



MD Community of Practice for Supporting Families Webinar Series

Webinar # 36 – December 14, 2022
Maryland Assistive Technology Program
(MD TAP)

Hosted by the Developmental Disabilities Administration

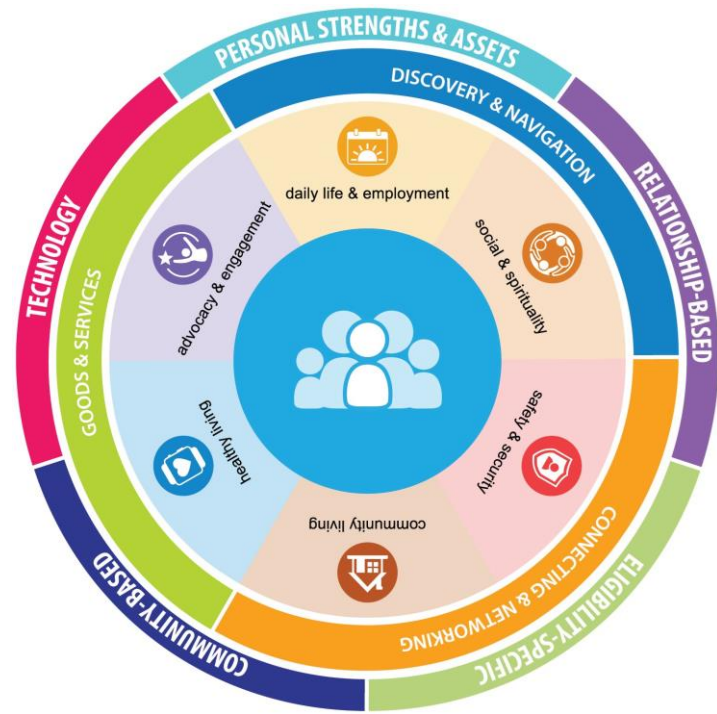


Facilitated by Mary Anne Kane-Breschi

Director of Family Supports



CHARTING the LifeCourse (CtLC)



<https://www.lifecoursetools.com/>



Integrated Support Star (ISS)





Special Guests

Lori Berrong, MFA, ATA-Cert.

Executive Director

Assistive Technology Program

MD Department of Disabilities

Maryland Assistive Technology Program

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES



Why I do what I do...

- 3 kids, a bonus kiddo, and 2 dogs
- Live in Baltimore City
- BA & MFA from the University of Baltimore; post-graduate certification in AT from California State U.
- Worked with MDTAP for 20+ years!
- Have a child with nonverbal learning disability, ADD, anxiety
- Engaged in the IEP process in the public school system
- Always exploring ways AT can help



ABOUT US

Maryland TAP provides statewide access to assistive technology (AT) through equipment demonstrations, loans, reuse, financing, and training.

www.mdtpap.org

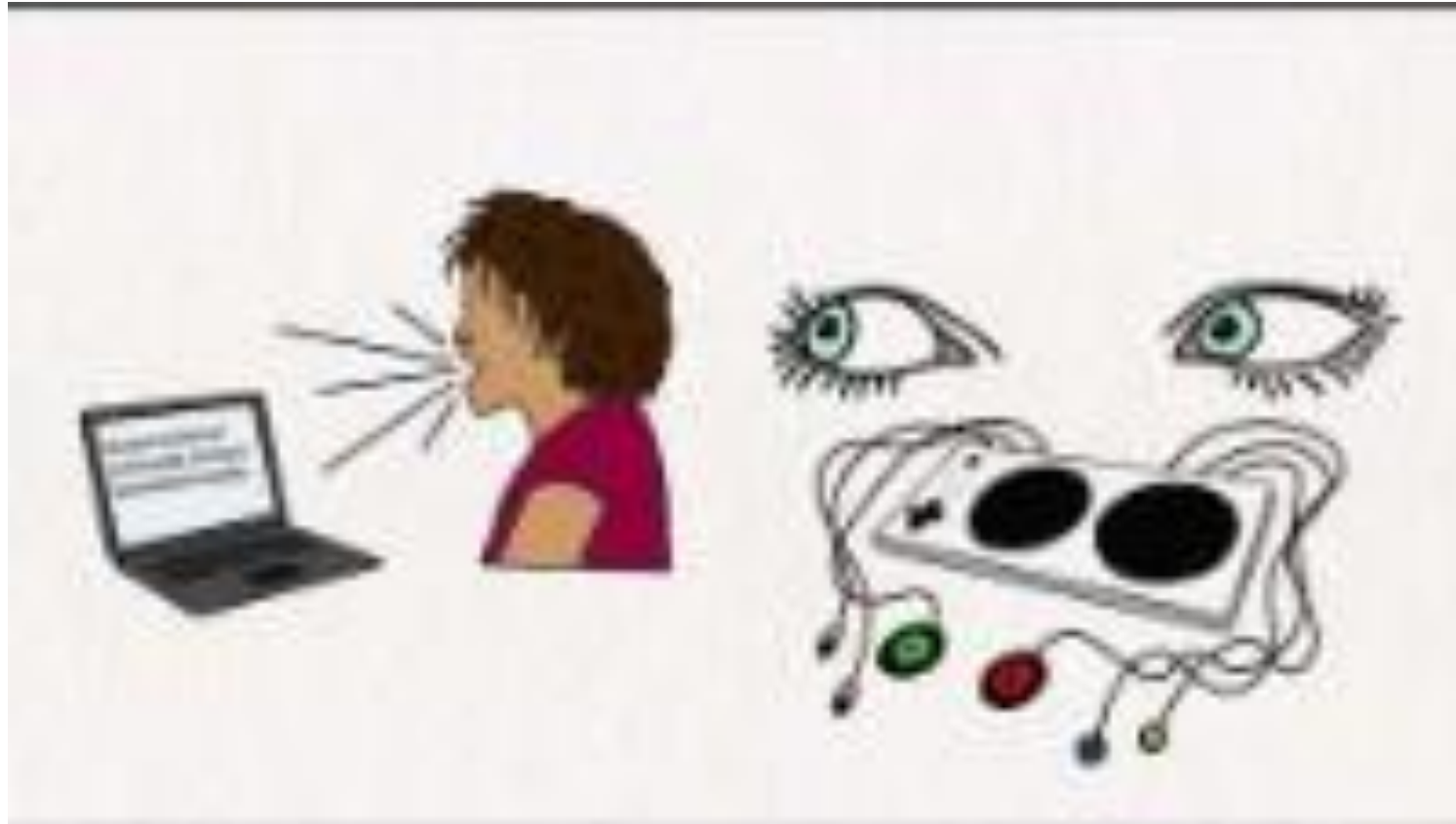
We're a free, statewide service through the Maryland Department of Disabilities.

WHAT IS ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY?

Assistive Technology, also known as AT, encompasses a wide variety of items from low-tech such as a claw reacher to high-tech devices that utilize smart screens and speakers to “speak” for someone who is nonverbal. And everything in-between!

AT improves a person’s functional abilities so that individual can have greater independence and success with a task(s).

AT: Plain & Simple



<https://youtu.be/vdOw6N8Mwyk>

WhAT We Do in Maryland

- AT demonstrations and customized consultations with AT Clinicians – In-person and virtually!
- Issue short-term device loans, up to 4 weeks at a time
- Host in-depth AT sessions exploring a variety of AT topics - In-person and virtually!
- Host statewide AT events such as Accessible Gaming Days, Financial Resiliency Webinar Series, AT Talks & Tours, and more!



Who We Are



<https://youtu.be/ixFm30tkjAc>

AT Libraries

Community AT Libraries across the State

Community AT Libraries – 9 Locations

MDTAP – Statewide

[Maryland Assistive Technology Program](#)

Central Maryland

(Baltimore City, Harford, & Baltimore Counties)

[IMAGE Center](#)

(Anne Arundel & Howard Counties)

[Accessible Resources for Independence](#)

(Howard County Only)

[Howard County Loan Closet - AT Library](#)

Northern Maryland

(Harford & Cecil Counties)

[Arc Northern Chesapeake Center](#)

By appointment only



Libraries across the State

Southern Maryland

(Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties)

[Southern Maryland Center for Independent Living, Inc.](#) (SMCIL)

(Montgomery & Prince George's Counties)

[Independence Now](#)

Western Maryland

(Allegany, Garrett, and Washington Counties)

[Resources for Independence, Inc.](#)

(Carroll & Frederick Counties)

[Freedom Center of Maryland](#)

Eastern Shore

(Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester Counties)

TBD

Tour our AT Library, right from your desk!

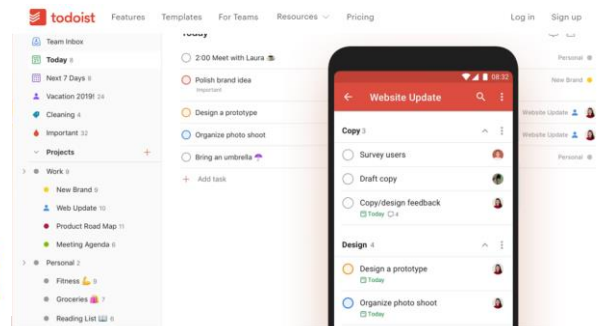


https://youtu.be/H_PQenDDLko

AT for Independent Living!



AT for School & Work



AT for Fun!



Adaptive Gaming – Real life AT Demo & Loan Story

Dustin C. (who has Muscular Dystrophy) came to MDTAP wanting to explore adaptive gaming solutions. He borrowed the Xbox adaptive controller and switch pack. When Dustin first came to MDTAP, our AT Clinician was able to demonstrate the use of the gaming equipment, and was even able to capture a short video of Dustin gaming and using the equipment in our Library. From there, Dustin was able to borrow the equipment for home use and was able to independently game for the first time in 2 years. Without the equipment demonstration and support from MDTAP's AT Clinician, Dustin would not have had a good understanding of the most appropriate types of adapted gaming equipment to support his needs.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/my-drive>

Recycled / Refurbished AT & DME

Online Equipment Exchange

MDTAP maintains the [Maryland Assistive Technology Exchange](#), an equipment exchange page through Facebook Yardsale

Maryland Assistive Technology Equipment Reuse



Maryland High-Tech AT Reuse Center (MATR)

MD AT REUSE (MATR) EQUIPMENT

- CCTVs/Video Magnifiers/Magnifiers
- iDevices
- Adapted computer keyboards, mice, switches
- Speech communication devices
- Amplified telephones
- And more
- [Search all available items online](#)

Visit MATR By Appointment Only –

7125 Riverwood Drive, Suite D1 Columbia, MD 21046

To schedule a MATR donation, consultation, or pickup, contact 443-326-9703

MDTAP.AT-Reuse@maryland.gov

Other Statewide Equipment Reuse Options

[The Maryland Department of Aging Equipment Reuse Program](#) provides durable medical equipment (DME) to Marylanders with any illness, injury, or disability, regardless of age, at no cost. All equipment will be sanitized, repaired, and redistributed to Marylanders in need. To donate equipment or to request an item, email:

DME.MDOA@maryland.gov or call 240-230-8000.

[Maryland Loan Closet Directory](#)

This directory provides information on local loan closets across the state.



**Maryland
Durable Medical
Equipment
Re-Use**

Equipment for Children, too!

Maryland is lucky to have not one but TWO organizations dedicated to recycling and refurbishing durable medical equipment for children! From adapted strollers to gait trainers, therapy equipment to car seats, these programs are ensuring that all families and all children have exactly what they need to thrive.

[Lollipop Kids Foundation](#)



[Equipment Connections for Children](#)



What is
“Tech First?”



Awareness, Access, Autonomy

Maryland Technology First: **Empowering all Marylanders with disabilities to have access to technology that will enhance their ability to pursue their best life as they define it.**

People with Disabilities often encounter challenges to accessing their communities, getting, and maintaining employment and housing. Through our partnership with sister agencies, advocacy groups and many stakeholders DDA is leading the charge of making Maryland a TECHNOLOGY FIRST STATE. Becoming a technology first state will add the option of utilizing technology in collaboration with or in addition to a traditional array of services that allow people to be as independent as possible as they create the lives they choose.

Working Together

The Maryland Department of Disabilities, Assistive Technology Program and the DDA have worked closely to:

- Establish the Technology First Taskforce (comprised of agencies, organizations, providers, and individuals with disabilities to ensure all facets of implementation are successful)
- Launch the Technology First Celebration, August 15, 2022
- Identify best practices for a seamless integration of Tech First into every DDA client's services



For More Information

Stephanie M. Jones, M.P.A.

Director of Innovation

Developmental Disabilities Administration

stephanie.jones2@maryland.gov

Phone: 443-523-0091

Requesting Tech in Transition Services

Services will be coordinated between the [DDA](#) Case Manager, DORS, IEP team, and additional providers as needed.

Your voice and your requests are VITAL!

The screenshot shows the Maryland.gov website with a navigation bar at the top containing the Maryland logo, "Maryland.gov", and links for "State Directory", "State Agencies", and "Translate". The main content area features a large heading: "still waiting on approvals in FMIS for the BPO. As soon as the approvals come through **Transitioning Youth**". Below this heading is a photograph of a woman in a black top pointing at a document held by a young man in a blue shirt. To the left of the photo is a sidebar menu with the following items: "Quick Links" (About DDA, Recommended Websites, Forms & Policies), "Services We Provide" (Behavior Supports, Coordination Of Community Services, Employment, Housing, Low Intensity Support Services (LISS)), and "How Do I?" (Apply for DDA Services?, Apply for DORS Services?, Contact DDA Transitioning Youth Contacts?). To the right of the photo is another sidebar menu with "Popular Links" (Upcoming Transitional Youth Events, Transitioning Youth Website) and "Resources and Information" (DDA Transitioning Youth Fact Sheet- English, DDA Transitioning Youth Fact Sheet- Spanish, Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD), Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)). A red chat icon is visible in the bottom right corner of the page.

Step 1 – Set your Goals

- ✓ College
- ✓ Job
- ✓ Living independently
- ✓ Cooking own food
- ✓ Taking the bus/Uber/Transit independently
- ✓ Making own plans to visit/see friends & family, etc.
- ✓ Endless possibilities



Step 2 – Build your Network

- ✓ Family
- ✓ Friends
- ✓ Service Providers
- ✓ Etc. – your team will help support your independent living goals!



Step 3 – Advocate & Implement Tech Solutions

- ✓ Work with your network to identify your goals
- ✓ Work with your network to identify tech to support each goal
- ✓ Work with your network to assess where and how to implement tech & determine level of needed supports
- ✓ You and your network will get familiar with chosen tech
- ✓ You and your network will work through any issues, create a back-up plan, and IMPLEMENT!



FUNDING AT

AT Financial Loan Program Snapshot

- Low-interest loans to Maryland residents with disabilities or their families to buy assistive technology
- Covers all types of AT including vehicles, computers, home modifications, and more
- Interest rates between 3-4%
- Loan amounts between \$500-\$70,000*
 - Home mods loans up to \$20,000*, up to 7-years repayment
 - Adapted vehicle loans up to \$70,000*, up to 10-years repayment
 - AT loans from \$500-\$10,000, up to 5-years repayment

* Some restrictions apply



iDrive Maryland Loans

Expanding access to affordable vehicle loans for Marylanders with disabilities, particularly those in rural areas of the state, via low interest rates, flexible lending criteria, and expanded re-payment terms.

- Interest rates currently offered at 3%
- Loan amounts from \$500 - \$70,000*
- Up to 120-months (10 year) repayment terms for some vehicles*
- Loans for both adapted AND non-adapted vehicles

* some restrictions apply



What Can I Buy With This Loan?

- Home modifications
- Adapted & non-adapted vehicles
- Scooters and wheelchairs
- Braille equipment
- Vision aids (CCTV's, magnifiers, etc.)
- Hearing aids
- Communication devices
- Smart home devices
- Computers and iDevices
- Recreational AT (adapted bikes, adapted gaming systems, etc.)
- Many other devices



Statewide Portable Ramp Access Project

MDTAP oversees the statewide portable ramp project, loaning a variety of portable ramps to consumers who need short-term ramp solutions. These ramps are housed at 6 local Centers for Independent Living across the state:

[IMAGE Center of Maryland](#) – Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Harford County

[Independence Now](#) – Montgomery County, Prince George's County

[Accessible Resources for Independence](#) – Howard County, Anne Arundel County

[Southern Maryland CIL](#) - Calvert County, Charles County, St. Mary's County

[Resources for Independence](#) - Allegany County, Garrett County, Washington County

[Bay Area CIL](#) – Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Wicomico, Worcester



Discounted Assistive Technology – Purchasing Cooperative



MDTAP partners with AT Discount Sales & Services, LLC to access the lowest prices for AT when purchasing equipment. And you can too!

AT Discount Sales & Services, LLC provides discounts and product information for all AT needs.

410-290-1327

amanda@atdiscount.net

www.atdiscount.net

Maryland Accessible Telecommunications

In partnership with our sister program, MAT, the Western MD and Southern MD adapted telephone evaluation centers are located alongside our AT libraries.

MAT device evaluators provide FREE assessments, purchases, and installation for consumers across the state. [Apply online.](#)

Landline and mobile phones are available for people with **hearing loss, vision loss, physical disabilities, and I/DD.**



Other AT Funding Sources

CILs AT Grants – These can often go up to \$5,000, but many require a % contribution from the consumer. Each of the 7 CILs maintain their own structure and application process.

LISS Funding – up to \$2,000 for services and devices.

Medicaid Waiver Programs – all 3 (Family Supports, Community Supports, and Community Pathways) include AT and AT Services, though the amounts fluctuate.

Local service organizations such as Business and Professional Women's Associations, Exchange Club, Kiwanis, Elks, Lions, SERTOMA, JayCees, Church Groups, "A Dream Come True", "Make-A-Wish", Masons/Shriners, Churches, Knights of Columbus, and the Quota Club.

MD AT Info Everywhere

[Where It's AT](#) – Our award-winning AT Blog



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Follow us on [Twitter](#) -



Watch us on [YouTube](#) –



Find us on [TikTok](#) -



CONTACT US

Central Office

Maryland Technology Assistance Program

2301 Argonne Drive, T-42

Baltimore, MD 21218

(800) 832-4827 (voice)

(866) 881-7488 (TTY)

(410) 554-9237 (fax)

MDTAP.General@maryland.gov (e-mail)

www.mdta.org (web)





Five large, stylized question marks in various shades of purple and magenta are arranged in two rows. The top row has three question marks, and the bottom row has two. The central question mark in the bottom row is the largest and most prominent.



Contact Info

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Thank You!

Please join us on *January 11, 2023*
at **noon** for our next webinar:

*University of Maryland's
TerpsEXCEED Program*

Special Guest:

[Amy Dwyre D'Agati](#)

University of Maryland College Park
Center for Transition and Career Innovation