
Ohio	\$688,203
Oklahoma	\$158,990
Oklahoma	\$53,806
Oregon	\$57,309
Pennsylvania	\$174,971
Rhode Island	\$50,000
South Carolina	\$70,057
South Dakota	\$50,000
Tennessee	\$94,142
Texas	\$398,527
Utah	\$50,000
Vermont	\$50,000
Virginia	\$116,641
Washington	\$104,446
West Virginia	\$50,000
Wisconsin	\$79,575
Wyoming	\$50,000
American Samoa	\$30,000
Guam	\$30,000
Northern Mariana Islands	\$30,000
Puerto Rico	\$50,000
Virgin Islands	\$30,000
Native American Protection and Advocacy Inc.	\$30,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,267,197</b>

\*Enlarged on the next two slides





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# Sources used in this document

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\*This source was used in researching sec 2-8



# Thank you

For more information on Wheel It Forward, please go to

[www.wheelitforwardusa.org](http://www.wheelitforwardusa.org)