

Assistive Technology



Table of Contents

<i>Where to begin?</i>	2
How to pay for assistive technology?	2
In the Office	4
In the Home	7
In the Gym and at Play	9
In the Classroom	10
In the Nursing Home or Long-Term Care Facility	11
Where can I find assistive technology resources in my community?	13
Where can I find specific product reviews?	17

Assistive technology (AT) is defined as anything that helps expand independence. Motorized wheelchairs, eye-trackers and smart phones are examples of transformative high-tech devices, but not all assistive technology is digital: canes, transfer boards and magnifying glasses are low-tech items that also offer increased freedoms – to move, to read, to access the wider world.

Whether building a family, pursuing a fulfilling career, or juggling both at once, assistive technology can provide a bridge to the life you choose. Use this resource guide to learn more about how to identify and access AT that supports your needs.

Where to begin?

The first step toward increasing independence is assessing goals. Do you need to access a computer for work? Do you want to return to a sport that was central to your life before injury? Do you want to claim head chef duties in your home kitchen? Products and creative solutions abound to meet every challenge, along with organizations to help identify, locate, and fund the assistive technology options best for you.

Consult with your physician, occupational or physical therapist, and other specialists for specific suggestions to match your function. Many large rehabilitation centers specializing in spinal cord injury also offer assistive technology assessments to help determine what devices will support your daily life and work tasks.

Comprehensive – and free – resources to help individuals and families are available in every state. **State Assistive Technology Centers**, funded by the Assistive Technology Act of 2004, provide counseling, demonstrations, loan libraries and, sometimes, funding grants for a range of assistive technology. Search for your state’s center at <https://at3center.net/state-at-programs/>.

The **AT3 Center** features a clearinghouse of information, searchable by activity and disability, about a wide range of assistive technology. Exploring the site for ideas and inspiration can be helpful not only for newly injured individuals, but those living with paralysis whose needs have changed with age. Visit at <https://exploreat.net/>.

State **Vocational Rehabilitation Centers** also offer AT services and resources, especially as they relate to employment and economic independence. Technology assessments and skill evaluations may be available for individuals who are seeking employment and require equipment adaptations to support their work. Training and funding may also be available. Find your state center at: <https://rsa.ed.gov/about/states>.

How to pay for assistive technology?

The cost of assistive technology varies but power wheelchairs, adaptive sports equipment, and digital devices to support computer use can be especially expensive. Employers may pay for assistive technology if the accommodation allows individuals to perform essential job tasks. Government programs, such as vocational rehabilitation, along with private foundations and non-profit organizations may also cover the costs of high-tech devices. The Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) offers a free funding resource guide on its website.

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

The **Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act** is a federal law that allows eligible people with disabilities to open tax-free savings accounts. Funds from the account may be used for disability-related expenses, including assistive technology. To be eligible to open an ABLE account, individuals must have acquired their disabilities before the age of 26 and meet the requirements to receive Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability Insurance. The **ABLE National Resource Center** provides extensive information about federal- and state-related ABLE programs at: <https://www.ablenrc.org/what-is-able/what-are-able-accounts/>.

Alternative Finance Programs in many states offer low interest loans to help individuals and families purchase assistive technology.

Centers for Independent Living may also offer loan libraries and assistive technology services. The Independent Living Research Utilization program maintains a list of local centers across the country, searchable by state and county of service:

<https://www.ilru.org/projects/cil-net/cil-center-and-association-directory>.

Many states have a **Spinal Cord Injury Trust**. Fines levied against drunk drivers fund these trusts, which are used to support the needs of individuals with traumatic spinal cord injuries. Assistive technology funding is often among the services provided by these programs. To determine if there is a trust in your state, search “spinal cord injury trust” and the name of your state in your internet browser.

Finally, local, and regional non-profit organizations may provide assistive technology services (including grants) for individuals with paralysis; our resources section below offers some examples of community-based programs across the country, but local vocational rehabilitation and assistive technology centers should also be able to connect you with nearby programs.

When and where might I use assistive technology?

The simple answer is all the time and everywhere. Whether playing music from a smart speaker or using speech recognition software to write an email, there are countless ways assistive technology can increase independence and improve quality of life.

In the Office

Accessing a computer is critical for many jobs, but also for managing personal finances, connecting with friends via social media, and plotting personal engagements and appointments. The devices listed below can help people with a wide range of mobility limitations use computers for work and daily life.

- **Speech recognition software** lets people control their computers with their voice rather than their hands. Microsoft, Mac, and Google offer free, built-in features for basic editing and dictation. Other options with more comprehensive features may be purchased and include Dragon Naturally Speaking Software by Nuance Communications.
- **Eye tracking systems** use eye movement to control the computer, replacing the traditional mouse and manual keyboard.
- **Head tracking systems** use head movement to control the computer. Selections are made using a variety of adaptive switch devices; recent versions of Mac include a built-in head pointer.
- **Onscreen keyboards** can be operated with a touchscreen, mouse, or switch. Word prediction tools can be used in combination to increase speed and efficiency.
- **Switch devices** are triggered by light touch or sensory movements and allow people to operate traditional switch-activated devices including computers.
- **Sip and puff systems** replace manual controls, allowing people to operate devices using their mouths. Sip and puffs may connect to computers (and other devices) through a wired or wireless connection and are operated with a mouthpiece that may be worn or attached to a wheelchair.
- **Mouse alternatives** for people with limited dexterity and hand function include joysticks, trackballs, and touchpads.
- **Head pointers/mouth sticks** are worn by people with limited hand function and used to push keys on a keyboard.
- **Quadstick** is a mouth operated controller often designed for adaptive gamers that may also be used to operate personal computers.

Other options for expanding independence in the office include a digital hands-free headset and Bluetooth, book or iPad holders, magnifying glass or screen magnifiers, and talking calculator apps.

Depending on the injury level, some devices can also be adapted to meet needs. Using Sticky Keys, a Microsoft Accessibility feature, lets users create keyboard shortcuts requiring fewer strokes; choosing a slower setting for mouse speed can provide enough time for some people to maintain manual control.

The Job Accommodation Network (JAN) is an excellent resource for assistive technology ideas for the home office and workplace; its searchable database features hundreds of potential challenges and suggested solutions for specific disabilities, including paraplegia and quadriplegia.

Additional Resources for Computer Access

AT3 Center Computer Access: The What, When, Who and Why

<https://exploreat.net/at-discovery/computer-access/>

This website provides descriptions and links to low- and high-tech assistive technology that supports computer use.

Ability Net

<https://mcmw.abilitynet.org.uk/>

This UK-based non-profit dedicated to digital accessibility offers 'How to' guides on adapting computers, phones, and tablets to meet needs; topics may be searched by specific disability and feature, from changing the mouse tracking speed to inserting switch controls.

Chromebook Accessibility Features

<https://www.google.com/chromebook/accessibility/#motor>

This article describes different accessibility features on a Chromebook.

Google Assistant: Typing with Voice on Phone

<https://support.google.com/gboard/answer/11197787?hl=en>

This article describes how to use Google Assistant to type with your voice.

Google Docs Editors Help: Type with Your Voice

<https://support.google.com/docs/answer/4492226?hl=en>

This article offers instructions on how to type with your voice in Google documents.

Google Docs: Typing with Voice

<https://support.google.com/docs/answer/4492226?hl=en#zippy=%2Ctype-with-your-voice>

This article describes how to use voice typing in Google docs.

MacOS Accessibility Features for Mobility

<https://support.apple.com/guide/mac-help/mobility-mchl654a7cc7/mac>

This article introduces Mac accessibility features for mobility.

MacOS User Guide: Head tracking

<https://support.apple.com/guide/mac-help/move-the-pointer-using-head-pointer-mchl654a7cc7/mac>

This article describes how to use the head pointer feature on Macs.

Microsoft Accessibility: Technology for Everyone

<http://www.microsoft.com/enable/>

This website provides information (including tutorials) on accessibility features in Microsoft products.

Microsoft: Getting Started with Eye Trackers

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/get-started-with-eye-control-in-windows-1a170a20-1083-2452-8f42-17a7d4fe89a9>

This article describes how to set up eye tracking technology in Windows.

Microsoft Disability Answer Desk

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/accessibility/disability-answer-desk>

Phone: 800-936-5900 (toll-free)

The Disability Answer Desk provides customer support on product issues, accessibility questions, and use of assistive technology.

Additional Resources for Eye Gaze Technology

EyeTech Digital Systems

<https://eyetechds.com>

2141 E. Broadway Rd., Suite 202

Tempe, AZ

Phone: 888-539-3832

Email: info@eyetechds.com

EyeTech Digital Systems makes eye gaze technology that allows users to communicate, drive power wheelchairs, and control smart home devices.

Eyegaze Inc.

www.eyegaze.com

10363 Democracy Lane

Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Phone: 703-385-8800

Eyegaze Inc. makes an eye tracking and speech generating device for communication and computer use and that also may also be used to control smart home devices.

Smartbox Assistive Technology

<https://thinksmartbox.com/>

167 Hillcrest Shopping Center

Lower Burrell, PA 15068

Phone: 844-341-7386

Email: info@thinksmartbox.com

Smartbox makes eye gaze and speech generating devices that allow individuals to communicate and operate computers and touchpads.

Tobii Dynavox

<https://us.tobiidynavox.com>

2100 Wharton St., Suite 400

Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Phone: 1-800-344-1778

E-mail: css@tobiidynavox.com

Tobii Dynavox makes eye tracking and speech generating assistive technology devices for gaming and computer use, including the TD-1 series.

In the Home

Assistive technology can transform a home for people with paralysis, not only increasing independence but boosting quality of life. Ramps connect rooms, providing the freedom to move around with ease. Environmental controls (operated via joystick, switch, and tap buttons) and smart home devices allow people to adjust the thermostat when they're warm, turn lights on when it's dark, and watch movies when the mood strikes. Many devices can also be connected to and controlled by voice assistance platforms such as Amazon Alexa, Google Assistant, or Apple's Siri. The sampling of low- and high-tech assistive technology listed below supports a variety of individual needs.

- Switch-adapted appliances
- Smart thermostat
- Robotic vacuums
- Remote control door locks
- Video doorbell
- Smart speaker
- Grabber/reacher tools
- Transfer boards
- Utensils with adaptive grips
- Cutting boards with stability clamps
- Dressing aids such as zipper pulls and button hooks
- Long handle shoehorn
- Automatic soap dispenser

Additional Resources for Assistive Technology in the Home

AbleNet, Inc.

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

2625 Patton Rd.

Roseville MN 55113-1137

Phone: 651-294-2200

Email: customerservice@ablenetinc.com

This company offers a range of AT devices, including environmental control products.

Amazon Alexa

<https://amazon.com/b?node=21101808011&tag=thewire06-20&linkCode=xm2&ascsubtag=YT219136>

Apple Homekit

<https://www.apple.com/in/home-app/>

Break Boundaries

<http://www.breakboundaries.com>

PO Box 31

Silver Grove, KY 41805

Phone: 859-240-2817

Email: CustomerService@breakboundaries.com

This company offers an environmental control device for people with paralysis.

Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation Home Modifications Fact Sheet

<https://www.christopherreeve.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Home-Modification-QA-5-22-A.pdf>

Control Bionics

<http://www.controlbionics.com>

745 Center St., Suite 303

Milford, OH 45150

Phone: 855-831-7521

Control Bionics offers the NeuroNode, a device that uses nerve-based signals to operate AT, including environmental controls.

Craig Hospital Smart Home Resources

<https://craighospital.org/inpatient/assistive-technology/smart-home-technology>

Dynamic Controls

<http://dynamiccontrols.com/>

Phone: 855-207-9942

Dynamic Controls, a New Zealand-based company offering U.S. sales, makes controllers for mobility products.

Google Home

<https://home.google.com/welcome/>

Home Automated Living (HAL)

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

Phone: 855-442-5435

Email: info@automatedliving.com

HAL offers software that allows computer control of environmental control systems.

Kentucky Inclusive Health Collaborative kitchen AT demonstration video

<https://www.wellness4ky.org/resource/adaptive-kitchen-equipment-demonstration-video/>

Quartet Technology

<https://qtiusa.com/>

41 Lowell Rd., Unit ¾

Pepperell, MA 01463

Phone: 978-957-4328

Email: info@qtiusa.com

Quartet offers several environmental control products.

United Spinal: Essential Smart Home AT

https://unitedspinal.org/pdf/Smart_Home_Essentials.pdf

In the Gym and at Play

Adaptive sports and recreational activities help people lead lives defined not by what they can't do, but by what they can. Playing sports boosts overall physical health, reducing the risks of cardiovascular disease, high blood sugar and weight gain, and improves mood and self-esteem. Joining a team, or embracing new recreational activities, can also provide critical social connections that bring joy to life. The assistive technology listed below is a sampling of devices that support a range of activities.

- Sporting equipment, including sit-ski, multi-sport wheelchairs, pool lifts, webbed swim and surf gloves, and adaptive bowling ramp and pusher
- Switch-adapted toys
- Adaptive gaming equipment, including custom controllers with button, thumb and trigger inputs, mouth-controlled joysticks and foot pedals
- Playing card shuffler

- Wheelchair mounted cameras and birding scopes

Additional Resources for Sports and Recreation-Related Assistive Technology

- **AbleGamers Foundation** works to expand access to gaming for people with disabilities, including through occasional grants for the purchase of adaptive equipment. <https://ablegamers.org/>
- **Challenged Athletes Foundation** offers grants for the purchase of adaptive sports equipment for anyone with a permanent disability. <https://www.challengedathletes.org/grants/>
- **Kelly Brush Foundation** awards grants to people with paralysis caused by spinal cord injury for the purchase of adaptive equipment. <https://kellybrushfoundation.org/>
- **Move United**, a non-profit organization that promotes participation in adaptive sports and recreation, offers links (organized by individual sport/activity) to suppliers of adaptive equipment. <https://moveunitedsport.org/sports/adaptive-equipment/>
- **Semper Fi & America's Fund** Military-based program which provides adaptive sports equipment to veterans and service members. <https://thefund.org/our-programs/integrative-wellness-program/peter-murphy-sports-program-team-semper-fi/>

In the Classroom

Many of the same high and low-tech devices used in an office or work setting can also support a student's independence, socialization and learning in class or on campus. Depending on individual needs, helpful devices might include:

- Voice recognition software
- Word prediction tools
- Touch screen technology
- Alternative or expanded keyboard
- Mouse alternatives, including trackball or touchpad, joystick (operated by lips, chin, fingers, or toes)
- Mouth sticks
- Head wands
- Sip and puff switches
- Book or iPad holders
- Magnifying glass or screen magnifier

- Talking calculator app or device
- Digital hands-free headset
- Smart pen voice recorder
- Audiobooks
- Adaptive scissors

Students can supplement high-tech devices with low-tech solutions that also support independence, such as attaching a wrist cuff to a ruler; texturizing glue sticks with Velcro; and using paper clips to make turning pages in a textbook easier.

The **Job Accommodation Network's** website may provide AT additional ideas for families and students. Though intended to support employees with disabilities in the workforce, JAN's **A-Z listings** offer hundreds of potential challenges and suggested solutions for specific disabilities, including paraplegia and quadriplegia.

In the Nursing Home or Long-Term Care Facility

The challenges of high-level spinal cord injuries, along with complications from secondary conditions, sometimes require care beyond what is available at home. For people living in nursing homes or long-term care facilities, assistive technology can be critical for care, increasing independence and improving quality of life.

Wheelchairs ensure movement and support independence. Tablets help individuals remain connected to friends and family, read books and watch movies. A simple lanyard allows a cell phone to be worn around the neck for easy access. Water bottles attached to bed rails with zip ties provide on demand hydration. Define your rehabilitative goals – including as they relate to overall well-being – and then determine which high- and low-tech AT will best support your needs.

What to expect?

Upon admission, residents' needs will be assessed to plan care. At this time, families should make it clear if the intention is for the resident to return home after rehabilitation; the facility may potentially incorporate additional AT into care to ensure function doesn't diminish and prevent this outcome.

The Nursing Home Reform Act, passed in 1987, established that long-term facilities must support its residents' rights and provide services and activities that will allow them "to attain or maintain the highest practicable physical, mental, and psycho-social well-being." Medically necessary assistive technology must be provided, but AT that supports improved quality of life may also be requested.

Medically necessary AT

Doctors and occupational therapists may suggest specific AT based on individual needs; if so, make sure they record these orders in a letter of medical necessity that can be used by individuals and families to support requests. AT deemed medically necessary must be provided by the facility.

Pressure injuries can be a persistent problem in nursing homes. Early on, residents requiring the use of a wheelchair — and especially if they are experiencing or have a history of pressure injuries— should request a pressure mapping evaluation. The evaluation can help secure a medically necessary wheelchair cushion.

Additional AT

To access non-medically necessary devices, speak with your case manager or designated social worker. Determine what is provided under the facility's standard-of-care treatment plan and whether you need any adaptations. (Facilities that receive federal funding are required to comply with Section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act.)

Some potential scenarios that would require adaptive AT options:

- Are televisions provided in each room? If so, are you physically able to use the remote control? If not, a voice-activated controller would be considered a reasonable accommodation.
- Is everyone provided a tablet? If so, requesting an alternative roller ball mouse to operate the device is a reasonable accommodation.
- Can you operate the attendant call system? If not, an alternative design that matches your function can be requested.

If you're seeking unusual adaptations, the Environmental Control Clinic at the Shepherd Center may be able to offer recommendations.

<https://www.shepherd.org/programs/services/assistive-technology>

Ask your case manager to call local AT loan libraries or non-profits for help if the AT you need is not available through the facility or private insurance coverage. Individuals being discharged should also contact area **Independent Living Centers** (<https://www.ilru.org/projects/cil-net/cil-center-and-association-directory>). These organizations can be a valuable resource during the transition, providing guidance and an opportunity to get AT that supports a successful return home.

Computer Use and Internet Access in Nursing Homes

While larger desktop setups may not be possible in long-term care, cell phones may not provide enough scope for use. Tablets – inexpensive and easy to store in a nightstand drawer for safekeeping – may be a good option for some residents.

Wi-Fi in long-term facilities can be spotty. Residents may benefit from having their own provider plans on personal devices to improve access.

Some communications companies, including Comcast, offer discounts on monthly phone and internet plans for people with disabilities. Eligibility is based on income level; you may be eligible if you receive SSI or are enrolled in Medicaid.

Where to report problems?

If you feel a request for AT has been wrongly denied, or not responded to in a timely manner, call your state's long-term care ombudsman. Under federal law, these offices are required to investigate and resolve complaints made by or on behalf of residents.

To locate your state's office, visit:

https://theconsumervoice.org/get_help

Where can I find assistive technology resources in my community?

Federally funded AT programs are available in every state. Use the following links to find regional AT and Vocational Rehabilitation Centers, which also offer AT services, and other helpful resources.

State Assistive Technology Centers

<https://at3center.net/state-at-programs/>

State Vocational Rehabilitation Centers

<https://rsa.ed.gov/about/states>

AT3 Center

<https://exploreat.net/>

Research universities and rehabilitation centers specializing in spinal cord injury frequently offer local AT consultations and services. Here is a sampling of programs across the country:

Center for Assistive Technology (CAT)

<https://www.upmc.com/services/rehab/rehab-institute/services/cat>

200 Lothrop Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Phone: 412-647-1310

A joint venture of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and the University of Pittsburgh, CAT offers assistive technology evaluations and provides advocacy for individuals who are struggling to obtain access to AT devices and services.

Craig Hospital Assistive Technology Lab

<https://craighospital.org/inpatient/assistive-technology>

3425 S. Clarkson St.
Englewood, CO 80113
Phone: 303-789-8000

Craig Hospital's assistive technology lab offers evaluations, a loan library, and a comprehensive selection of AT guides on its website.

Shepherd Center Assistive Technology Services

<https://www.shepherd.org/programs/services/assistive-technology>

Shepherd Center
2020 Peachtree Road NW
Atlanta, GA 30309-1465
Phone: 404-352-2020

Shepherd Center offers assistive technology evaluations and training for computer access and home environment adaptations.

Spaulding Rehabilitation Center Assistive Technology Services

<https://spauldingrehab.org/conditions-services/assistive-technology>

300 1st Avenue
Boston, MA 02129
[617-952-5000](tel:617-952-5000)

Spaulding Rehab offers assistive technology evaluations and training for computer access and home environment adaptations.

University at Buffalo Center for Assistive Technology

<https://publichealth.buffalo.edu/cat.html>

315 Alberta Dr., Suite 102
Amherst, NY 14226
Phone: 716-836-1350

The Center for Assistive Technology (CAT) Client Services collaborates with various state and regional agencies to offer Assistive Technology (AT) programs to community members with disabilities, illnesses, and functional impairments.

Many disability-related organizations offer AT services ranging from loan libraries and equipment grants to conferences and advocacy. Here is a sampling of local and national AT-related programs:

Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA)

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

330 N. Wabash Avenue, Suite 2000

Chicago, IL 60611-4267

Phone: 877-687-2842

E-mail: info@ATIA.org

The ATIA, an organization for manufacturers, sellers, and providers of assistive technology, hosts an annual conference on the latest AT.

Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP)

<https://www.ataporg.org/about>

1440 G St., N.W.

Washington, DC 20005

Phone: 217-522-7985

ATAP is a national non-profit organization, comprised of state Assistive Technology Act Programs funded under the Assistive Technology Act. ATAP coordinates state AT Programs nationally and provides technical assistance and support to its members.

Center for Accessible Technology

<http://www.c4at.org>

3075 Adeline, Suite 220

Berkeley, CA 94703

Phone: 510-841-3224 x2021

The Center for Accessible Technology provides assessments and consulting services to individuals, employers, schools, and families; its initial consultation is free.

Center for Parent Information & Resources

<http://www.parentcenterhub.org/rptacs/>

35 Halsey St.

Newark, NJ 07102

Phone: 973-642-8100

This national non-profit oversees regional **Parent Technical Assistance Centers** which provide information, resources, and technical assistance to parents of children with disabilities.

Closing the Gap

<http://www.closingthegap.com>

PO Box 68

Henderson, MN 56044

Closing the Gap hosts an annual AT conference for educators, school districts and individuals with disabilities.

CompuTech for Humanity

<http://www.CompuTechforHumanity.org>

5225 Blakeslee Avenue, Suite 355

North Hollywood, CA 91601

Phone: 818-230-5182

Email: info@computechforhumanity.org

CompuTech for Humanity refurbishes computers to give to low-income adults with disabilities and to low-income families with children. The organization also donates computers and educational supplies to people in developing nations.

Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology (FAAST)

<https://faast.org/services/device-demonstrations/>

2145 Delta Blvd., Suite 200

Tallahassee, FL 32303

Phone: 1 844-FL-FAAST

FAAST provides AT demonstrations and short-term equipment loans.

Great Lakes Loan Closets

www.loanclosets.org

P.O. Box 19614

Kalamazoo, MI 49019

Great Lakes Loan Closets helps residents of Michigan, Wisconsin and Northern Indiana find free or low-cost assistive technology in their communities. A searchable list of closets by county is available on its website.

Makers Making Change

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

400-3999 Henning Drive

Burnaby BC V5C 6P9 Canada

Phone: 604-473-9363

Toll-free: 877-673-4636

Email: info@makersmakingchange.com

This Canadian non-profit organization connects makers to people with disabilities who need assistive technology. (There may be a fee for materials.) The program is open to Americans.

Pass It on Center: The National AT Re-Use Center

<https://pioc.gatech.edu/>

AMAC/Georgia Institute of Technology

512 Means Street, Suite 250

Atlanta, GA 30318

Phone: 800-497-8665

Email: info@passitoncenter.org

The Pass It on Center promotes the reuse of assistive technology to ensure that all people with disabilities can afford the AT they need. A searchable database of reuse programs across the country is available on its website.

RESNA (Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America)

<http://www.resna.org>

2001 K St. NW., 3rd Floor North

Washington, DC 20006

Phone: 202-367-1121

RESNA is a professional society that supports the development of rehabilitation engineering and assistive technology.

TRAID

<https://www.justicecenter.ny.gov/traid-program>

NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs

161 Delaware Avenue

Delmar, New York 12054-1310

Phone: 518-549-0200

Email: webmaster@justicecenter.ny.gov

Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (TRAID) is a federally funded program that provides assistive technology loans and training to New Yorkers with disabilities.

Where can I find specific product reviews?

The Reeve Foundation does not provide reviews or recommendations, but as accessibility increasingly becomes a topic of public discussion, many media organizations are writing about assistive technology products. Bookmark these columns to find reviews that help your search.

The New York Times Wirecutter website features reviews of consumer products, including assistive technology. Recent columns include:

Best Assistive Smart Home Technology for Disabled People

<https://www.nytimes.com/wirecutter/reviews/best-assistive-smart-home-technology-for-disabled/>

Best Apple Homekit Devices

<https://www.nytimes.com/wirecutter/reviews/best-homekit-devices/> **PC World** magazine provides reviews and reporting about computers and related products. Recent articles include:

Accessibility series

<https://www.pcmag.com/series/accessibility-technology>

Best Smart Home Devices

<https://www.pcmag.com/picks/the-best-smart-home-devices>

Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation and Gold Pictures 2022 Wheelchair Comparison Video Series

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIR8xQ8tnXqiXkCKA9SO9DBLGxguZO_GS

This 14-part video series was produced by Jenni Gold, co-founder of Gold Pictures, who lives with muscular dystrophy.

United Spinal Association: Wheelchair Reviews

<https://unitedspinal.org/wheelchair-reviews-views/>

USA Today Reviewed features product reviews, including an accessibility-focused column:

<https://reviewed.usatoday.com/accessibility>

AT Resource Directories

The following offer resource directories for assistive technology:

Closing the Gap Resource Directory

<https://www.closingthegap.com/resource-directory/>

Unified Listing

<https://ul.gpii.net/>

This website lists communication and computer-related AT products available in the U.S., Europe and Australia.

Computer Access Products and Supplier Websites

The following products are provided only as information sources. The Reeve Foundation does not endorse any products, vendors or services and a listing here is not to be taken as an endorsement.

Dragonfly Naturally Speaking Software, Professional Edition, by Nuance

<https://www.nuance.com/dragon/business-solutions/dragon-professional.html>

Phone: 800-654-1187

Nuance makes speech recognition software and wireless microphones.

GlassOuse

<https://glassouse.com/product/glassouse-pro/>

8605 Santa Monica Boulevard

West Hollywood, CA 90025

Phone: 760- 284-7057

Email: info@glassouse.com

GlassOuse makes a wireless head mouse that works with a variety of switch devices.

Origin Instruments

<https://www.orin.com/access/headmouse/>

854 Greenview Drive

Grand Prairie, Texas 75050

Phone: 972-606-8740

Email: support@orin.com

Origin Instruments makes assistive technology devices, including a wireless head mouse.

Quadstick

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

1823 2nd Ave N

Great Falls, Montana 59401

Email: info@quadstick.com

Quadstick makes a sip-n-puff joystick that can be used to control computers and gaming consoles.

Quadjoy by Quad Life Corp

<https://quad.life>

2012 N 15th St.

Sheboygan WI 53081-2413

Email: quadjoy@gmail.com

Phone: 877-736-2663

Quad Life makes a sip-n puff joystick that can be used to control computers and play video games on a PC.

RJ Cooper & Associates, Inc.

<https://store.ricooper.com/>

640 S. Grand Ave., Suite 109

Santa Ana, CA 92705

Phone: 949-582-2572, 800-RJCooper (800-752-6673)

info@ricooper.com

RJ Cooper & Associates makes software, hardware, and assistive technology products.

Smartbox Assistive Technology Inc

<https://thinksmartbox.com/product/dwell-clicker/>

167 Hillcrest Shopping Center
Lower Burrell
PA, 15068

Phone: 844-341-7386

Smartbox sells Dwell Clicker 2, a Windows application that provides click-free mouse access used in conjunction with mouse alternatives including head pointers, joysticks and rollerballs.

TetraMouse by TetraLite Products

<https://tetramouse.com/>

23708 Locust Way Unit 38

Bothell WA 98021-9258

Email: tm@tetramouse.com

TetraLite Products makes an alternative joystick that may be operated by mouth, chin, fingers, or toes.

Tobii Dynavox

<https://us.tobiidynavox.com/>

2100 Wharton St., Suite 400

Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Phone: 1-800-344-1778

E-mail: support.na@tobiidynavox.com

Tobii Dynavox makes eye tracking and speech generating assistive technology devices, including the TD-1 series.

Xbox Adaptive Controller by Microsoft

<https://www.xbox.com/en-US/accessories/controllers/xbox-adaptive-controller>

Phone: 800-936-5900

Customer Support via Microsoft Disability Answer Desk

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/accessibility/disability-answer-desk?rtc=1&activetab=contact-pivot:primaryr10#>

Xbox makes an adaptive controller that can be used with its console.

The information contained in this message is presented for the purpose of educating and informing you about paralysis and its effects. Nothing contained in this message should be construed nor is intended to be used for medical diagnosis or treatment. It should not be used in place of the advice of your physician or other qualified health care provider. Should you have any health care related questions, please call or see your physician or other qualified health care provider promptly. Always consult with your physician or other qualified health care provider before embarking on a new treatment, diet or fitness program. You should never disregard medical advice or delay in seeking it because of something you have read in this message.

This publication is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$10,000,000 with 100 percent funding by ACL/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.