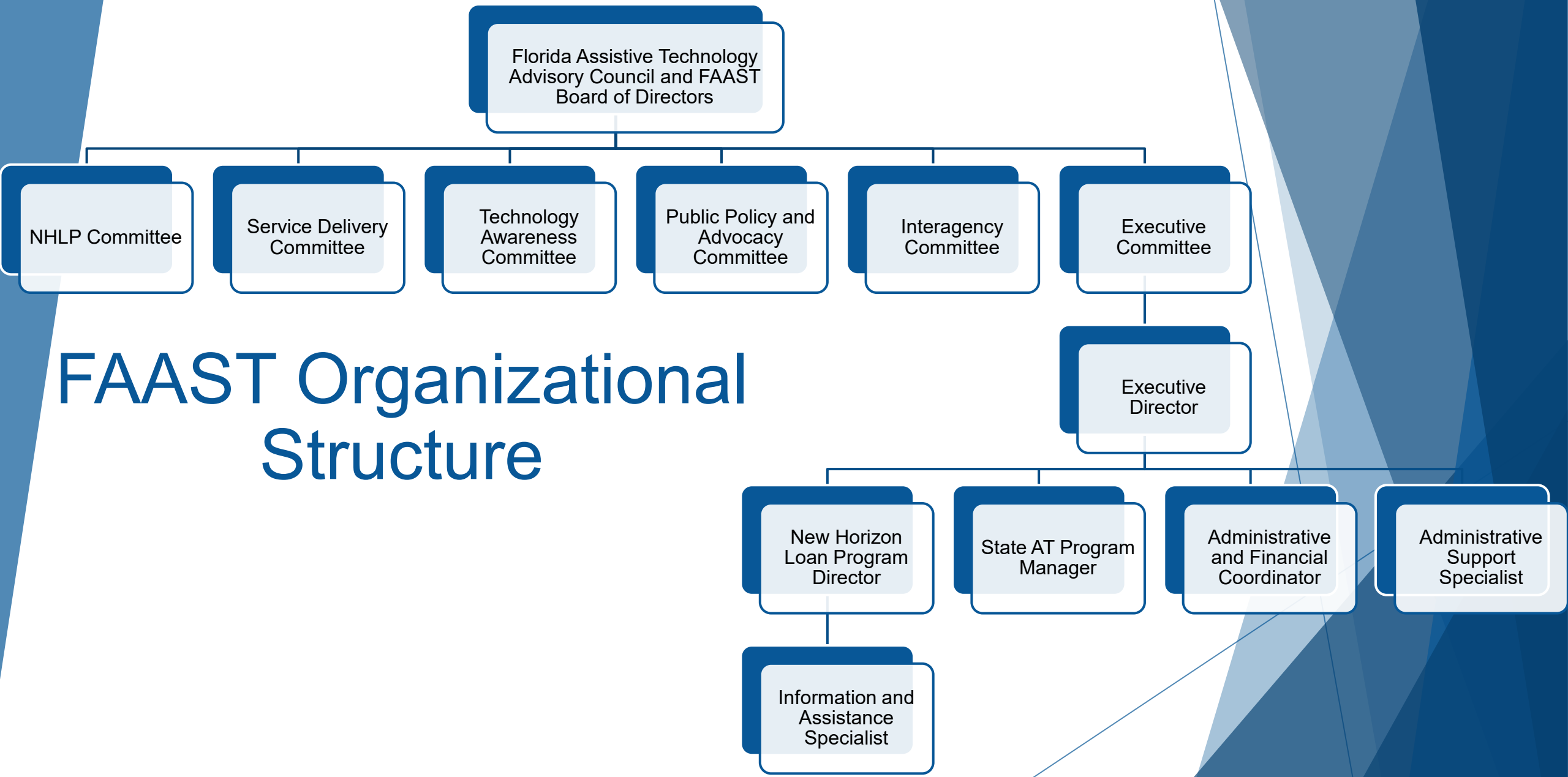




2021 ATAC/Board Orientation

Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology, Inc. (FAAST)

- ▶ FAAST, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization as of October 20, 1994, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Assistive Technology Act of 2004 and through Florida General Revenue funds under §413.407, F.S.
- ▶ FAAST, Inc. is sponsored by the Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.
- ▶ Our Mission is to improve the quality of life for all Floridians with disabilities through advocacy and awareness activities that increase access to and acquisition of assistive services and technology.



FAAST Organizational Structure

FAAST Internal Structure

Executive Director
Whitney Harris
wharris@faastinc.org
Ext. 107

New Horizon Loan Program
Director
Eric Reed
ereed@faastinc.org
Ext. 104

State AT Program Manager
Hannah Brock
hbrock@faastinc.org
Ext. 101

Administrative and Financial
Coordinator
Megan Germain
mgermain@faastinc.org
Ext. 105

Administrative Support Specialist
Alisha Holloway
ajoyner@faastinc.org
Ext. 108

Information and Assistance
Specialist
Tim McCann
tmccann@faastinc.org
Ext. 103

FAAST Core Services

- ▶ Assistive Technology (AT) Device Loan Programs
- ▶ AT Device Reutilization/Refurbishing/Recycling Programs
- ▶ AT Device Exchange
- ▶ AT Skills Development and Transition Trainings
- ▶ AT Device Demonstrations
- ▶ AT Information and Assistance
- ▶ AT Technical Assistance
- ▶ New Horizon Loan Program

<https://faast.org/services/>

Annual Progress Report and State Plan for Assistive Technology

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light to dark, creating a modern and professional aesthetic.

Articles of Incorporation

FAAST FY 2021 Income

- ▶ The U.S. Department of Education, Health and Human Services (HHS) provides a federal formula grant for Assistive Technology Act Projects under P.L. 108-364. HHS funds Assistive Technology Act Projects such as FAAST, Inc. in all states and protectorates of the United States. There 56 programs across the country.
- ▶ FAAST, Florida's AT Act Project, currently receives **\$780,493.50**. The federal quarterly and annual reports are reviewed and approved by the Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.
- ▶ The Florida Legislature this year and for the previous state fiscal year have level funded FAAST at **\$444,415** due to strong advocacy efforts on the part of the FAAST staff, the Public Policy and Advocacy Committee, and FAAST partners. The state quarterly and annual reports are reviewed and approved by the Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.
- ▶ U.S. DOE (HHS) and Florida GR revenue totals **\$1,224,908.50**.

FAAST FY 2021 Income, con't.

- ▶ FAAST, Inc. administers the Alternative Finance and Telework Programs (a.k.a. the FAAST New Horizon Loan Program) and is authorized to do so under the Assistive Technology Act of 2004, Section 4 (e)(2)(A); 29 U.S.C. §3003 (e)(2)(A) – state financing activities.
- ▶ The State shall support State financing activities to increase access to, and funding for, assistive technology devices and assistive technology services. The New Horizon Loan Program's (NHLP) federal annual report is reviewed and approved by the Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.
- ▶ The FAAST New Horizon Loan Program provides low interest loans to individuals with disabilities who qualify and meet credit and debt to income guidelines. NHLP has **total assets of \$2,268,026.70**, per the latest bank statements from Smith Bruer Advisors ending December 31, 2020.

FAAST FY 2021 Income, con't.

- ▶ FAAST has one grant continuing in fiscal year 20-21.
 - ▶ Step Up Grant, University of Miami, Year 5 of 5, **\$27,935.60**
- ▶ FAAST received a new 5-year grant beginning November 2020
 - ▶ Step Up Grant, University of Miami, Year 1 of 5, **\$104,989.00**
- ▶ Board Designated Reserve Account
 - ▶ In 2019, the FAAST Board of Directors established a Board Designated Reserve Account. This is made up of unrestricted monies in a separate investment account and bank account.
 - ▶ As of December 31, 2020, the Board Designated Operating Reserve has **\$389,695.52**

FAAST Contractual Obligations

- ▶ FAAST has one contract with the Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), for the HHS funds and the General Revenue (GR) funds.
 - ▶ The VR contract supports 6 Regional Demonstration Centers (RDCs) and 5 Regional ReUse Centers (RRCs)
- ▶ Grant Awards
 - ▶ Step Up Grant, University of Miami, Year 5 and Year 1

FAAST Financials

- ▶ Copies are in your Orientation Packet
 - ▶ 2018 Tax Form 990
 - ▶ FY 2019 Audit Financial Statements
 - ▶ FY 2020-2021 Annual Budget with Amendment
 - ▶ Certificate of Status
 - ▶ December 2020 Financial Statements
 - ▶ Solicitation of Contributions Registration
 - ▶ Tax Exempt Certificate

Florida Statute 413.407 and Assistive Technology Act of 2004

FAAST Strategic Plan 2020

- ▶ How can FAAST raise public awareness of the organization and its programs, benefits, service areas, and successes?
- ▶ How can FAAST expand its capacity to reach all Floridians while maintaining a quality and equitable level of service?
- ▶ How can FAAST address structural and operational weaknesses to improve governance, streamline operations, and pursue innovation?

FAAST Policies and Procedures

Board of Directors Bylaws and ATAC Bylaws

FAAST Committees

- ▶ ATAC/BOD Committees
 - ▶ Interagency Committee (§413.407, F.S.)
 - ▶ Technology Awareness Committee (§413.407, F.S.)
 - ▶ Public Policy and Advocacy Committee (§413.407, F.S.)
 - ▶ NHLP Committee
 - ▶ Service Delivery
 - ▶ Executive Committee

Public Policy and Advocacy

- ▶ A public policy and advocacy committee to review federal and state legislation and agency policies and practices and to identify facilitators of and barriers to access and utilization of assistive technology services, devices, and funding sources.

Interagency Committee

- ▶ An interagency committee composed of those members representing state agencies. The interagency committee shall work towards the development of cooperative agreements among government agencies and perform such other duties as the council deems appropriate. The interagency committee's members shall assign staff from their respective agencies to the alliance, as an in-kind contribution for a specified period of time, to review federal and state legislation and agency policies and practices and to identify both facilitators of, and barriers to, accessibility and utilization of assistive technology services, devices, and funding sources.

Technology Awareness Committee

- ▶ Members of the committee shall be appointed by the chairperson. Guides the council's public awareness, coordination and collaboration activities; to review public awareness activities related to assistive services and technology. Provides input on FAAST's outreach initiatives and publications. Works with staff to develop technology awareness projects. Makes recommendations to the Board regarding matters for which full Board approval is necessary or desirable.

NHLP Committee

- ▶ Members of the committee shall be appointed by the chairperson. The secretary/treasurer will serve on the committee. The function of the New Horizon Loan Committee is to oversee and review the activities of the FFAST NHL Program in accordance with federal/state requirements. The Committee will review and report on financial and program activities of the FFAST NHL Program, make recommendations to improve policies and procedures, and make loan approval decisions.

Service Delivery Committee

- ▶ Direct the organization's ability to meet the deliverables detailed in the contract with Vocational Rehabilitation (VR).
- ▶ Assist staff with creation of the new VR contract deliverables and model service delivery plan to best meet these deliverables.
- ▶ Analyze and study the current service delivery model and determine if FFAST is making the best use of resources, abilities, and knowledge to meet the needs of Floridians with disabilities.
- ▶ Determine an approach to meet the needs of any areas of the state or demographics that are currently not being met.

Executive Committee

- ▶ The Executive Committee shall be responsible for handling matters requiring Board attention prior to the next scheduled meeting and such other duties as shall be designated by the full Board. Makes recommendations to the Board regarding matters for which full Board approval is necessary or desirable.

Travel Authorization and Reimbursement Procedures

ATAC Support Documents

- ▶ Copies are in your Orientation Packet
 - ▶ Board Member Role Article
 - ▶ Board Responsibilities Guide
 - ▶ Case Study for Advisory Council
 - ▶ Introduction to Advisory Councils
 - ▶ Overview of Florida Sunshine and Public Records Law
 - ▶ Quick Guide to Parliamentary Procedures

ATAC Member Roster, Member Directory and Meeting Calendar

FAAST Headquarters Contact Information

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FAAST offers a user-friendly ADA/508 accessible website featuring the programs and services we offer at:

www.faast.org

* FAAST is also on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram *