Tech It Easy (Text only version. All pictures and special formatting has been removed)

Access Technologies, Inc

February 2016 Edition

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Assistive Technology Funding Options

Locating funding often creates a barrier to acquiring assistive technology devices and services. Access Technologies, Inc. has developed a funding resource for individuals with disabilities and their family members, service providers, counselors, employers, and others to:

 Obtain information about assistive technology in appropriate funding sources;

 Borrow equipment on a trial basis;

 Purchase selected equipment or software at discount prices;

 Consult with Specialists regarding accessibility issues;

 Receive training and;

 Receive on-site support at home, in school and on the job.

Information provided in this edition of Tech It Easy is designed to help individuals with disabilities, families, advocates, and providers identify assistive technology (AT) funding resources. Additional information is located under the “Resources” tab on our website (www.accesstechnologiesinc.org). Programs change over time, so we always welcome any new information for this funding guide. If you have questions about any listings, or have additional resources to share, please contact Access Technologies, Inc. at (800) 677-7512 or send an email to info@accesstechnologiesinc.org.

We are here for you.

Washington Access Fund Now Serving Oregonians

Access Technologies, Inc. is pleased to announce that through a new partnership, Oregonians are now eligible for low-interest assistive technology loans from Washington Access Fund.

AT loans up to $10,000 are available with a 5.0% fixed interest rate and no fees. Loan terms are up to 5 years.

Eligibility:

Washington and Oregon residents of all ages with disabilities of all types, including seniors with age related functional limitations. There are no income restrictions, but applicants must be able to pay back the loan. All income sources, including disability payments are considered. Each loan is evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and the lack of credit is not a disqualifier.

Phone Washington Access Fund at 1-877-428-5116, send an email to info@washingtonaccessfund.org, or learn more on their website at <http://www.washingtonaccessfund.org>.

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Special Education Programs — The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) guarantees that all eligible children with disabilities age 3 to 21 will receive a free public education designed to meet his or her individual needs.

To qualify for Special Education Programs that are mandated by the IDEA, a student must have a disability. In addition, an Individualized Education Program, otherwise known as an IEP, developed by the educators and parents must specify all of the educational services planned for a student, including assistive technology (AT) devices and services that will aid in achieving a full education.

iCanConnect – Oregon: Communication is essential for staying healthy, holding a job, managing a household and even participating in the community. Modern technology has expanded the way most people communicate through voice, data and video services. But for people with combined vision and hearing loss, special equipment may be necessary to make a phone call, send an email or even access the Internet. Sometimes this equipment can be as simple as adding a signaler to the telephone to alert an individual when their phone is ringing, or an easy to use cell phone designed with large print and amplification.

For some people it may include FaceTime on an iPad, or a more complex solution like using a braille display to “see” what is on the computer screen.

If you have combined hearing and vision loss, and experience difficulties with your telecommunication independence, you may qualify for free telecommunication tools and training through iCanConnect. In Oregon, iCanConnect activities are carried out by your team of Specialists at Access Technologies, Inc.

For more information, visit our website at [www.accesstechnologiesinc.org](http://www.accesstechnologiesinc.org), call ATI at 1-800-677-7512, or you may email our team at info@accesstechnologiesinc.org.

Pages 3 – 7 of this edition of Tech It Easy contain listings of new durable medical and/or assistive technology devices that are available for sale through our Assistive Technology MarketPlace.

Page 8 of this edition of Tech It Easy contain our Bargain Basement. The Bargain Basement section is a listing of slightly used items which are also available for sale online in our Assistive Technology MarketPlace.

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Assistive Technology MarketPlace – The Assistive Technology MarketPlace (ATM) is a free, online equipment exchange service designed to provide a way for people in the community to sell, donate or search for durable medical equipment and assistive technology.

This consumer-to-consumer equipment exchange program is coordinated by Oregon’s Statewide Assistive Technology Program (OSATP). The ATM is designed to match up individuals looking for equipment with those who have it for sale or donations.

Current listings are available on our website (www.accesstechnologiesinc.org), under the [MarketPlace](http://www.accesstechnologiesinc.org/marketplace) heading. Many agencies and individuals receive the ATM listing through our Tech It Easy Newsletter.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services - Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) may be able to fund appropriate assistive technology devices and services when needed to assist adults with disabilities to gain or maintain employment or to pursue college educations or other training programs that lead to employment. To be eligible for assistance through VR: a person must have a physical or mental disability; the disability must be a substantial impediment in getting or keeping a job; and the person can benefit in terms of employment outcome from VR Services. Contact your local Vocational Rehabilitation office or phone (877) 277-0513.

Oregon Commission for the Blind - The Oregon Commission for the Blind (OCB) may be able to assist with vocational services including assistive technology devices and services for persons with varying degrees of visual impairment. Contact the OCB by calling 888-202-5463.

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Device Loan Library – Oregon’s Statewide Assistive Technology Program (OSATP) maintains a loan library of over 2,000 devices, software and apps. Short term loans of these technologies, are available to individuals, schools, agencies, service providers as well as employers.

The program is designed to help individuals try out equipment before buying, or for a device to serve as a replacement while their equipment is in for repairs.

Types of equipment available for loan include iPads and iPods with specific apps to explore; computers with screenreading, magnification, organizational, scanning, and voice recognition software; augmentative communication devices, many types of switches and mount systems; environmental controls, adapted hunting and fishing gear, mobility aids, hearing devices, portable and modular ramps, telecommunication and vision devices; and more.

Explore ATI’s Device Loan Library online at www.accesstechnologiesinc.org, or call our office at 800-677-7512 and schedule time to visit the Library in Salem or arrange to see some of the equipment while one of our Specialists are in your area.

Telecommunication Device Access Program – Oregon’s Telecommunication Device Access Program (TDAP) offers long term loans of adaptive telephone equipment at no cost eligible. If you have a hearing, vision, speech, mobility, or cognitive impairment call the TDAP office at 1-800-848-4442 to learn more.

Health Insurance – Don’t forget to review your private health, Medicare and Medicaid insurance policies to determine what Assistive Technology and/or Durable Medical Equipment coverage is provided.

Service Organizations – Local service organizations, such as the Elks, Kiwanis, Lions, and Rotary are also great resources.

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National AT Funding Resources – Some organizations have small grant or equipment loan programs for persons with disabilities. These kinds of programs vary depending on the local organizational branch and may change frequently, depending on available funds.  Depending upon your AT funding need, you may wish to consider these possible funding resources.

**Bellows Fellow (United Cerebral Palsy Foundation)**

The UCP Elsie S. Bellows fund is a national program operated by UCP that provides grants for purchasing or repairing assistive technology equipment for individuals with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities and their families who are in financial need and do not have other funding resources are eligible. Send an email to info@ucp.org for more information.

**Brighter Tomorrow Grant (Multiple Sclerosis Society)**

The goal of the grant is to provide individuals with MS with goods or services (valued at up to $1000 per recipient) to improve their quality of life by enhancing safety, self-sufficiency, comfort, or well-being. Obtain more information by sending an email to support@msfocus.org.

**MDA National Equipment Program**

Open to anyone for whom medical equipment has been recommended and prescribed by an MDA clinic doctor in relation to a neuromuscular disease diagnosis. Guidelines are available online at: [www..mda.org/services/equipment-assistance](http://www.mda.org/services/equipment-assistance).

The 14th Pacific Northwest Annual Brain Injury Conference 2016

Living with Brain Injury, Stroke & Neurological Changes

When: March 10 – 12, 2016

Where: Sheraton Airport Hotel, Portland, OR

For more information Click [www.biaoregon.org](http://www.biaoregon.org) or Call 1-800-544-5243

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Learn about a FREE Equipment Program

iCanConnect—Oregon

If you have significant combined hearing and vision loss, you know first hand that sending emails or chatting on the phone can be difficult.

iCanConnect offers free communication equipment and training so you can keep in touch . . . and be more independent.

Contact ATI to learn about the program’s income and disability guidelines. Refer someone you know or apply for the program yourself.

Phone: (503) 361-1201

Toll Free: (800) 677-7512

Email: info@accesstehnologiesinc.org

Web: [www.accesstechnologiesinc.org](http://www.accesstechnologiesinc.org)