



# State Agency Toolkit

Created by the Assistive Technology Advisory  
Council Interagency Committee

Approved 6/15/2021

## Table of Contents

Overview .....	3
What is FAAST? .....	3
What is Assistive Technology? .....	3
Who Does FAAST Serve? .....	3
What are FAAST's Services? .....	3
FAAST Mission Statement.....	3
FAAST Vision Statement .....	4
FAAST Values Statement.....	4
FAAST Services .....	5
Device Demonstrations.....	5
Short-Term Device Loans.....	5
Training.....	5
Information and Assistance .....	5
Durable Medical Equipment Recycling and Refurbishing .....	5
Financial Loans.....	6
Assistive Technology Information & Devices by Category .....	7
Vision.....	7
Hearing .....	8
Speech Communication.....	8
Learning, Cognition, and Development.....	9
Reading.....	9
Writing .....	10
Mathematics.....	11
Organization.....	12
Mobility, Seating, Positioning, and Orientation .....	13
Daily Living .....	13
Environmental Adaptions.....	14
Vehicle Modification and Transportation.....	15
Computers and Related.....	16
Recreation, Sports, and Leisure .....	17
Regional Locations.....	18

Regional Demonstration Centers.....	18
Regional Reuse Centers.....	19
Popular Website Links.....	21
Frequently Asked Questions .....	22
Program Wide Questions.....	22
Device Demonstrations.....	23
Short-Term Device Loans.....	24
Training and Public Awareness .....	26
Financial Loans.....	26
Recycling, Refurbishing, and ReUse .....	27
Definitions and Popular Terms .....	29
Contact FAAST .....	31

## Overview

### What is FAAST?

The Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology, Inc. (FAAST) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Tallahassee, FL. FAAST is federally funded by the Technology Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1988, as amended in 2004 and further defined by Florida Statute 413.407. FAAST is mandated under these statutes and is considered a quasi-public entity.

FAAST is Florida's assistive technology program.

### What is Assistive Technology?

Assistive technology (AT) is any item, piece of equipment, or product system that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of individuals who have disabilities and older adults. Assistive technology provides people who have disabilities the option to access education and the workplace, to live within their communities, and enjoy recreational activities. An assistive technology service directly assists an individual with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an AT device.

### Who Does FAAST Serve?

- Individuals who have disabilities
  - Their Family Members, Guardians, and Authorized Representatives
- Representatives of
  - Education
  - Employment
  - Health, Allied Health, and Rehabilitation
  - Community Living
  - Technology

### What are FAAST's Services?

- Assistive technology device demonstrations
- Short-term device loans
- Training on assistive technology
- Information and assistance
- Durable medical equipment recycling and refurbishing
- Assistive technology device and services financial loans

### FAAST Mission Statement

The mission of FAAST is to improve the quality of life for Floridians with disabilities by increasing access to assistive technology through empowerment and collaboration.

## **FAAST Vision Statement**

FAAST envisions to be the leader in assistive technology resources and services in Florida.

## **FAAST Values Statement**

Above all, Floridians with disabilities shall have the opportunity to pursue:

- Knowledge – Easy and open access to information about equipment, providers, techniques, networks, and other available resources related to assistive technology;
- Choice – Utilizing knowledge to empower one's self without hinderance from disability, regulation, misinformation, or availability of resources; and
- Independence – Utilizing knowledge and choice to improve personal function and advocacy; leading to self-sufficiency, connection to community, and individual goal achievement.

In pursuit of these paramount values, FAAST abides by these guiding operating principles:

- Empowerment – Promoting the use of information and technology to provide opportunity, choice, and ultimately independence for individual consumers;
- Assistive Technology – Promoting the use of any electronic or mechanical device that allows a person to do things for themselves that might otherwise be difficult or impossible to do because of their disability;
- Compassion – Understanding, listening, and empathizing with the individual needs of every consumer;
- Inclusion – Encouraging all Floridians with a disability to consider assistive services and technology; while providing those services in an equitable manner; and
- Collaboration – Proactively seeking opportunities to partner with other public or private organizations, associations, groups, and/or individuals to improve awareness, choice, and independence among Floridians with disabilities.

## **FAAST Services**

### **Device Demonstrations**

Assistive technology device demonstrations compare the features and benefits of a particular AT device or category of devices for an individual or small group of individuals. The purpose of a device demonstration is to enable an individual to make an informed choice about whether a device would meet their needs.

### **Short-Term Device Loans**

The device loan program provides short-term loans of assistive technology devices to individuals, employers, public agencies, or others seeking to meet the needs of targeted individuals and entities, including others seeking to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794). The purpose of a short-term device loan may be (1) to assist in decision-making before purchasing a device; (2) to serve as a loaner while the consumer is waiting for their device to be repaired or funded; (3) to provide an accommodation on a short-term basis; or (4) for professional development.

### **Training**

Training activities are instructional events, usually planned in advance for a specific purpose or audience that are designed to increase participants' knowledge, skills, and competencies regarding AT. Such events can be delivered to large or small groups, in-person, or via telecommunications or other distance education mechanisms. Examples of training include classes, workshops, conference sessions, and presentations that have a goal of increasing skills, knowledge, and competency.

To request FAAST for any AT training, contact Hannah Brock via email at [hbrock@faastinc.org](mailto:hbrock@faastinc.org).

### **Information and Assistance**

Information and assistance activities are conducted to provide individuals with accurate, timely, and complete responses to their requests for information about assistive technology devices and services and about the AT services offered by FAAST.

To request a general presentation on FAAST services, contact Whitney Doyle via email at [wdoyle@faastinc.org](mailto:wdoyle@faastinc.org).

### **Durable Medical Equipment Recycling and Refurbishing**

Assistive technology reutilization program provides for the exchange, repair, recycling or other reutilization of assistive technology devices and durable medical equipment, which

may include redistribution through device sales, loans, rentals or donations, carried out either directly or in collaboration with another entity.

Anyone in Florida can donate assistive technology or durable medical equipment to FFAST so that it can be transferred to someone in need. Floridians can also sell their no longer needed devices and equipment through FFAST's AT List. The AT List is a Craigslist's type webpage where individuals can post their devices/equipment for sell or donation. FFAST can assist with the transfer of devices/equipment between individuals, if needed. The FFAST AT List can be found at <https://faast.org/listings/>

## **Financial Loans**

As a direct lender, FFAST makes financial loans to qualified individuals with disabilities and their families for assistive technology devices and services. FFAST's financial loan program provides financial loans for purchase of AT devices and services. FFAST also offers a telework and self-employment loan, which can assist with the funding of assistive technology and equipment for individuals who have disabilities for work or seeking self-employment opportunities. FFAST works with individuals who have low credit scores and fixed income.

# Assistive Technology Information & Devices by Category

Information from ExploreAT.net

## Vision

**What is Vision Assistive Technology?** Assistive Technology for Vision is technology that helps people see better, or better comprehend what they cannot see. Vision AT includes devices and software to magnify printed materials, provide auditory support, and support braille reading.

**Where and when do individuals need to use Vision AT?** Vision AT can be used in a variety of settings depending on the needs of the person. In fact, an individual may use multiple tools depending on the setting and what tasks he or she needs to complete. For example, a person with low vision may use a desktop electronic video magnifier to read in the school library or at their workplace, and a handheld magnifier could work in class or at home. A student who reads braille may use an electronic braille notetaker to complete assignments in class, and an audiobook player to listen to books at home.

**Who needs Vision AT?** Individuals who are blind, have low vision, or conditions which limit their ability to comprehend visual stimuli may benefit from assistive technology for vision. Individuals with reading disabilities may also benefit from certain tools designed for the blind and visually-impaired, such as accessible text readers.

**Why aren't glasses/corrective lenses enough?** Many eye conditions cannot be fully corrected with glasses or surgical interventions. Assistive technology helps people with visual impairment to maximize the use of any remaining vision, and access their environment using other senses, such as hearing and touch. Some eye conditions are degenerative or unstable, meaning that the person could eventually lose more of their sight or even become blind. This makes learning braille, tactile, and navigation skills all the more important. When considering the needs of an individual with visual impairment, future needs should always be taken into account.

## Vision AT Devices

- Magnifiers
  - [Pebble HD Handheld Magnifier](#)
  - [Snow 10](#)
- Screen reading and magnification
  - [ZoomText Screen Magnifier and Reader](#)
  - [JAWS Screen reader](#)
- Scan/read devices
  - [Magnilink Voice 2](#)
- Electronic Braille devices
  - [Brailiant Braille Notetaker](#)

## Hearing

**What is Hearing Assistive Technology?** Many devices have been designed and developed for people with hearing loss. Such technology enhances sound, or substitutes sound with visual or tactile signals. Hearing AT can be helpful anywhere that effective communication is needed (e.g., at home, in schools, movies, theater, the workplace, hospitals, and on the telephone)

**When do I need to use them?** Listening needs vary with the situation and the level of hearing loss. Some challenging environments might be: restaurants, meetings, classes, houses of worship, social gatherings, public presentations, lectures, theaters, and home environments – TV, telephone, doorbell, smoke alarm, etc.

**Who needs Hearing AT?** Anyone who needs help with: face-to-face communication with others, enjoyment of electronic media (radio, stereo, television, movies, etc), telephone, and awareness of environmental sounds or similar situations.

**Why aren't hearing aids / cochlear implants enough?** There can be environmental factors that further compromise your hearing: distance from the speaker, background noise, size and acoustics of the room.

### Hearing AT Devices

- Listening Device
  - [Comfort Contego Listening System](#)
  - [Pocket Talker 2.0 Personal Amplifier](#)
- Visual/Vibrating Alert Devices
  - [Bellman Flash Alert System](#)
  - [Sonic Bomb Alarm Clock with Bed Shaker](#)
- Communication
  - [Captioned Telephones](#)
  - [UbiDuo](#)

## Speech Communication

**What is Assistive Technology for Speech/Communication?** AT devices in this category are designed to assist people with speech disabilities with speaking and with face-to-face communication. These products include those that amplify voice in order for the person who cannot speak loudly to be sure her voice can be heard; products including software which produce speech output (either synthesized or digitized); products that produce text output for individuals who cannot speak (but who are not hearing impaired), as well as peripherals used for mounting speech generating devices

**When do I need to use them?** People with speech communicate all of the time across all environments, so a person using augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) will need access to his AAC system/device all of the time!

**Who needs AAC?** Anyone who is not able to speak intelligibly whether face-to-face or long distances would benefit from AAC. This includes those who are born with disabilities affecting their speech (Ex. Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down syndrome), those with acquired disabilities (Ex. Traumatic Brain Injury, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, Stroke), as well as those with temporary needs (Ex. Intubation during medical procedure prohibiting person from speaking).

**Why do people without speech not use AAC?** Sometimes people are not aware of the tools available to assist people who have trouble communicating verbally. Speech pathologists get very little training on AAC, so they may not always know how to help match a person with a communication tool. Parents are sometimes scared that if their child uses an AAC device then they will not develop speech, and there are also misconceptions on how to pay for these communication tools (See Commonly Asked Questions for more information.).

### **Speech Communication AT Devices**

- Communication Switches
  - [BIGmack Communication Button](#)
  - [iTalk 2](#)
- Mid Tech Speech generating devices
  - [GoTalk 9+](#)
  - [7 level Communication Builder](#)
- High Tech Speech generating platforms
  - [NovaChat 10](#)
  - [Tobii I Series](#)
- Communication Apps
  - [Proloquo2go](#)
  - [TouchChat](#)

## **Learning, Cognition, and Development**

### **Reading**

**What is Assistive Technology for reading support?** Assistive technology that provides reading support includes devices and software that help an individual read text (books, textbooks, websites) in a variety of ways beyond reading traditional text. AT for reading includes the use of hardware such as laptops, tablets, or dedicated devices for e-text or audio text. AT for reading also includes software that will convert printed text to digital text and read it aloud with a synthesized voice. AT reading support software is sometimes called literacy suite software. Text-to-speech is the term to describe software that reads aloud digital text.

**When do I need to use AT for reading?** Depending on the needs of the individual, AT for reading support may be used in any environment where the individual needs to read traditional printed text such as a book, textbook, newspaper, community event program,

or website content. Other individuals may switch between reading traditional text to using AT to play or read the text aloud. Alternating between these methods is useful when the individual may need to take a break from reading traditionally printed text.

**Who needs AT to help with reading?** Individuals may struggle with reading traditionally printed materials due to a physical limitation, visual impairment, or cognitive need such as dyslexia. A physical disability may prevent a person from holding a book or turning the pages. For individuals who are blind or have low vision, traditional printed text is difficult to read. Individuals may have an identified disability such as dyslexia and cannot decode text or comprehend the sentence structure. Still others may be “unidentified” struggling readers. Individuals with language learning disabilities often struggle with making meaningful connections with printed text, as do individuals who are English Language Learners (ELLs) and individuals with cognitive disabilities.

**Why?** Having a print disability is a fairly common need, but using assistive technology to interact with printed text opens a whole new world to many struggling readers.

### **Reading AT Devices**

- Reading
  - [“Very Hungry Caterpillar” Puppet and Props set](#)
  - [C-Pen Reader](#)

### **Writing**

**What is Assistive Technology for writing support?** AT can be a big help to individuals who struggle with different types of writing challenges. There are AT tools that can make the physical act of writing easier. AT can also help individuals who have trouble with spelling and grammar, and with organizing and expressing their thoughts.

**When do I need to use AT for writing?** AT for writing may be needed when the motor aspect of writing is difficult. Motor aspects of writing include: holding the writing utensil; stabilizing the paper; visually guiding the hand; moving the writing utensil along the paper; visual recall of the letter; kinesthetic memory of letter formation; and word formation and writing and re-writing as part of the editing process. Writing support may be needed for individuals who have difficulty organizing and expressing their thoughts which is known as composition.

**Who needs AT to help with writing?** Struggling writers may be young students who are beginning to learn to use writing utensils and struggle with the motor aspects of writing. Individuals of all ages may continue to have difficulty with writing. Or, individuals may not struggle with the mechanics of writing, but instead, have difficulty with organizing before and while drafting or composing essays, letters, papers, or work assignments.

**Why?** Assistive Technology for writing mechanics and composition can provide the support to bridge the gap to the skills an individual needs. A number of learning and attention issues can cause trouble with writing. Individuals Kids who struggle with writing may have difficulty with handwriting, expressing ideas in writing, or both. Dysgraphia is a common reason that individuals struggle with writing.

When kids struggle with writing, they may be experiencing difficulty in two areas. One is the mechanics of handwriting. The other is expressing ideas in writing. Dysgraphia is a learning issue that can affect either area—or both.

## Writing AT Device

- Writing
  - [Sta-pen Writing Aid](#)

## Mathematics

**Who needs AT to help with math?** A number of learning and attention issues can cause trouble with math, but AT can be a huge help for students. Dyscalculia is one of the most common issues. As of right now, very few special education students actually advance into upper level mathematics. Because of this, many students who struggle with mathematics become divided from their peers, and thus experience great difficulty in their future education.

**What types of AT tools are there for math support?** Certain AT tools for math are common such as calculators and graph paper. There are lots of other AT tools that can be used for math such as “low-tech” graph paper and rulers. Other AT supports include common adaptive tools such as manipulatives like blocks and number lines. Manipulatives are real or virtual objects that let kids solve math problems in alternative ways. More math AT includes math notation tools, digital graphing tools, drawing tools, equation-solving tools, graphic organizers, text-to-speech, and dictation.

**Why?** Building mathematical skill has lifelong implications for students but can be easily overlooked. Basic life tasks such as paying bills, balancing a checkbook, creating budgets, arriving at work on time, and measuring are independent living skills that we all use. The ability to understand and think critically about numbers is vital for students to operate successfully in the real world.

**How?** Teaching mathematics then can no longer focus just on teaching procedures and providing students with the bare minimum knowledge of facts and equations. Students need to know why they are doing what they are doing. They need to understand the process of math, rather than simply know how to use it. The bigger picture is how to assist students in gaining an understanding of the language of numbers and apply what they know to the problems they are encountering.

**Where to access AT for math?** You can find traditional “low-tech” classroom items such as large number papers, symbols, and graph paper with large graph squares at school supply stores. The student’s teacher may also have these items at the school. Schools will typically have adaptive tools to use for math issues such as manipulatives which are blocks and/or number lines. Many math AT tools are being used on computer platforms such as desktop and laptop computers with built-in AT options like text-to-speech; mobile devices like tablets and smartphones with built in AT; and Chromebooks and Chrome browser with math extensions downloaded.

## **Mathematics AT Device**

- Math
  - [Coin-u-lator](#)

## **Organization**

**What is Assistive Technology for organization support?** AT tools can help a person plan, organize, and keep track of his calendar, schedule, and homework. AT can be anything that helps support someone with weak organization skills that affect the ability to store and retrieve information for learning. Assistive technology can help students use self-monitoring techniques, visual organization, and time management. “Executive functions” are high-level mental abilities that direct attention and memory and help us to plan, organize, pay attention to and remember details, start and stop actions, form concepts and think abstractly.

**When do I need to use them?** Students need the right tools (such as notebooks and assignment pads) and basic study skills (such as reading and note-taking skills) to be successful in school.

**Who?** Weak executive functioning skills can be common in individuals with ADHD and learning issues like dyslexia. There are strategies that can be learned to help organize thoughts and belongings at home, school, work, and community.

**Why are strong organizational skills important?** Strong or weak organization skills affect learning in four key ways:

- Following directions
- Learning to read
- Literacy learning (combination of reading, writing, and grammar)
- Learning math. See AT Discovery for Math

**Where in an education setting is "organization" as a skillset needed?** To be successful throughout the educational process and school system, a student must develop good organization skills to make sure that he is not causing a barrier to the development of his tasks and projects.

## Organization AT Device

- Organization
  - [Time Tracker Visual Timer](#)

## Mobility, Seating, Positioning, and Orientation

**What is Seating, Positioning, & Mobility Assistive Technology?** Examples of mobility devices include canes, walkers, crutches, orthotics & prosthetics, wheelchairs, scooters and power chairs. Seating and positioning devices are used for reasons such as improving postural control & deformity management, pressure & postural management, and/or comfort & postural accommodation.

**When and where do I need to use them?** Seating, Positioning, and Mobility devices may be needed at any time and in any place.

**Who needs Seating, Positioning, and Mobility AT?** Seating, Positioning, and Mobility AT is important for people with disabilities who need assistance to achieve and/or maintain a position that enables them to participate in daily activities. It is important for anyone that has difficulty maintaining a functional seating position that allows purposeful movement. It is important for anyone who has difficulty moving from one area to another area.

**Why is Seating, Positioning, and Mobility AT important?** By providing a functional seating position, AT can reduce or eliminate the need for human assistance for daily activities. It can reduce fatigue thereby allowing the person to participate for longer periods of time and save energy for other tasks. Devices that aid in mobility allow a person to transition from one place to another to participate in daily activities. Someone with limited mobility may not even be able to leave his bed in the mornings without a device for support and safety.

## Mobility, Seating, and Positioning AT Devices

- Seating and Positioning
  - Alternative chairs or desks, feet support
  - Device mounts
- Mobility
  - Wheelchairs, Rollators, Canes

## Daily Living

**What is Daily Living Assistive Technology?** This category of Assistive Technology is often referred to as “adaptive equipment” or “aids to daily living.” These devices are most often used to help individuals complete everyday activities such as dressing, grooming, bathing, eating, hygiene, and meal preparation that would otherwise be difficult or impossible to complete due to physical limitations or other disabilities.

**When and Where do I need to use them?** Daily living tasks may take place in various places throughout the day: kitchen, dining room/cafeteria, restroom/bathroom, bedroom, and classroom.

**Who needs Daily Living AT?** Daily Living AT is appropriate for anyone who is not able to complete daily living tasks for themselves at the same level as their peers. This may be due to a physical or cognitive disability.

**Why is Daily Living AT important?** Daily Living AT can reduce or eliminate the need for human assistance with tasks that most people do for themselves. Increased independence with daily living tasks results in increased self-efficacy which can carry-over into other aspects of an individual's life.

### **Daily Living AT Devices**

- Eating
  - [Liftware level spoon](#)
  - [Calibowl](#)
  - [Electric Jar opener](#)
- Dressing
  - [Zipper pull and button hooks](#)
- Reminders
  - [Automatic Pill Dispenser](#)

### **Environmental Adaptions**

**What are Environmental Adaptions?** Environmental adaptations allow for manipulation of something in the environment that would otherwise be difficult or impossible to do due to a disability.

**What are Environmental Controls?** Environmental controls provide people with disabilities the ability to start, stop, or adjust electric or electronic devices.

**Where and When do I need to use Environmental Adaptions or Controls?** AT for environmental adaptations or controls is typically used to be able to operate battery-operated or electrical devices that require manipulation of something to be able to operate the device. An adaptation or control is put in place to make operating the device easier based on the individual's abilities. Devices that may need an adaptation or control can be found in all areas of a person's home, the workplace, and the community.

**Who needs to use Environmental Adaptions and Controls?** AT in this category is typically beneficial for someone with a physical disability that limits his upper extremity control. Fine motor delays, spinal cord injuries, neuro-degenerative disorders are a few of the disabilities that might benefit from Environmental Adaptions & Controls. Anyone with a condition that limits strength and/or endurance may also benefit from this AT category.

**Why are Environmental Adaptations & Controls important?** These adaptations and controls can reduce or eliminate the need for human assistance in operating everyday battery-operated and electrical devices. Increased independence with everyday tasks results in increased self-efficacy which can carry-over into other aspects of an individual's life.

### **Environmental Adaption AT Devices**

- Switches
  - [Jelly Bean switch](#)
- Communication/alert systems
  - [Help dialer 700](#)
- Electrical Control Units
  - [Powerlink 4](#)
- Home Adaptations
  - Wheelchair Ramps
  - Railing, handles, and grab bars
  - Shower and toilet chairs
- Smart Home devices
  - Amazon Echo and Google Home
  - Alexa enabled appliances (i.e Light bulbs)

### **Vehicle Modification and Transportation**

**What is Vehicle Modifications Assistive Technology?** Assistive technology for vehicle modifications includes ramps, hand controls for braking and accelerating, modified steering controls, adjustable driver's seats, and automatic door openers.

**When do I need to use them?** Where and when do I need to use Vehicle Modifications Assistive Technology – Vehicle modifications options are available on almost any vehicle. The type and severity of disability and whether you are riding or driving will determine if your vehicle can accommodate the needed modification.

**Who needs Vehicle Modifications AT?** People who have upper body and/or lower limitations in strength, range of motion, and/or coordination may need vehicle modifications to drive. Anyone who needs to access their vehicle from a wheelchair will need vehicle modifications.

**Why are Vehicle Modifications important?** Having a vehicle and being able to drive means greater independence. However, people with physical disabilities are often not able to drive a vehicle and families with a family member who has a disability can be limited in transporting that family member. Having a vehicle with modifications can make a difference in people with disabilities being able to ride in and/or drive a vehicle safely.

## Vehicle Modifications AT Devices

- Alternative Controls or grip
  - Hand controls for acceleration and brakes, spinner knobs
- Transfer aids
  - [Handy Bar](#)
  - [Swivel Seat](#)
- Lifts and ramps

## Computers and Related

**What is Computer Access?** When we talk about computers we are referring to hardware and software products that enable people with disabilities to access, interact with, and use computers. Assistive devices in this category includes modified or alternate keyboards, input and pointing devices such as large “mice” or switches activated by pressure or some other means, and software including speech-to-text software. Even if the device is a “generic” product (e.g. a “vertical” mouse or large trackball), the product is considered assistive technology if it is needed by someone with a disability. Computer operating systems now come with many “built in” accessibility features that may provide sufficient support when “turned on” and customized for the user.

**When do I need to use AT for Computer Access?** AT may be needed at any time and in many places. Whether in school, work, or in the community, computer use is important in all areas of our lives.

**Who needs Computer Access AT?** Anyone struggling with the three functional barriers: 1) providing computer input 2) interpreting output, and 3) reading supporting documentation. Individuals with motor, sensory, cognitive or learning disabilities all can benefit from assistive technology options.

**Why aren't computers more accessible?** Too often, people think of accessibility as an add-on to a device or program. Increasingly today, developers and designers are realizing that maintenance becomes easier when accessibility is part of the basic design. Now, many smartphones, tablets and computers also include screen readers, word prediction and speech recognition.

## Computer Access AT Devices

- Alternate Keyboards
  - [Maltron one handed keyboard](#)
  - [Tap strap wearable keyboard](#)
- Adaptive mice
  - [Big track trackball mouse](#)
- Software/Alternate access
  - [Dragon naturally speaking](#)

- [PCEye Mini Eye tracking](#)

## Recreation, Sports, and Leisure

**What is Recreation Assistive Technology?** Assistive technology for recreation and leisure provides a way for people with disabilities to participate in preferred activities that they might not otherwise be able to do. Assistive technology for this category can include items for billiards, bowling, crafts, cycling, fishing, card games, board games, gardening, sports, and passive activities such as reading, listening to music, and watching television.

**When and where do I need to use them?** Everyone has opportunities every day to participate in recreation and leisure activities, at school, at home, and at work. If those activities cannot be completed in a typical manner due to a disability, assistive technology may assist the person to participate.

**Who needs Recreation AT?** Assistive technology for recreation and leisure can benefit people with a wide range of disabilities including blindness/low vision, deafness/hearing loss, and physical impairments.

**Why is Recreation AT important?** Participation in recreation and leisure activities is important for physical, mental, and emotional well-being. When someone is not able to participate in a desired activity, assistive technology may be the avenue by which someone regains the ability to participate or is introduced to a new activity.

### Recreation AT Devices

- Switch Toys
  - [Dolphin Silly Slides Switch adapted toy](#)
- Games
  - [X-box Adaptive Controller](#)
- Outdoor equipment
  - [Firefly Wheelchair Attachment](#)
  - [GRIT freedom Chair](#)
- Music/Art equipment
  - [Skoog](#)

## Regional Locations

FAAST has regional locations across the state to provide assistive technology services.

### Regional Demonstration Centers

Regional Demonstration Centers (RDCs) provide device demonstrations, short-term loans, AT training, and information and assistance activities.

#### **Gulf Coast RDC**

Center for Independent Living of Northwest Florida

3600 N Pace Blvd, Pensacola, FL 32505

Voice: (850) 595-5566

TDD: (877) 245-2457

Email: [gulfcoastrdc@faastinc.org](mailto:gulfcoastrdc@faastinc.org)

#### **Northwest RDC**

The Family Café

820 East Park Ave, Suite F-100, Tallahassee, FL 32301

Voice: (850) 224-4670

Toll-Free: (888) 309-2233

Email: [northwestflrdc@faastinc.org](mailto:northwestflrdc@faastinc.org)

#### **Northeast RDC**

Hope Haven

4600 Beach Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32207

Voice: (904) 346-5100 ext 336

TDD: (904) 346-5141

Email: [northeastflrdc@faastinc.org](mailto:northeastflrdc@faastinc.org)

#### **Atlantic RDC**

University of Central Florida

3280 Progress Drive, Suite 250, Orlando, FL 32826

Voice: (407) 882-0468

Email: [atlanticrdc@faastinc.org](mailto:atlanticrdc@faastinc.org)

## **Central RDC**

Tampa General Rehabilitation Center

6 Tampa General Circle, Room 214, Tampa, FL 33606

Voice: (813) 844-7591

TTY: (813) 844-7767

Email: [centralflrdc@faastinc.org](mailto:centralflrdc@faastinc.org)

## **South RDC**

University of Miami – Mailman Center

1601 NW 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Room 2018, Miami, FL 33136

Voice/TTY: (305) 243-5706

Email: [southflrdc@faastinc.org](mailto:southflrdc@faastinc.org)

## **Regional Reuse Centers**

Regional Reuse Centers (RRCs) are the locations where assistive technology devices and durable medical equipment can be donated. They also house an inventory of devices/equipment that can be given to individuals in need.

### **Center for Independent Living of Northwest Florida**

3600 N Pace Blvd, Pensacola, FL 32505

Voice: (850) 595-5566

TDD: (877) 245-2457

Email: [info@cilnwf.org](mailto:info@cilnwf.org)

### **Center for Independent Living of Gulf Coast**

7011 Cypress Terrace, Suite 103, Ft. Myers, FL 33907

Voice: (239) 260-4575

Toll-Free: 1 (855) 260-4575

### **Center for Independent Living Broward**

4800 N. State Road 7, Suite 102, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33919

Voice: (954) 722-6400

TTY: (954) 735-0963

### **Disability Achievement Center**

12552 Belcher Rd South, Largo, FL 33773

Voice: (727) 539-7550

Email: [info@mydacil.org](mailto:info@mydacil.org)

**CIL of South Florida**

6666 Biscayne Blvd, Miami, FL 33138

Voice: (305) 751-8025

Videophone: (786) 347-7318

Email: [info@cilsf.org](mailto:info@cilsf.org)

## Popular Website Links

### **AT List** <https://faast.org/listings/>

The AT List is a Craigslist's type webpage where individuals can post their devices/equipment for sell or donation.

### **Explore AT** <https://exploreat.net/>

Explore AT is a clearinghouse for information and resources on many different assistive technologies. This site has useful resources arranged by activity and disability, as well as, links to other easy-to-use databases or websites that can help explain different AT devices.

### **FAAST Website** <https://faast.org/>

Connect to all things Florida AT on FAAST's website.

### **FAAST Device Loan Library** <https://faast.org/services/device-loans/>

The online loan library is a list of all current AT devices in FAAST's inventory. You can check out an item to borrow right from the webpage.

### **Financial Loans** <https://faast.org/services/nhlp/>

FAAST financial loan program, New Horizon Loan Program, is an alternative assistive technology finance program under the Assistive Technology Act of 2004, Section 4 (e)(2)(A). The purpose of this program is to assist individuals with disabilities finance assistive technology at reasonable interest rates. The program also offers a telework and self-employment loan, which can assist with the funding of assistive technology and equipment for individuals for work or seeking self-employment opportunities. You can apply for a loan right from the webpage.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Program Wide Questions

What services does FAAST provide?

- We provide the following assistive technology services:
  - Information and Assistance
  - Device Demonstration
  - Short-Term Device Loan
  - Training and Public Awareness
  - Device ReUse
  - State Financing

What is the difference between a Regional Demonstration Center and Regional ReUse Center?

- The Regional Demonstration Centers services focus on helping an individual learn which assistive technology device is the best fit for them. These services include information and assistance, demonstrations, device loans, and training. The Regional ReUse Centers use FAAST funds to distribute refurbished donated equipment and repair devices in their community. These services include assistive technology open-ended device loans, repair, and host an AT List.

How do I locate a FAAST Regional Center?

- FAAST has centers all around Florida, including six Regional Demonstration Centers, five Regional ReUse Centers, and a State Headquarters in Tallahassee, FL. To find the Center that serves a certain area, visit [www.faastrg.org](http://www.faastrg.org) or call the Statewide Help Desk (844-353-2278).

How much do FAAST services cost?

- FAAST services are free for Floridians!

How can someone I'm working with receive FAAST services?

- If you're unsure of where to start or where to send someone, the Statewide Help Desk is a great resource to help guide anyone through FAAST resources. From there, FAAST can direct an individual to the right Regional Center based on what resources they are interested in and where they live. The Statewide Help Desk is a one-stop shop for all things FAAST. The number for the Statewide Help Desk is 844-353-2278.

Who can receive FAAST Services?

- Individuals who have disabilities
- Family members, guardians, and authorized representatives
- Representatives of
  - Education
  - Employment

- Health, Allied Health, and Rehabilitation
- Community Living
- Technology

What is the difference between FFAST assistive technology services and services from the Florida Division of Blind services?

- FFAST services can work in collaboration with the Florida Division of Blind services to meet the needs of Floridians with visual impairments. FFAST staff can provide demonstrations and/or trainings of certain assistive technology that can assist low vision or blind individuals. In addition, clients can borrow the technology at no cost from FFAST for up to 30 days to find out if the technology would meet their needs. Finally qualified individuals have the option of purchasing the technology for themselves though FFAST's financial loan program.

What is the difference between FFAST assistive technology services and services from the Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation?

- FFAST services can work in collaboration with the Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to meet the needs of Floridians with disabilities. FFAST staff can provide demonstrations and/or trainings of certain assistive technology that can help individuals be successful in the workplace. In addition, clients can borrow the technology at no cost from FFAST for up to 30 days to find out if the technology would meet their needs. Finally qualified individuals have the option of purchasing the technology for themselves though FFAST's financial loan program.

What is the difference between FFAST assistive technology services and services from the Florida Department of Education?

- FFAST services can work in collaboration with the Florida Department of Education to meet the needs of students with disabilities. FFAST staff can provide demonstrations and/or trainings of certain assistive technology that can help students be successful in the classroom. In addition, parents or professionals can borrow the technology at no cost from FFAST for up to 30 days to find out if the technology would meet their needs. Finally qualified individuals have the option of purchasing the technology for themselves though FFAST's financial loan program.

## **Device Demonstrations**

How can an individual request a demonstration?

- To schedule a demonstration, please call or email a local Regional Demonstration Center or the Statewide Help Desk at 844-353-2278 or [info@faastinc.org](mailto:info@faastinc.org).

Is a prescription need from a health care provider?

- No, a prescription is not needed to participate in a device demonstration.

Are these formal assistive technology assessments?

- While these are not formal assessments, demonstrations are a helpful tool to allow an individual to have a hands-on comparison of similar devices. Demonstrations will give someone a chance to narrow down which devices will and will not work for them. FFAST will help them navigate the device and teach them how to use it. To learn how to receive a formal assistive technology assessment, contact a local Regional Demonstration Center or the Statewide Help Desk at 844-353-2278 or [info@faastinc.org](mailto:info@faastinc.org).

After getting a demonstration, what are the next steps?

- The next step is to try it at home! FFAST recommends borrowing the device to see if it fits in with an individual's daily schedule and lifestyle. The device may seem perfect during the demo, but a person may find they prefer something else during the trial.

How many devices can be shown in one demo?

- FFAST can demonstrate several similar devices or multiple settings on a single device. Seeing various devices at once helps determine what features an individual prefer. An individual can also schedule several demonstrations if they need assistance with other tasks!

If an individual finds a device that is the right fit for them, can they buy it from FFAST?

- FFAST does not sell any assistive technology, but we can help point that person in the right direction to purchase the device.

Does FFAST offer virtual demonstrations?

- Yes! To schedule a virtual demonstration, contact a local Regional Demonstration Center.

## Short-Term Device Loans

How does an individual request a device loan?

- There are three ways to request a device loan:
  - Online through the device loan library at [www.faast.org](http://www.faast.org)
  - Through a local Regional Demonstration Center.
  - Through the Statewide Help Desk.

How long can an individual borrow a device?

- An individual can borrow a device for up to 30 days. FFAST can extend the loan period if they need more time deciding, waiting on funding, or during the repair of a device. FFAST understands that an individual may need more time with the device, but we also want to give everyone a chance to borrow it. FFAST will grant extensions if no one is waiting to borrow the device.

What if someone wants to try a device that is not listed on the FFAST website. How do they request it?

- Just ask! FFAST has additional items located at the Regional Demonstration Centers that are available to borrow. If an individual has a specific device in mind, please reach out to a local Center for more information on the options.

Can a device be shipped to an individual? Do they have to pay for shipping?

- Yes, FFAST can ship devices directly to an individual for free. When requesting a device loan from a local Regional Demonstration Center, let them know that the device should be shipped. Other pick-up methods are available such as curbside pick-up.

If someone request a device online, how long does it take to receive it?

- After requesting a device loan, a local Regional Demonstration Center will contact that individual to complete an application. After the application is received, the processing time is about 3-7 days business days.

If someone borrows a device and they like it, can they keep it?

- While an individual can not keep that device, FFAST will point them in the right direction to acquire their own!

How many devices can someone borrow at once?

- FFAST allows a borrower to take home up to four devices at a time.

The device someone borrowed isn't what they expected and will not meet their needs. Can they borrow a different one?

- An individual can borrow another device until they find what works best for them. A great thing about FFAST's device loan program is that an individual can keep trying before they commit to a device.

How much does it cost to borrow a device?

- This service is free! If an individual requests the device be shipped to them, FFAST will cover the shipping both ways.

Now that an individual has found the device that will work for them, what funding resources does FFAST offer?

- FFAST offers financial loans to acquire assistive technology. FFAST also has a ReUse program where they may find the device they were looking for at a Regional ReUse Center or on the AT List.
- For insurance and funding questions, since everyone's situation may be different, an individual can call your a Regional Demonstration Center or the Statewide Help Desk at 844-353-2278 or [info@faastinc.org](mailto:info@faastinc.org). FFAST also has videos that cover funding assistive technology on our training webinars and the FFAST YouTube channel.

Can someone borrow a device on behalf of a student/patient/employee?

- Yes, an individual can borrow it on behalf of someone else. Whoever signs the device loan agreement is responsible for the return and upkeep of the device.

## Training and Public Awareness

What size groups does FFAST offer training?

- FFAST can provide training to individuals and any size groups.

Can FFAST come to a home, office, or school for the training?

- Anyone can schedule a training at an office and school by contacting a local Regional Demonstration Center for their availability.

Does FFAST provide virtual training?

- FFAST provides both in-person and virtual training. To schedule a training session, contact a local demonstration center. FFAST also offers bi-monthly assistive technology webinars. These are free live webinars with topics that range from products to funding. FFAST posts the recording of these webinars on the FFAST YouTube channel.

Can an individual pick the training topic?

- If there is a specific topic you would like more training on, FFAST is happy to provide on-demand and customized assistive technology training.

Can anyone receive training on FFAST Services?

- If an individual wants to know more about FFAST and the resources we provide, FFAST can schedule a presentation for them.

## Financial Loans

What type of devices can an individual finance?

- An individual can finance any type of assistive technology, including modified vehicles, accessible home modifications, and technology needed for employment.

What is the difference between a device loan and the New Horizon Loan Program?

- The device loan program is a service that allows someone to borrow a device for a short period to help decide if this is the right device for them, while waiting for funding or repair, and to help them increase their knowledge of assistive technology. The New Horizon Loan Program is a financial loan program with flexible terms and lower interest rates that provide funding to purchase assistive technology.

Are there credit and debt-to-income requirements?

- FFAST's program, while more flexible than traditional bank loans, still has some credit and debt-to-income limitations. The target guidelines are a credit score of 600, and a maximum debt-to-income is 50%; however, the entire credit history is reviewed, and FFAST works with each borrower to understand reasons and causes of scores that might not fit into these guidelines.

An individual is on a fixed income. Can they receive a loan?

- FFAST's program does not have income requirements and has been able to benefit individuals on a fixed income. The debt to income ratio will analyze their

income amount compared to their housing and debt payments to determine if they meet the underwriting criteria guidelines.

What is the maximum amount an individual can finance?

- The maximum loan amount for most secured loans is \$25,000 and up to \$40,000 for vehicle purchases based on additional underwriting criteria. For unsecured loans, there are also additional underwriting criteria for loans over \$12,000.

How does an individual qualify for a loan?

- FAAST evaluates each client's ability to pay back a loan in manageable monthly payments. FAAST reviews their credit, debt to income and analyze other criteria to make a loan decision. Any Florida resident who is an individual with a disability (or their family member, friend, or caregiver who is a Florida resident) may apply for a loan for consideration of approval.

How long does the process take?

- Every application and situation is different; however, it is reasonable to expect a loan decision to be made within 10 days - 2 weeks from the application date.

What is the monthly payment?

- FAAST tries to work with our applicants to find manageable monthly payments. The monthly payments vary from client to client and are based on the amount financed, interest rate, and term length.

How long are the loan terms?

- Loan terms may be as long as 60 months depending on the loan amount, type of assistive technology, and payments need of the borrower. For most vehicle loans, the term can be extended out to 84 months.

What are the interest rates?

- FAAST's goal is to provide competitive and in most cases, lower, interest rates than a traditional bank would offer for similar loans. FAAST keeps the rates as low as possible to help borrowers avoid predatory lenders and keep monthly payments and terms within the borrower's capacity.

## **Recycling, Refurbishing, and ReUse**

Are items posted on the AT List free?

- Any item posted by one of FAAST's five Regional ReUse Centers is free! Community members can sell their devices on the AT List and may have fees or shipping costs.

The device an individual wants on the AT List is far from them. Does FAAST provide shipping?

- Since there are some large items on the AT List, it depends on the item and location. Please contact the Regional ReUse Center that posted the item to learn more about pick-up and delivery options.

Who is eligible to receive a device from the AT List?

- FAAST allows all Floridians who have a disability, their family members, or their representatives to participate in this AT List.

How many devices can someone get at once?

- It depends on the availability of the items and if several people are requesting the device. FAAST wants to give individuals as many as they need but want to make sure everyone has a chance to receive a device.

What type of devices are on the AT List?

- FAAST typically receives a majority of donated durable medical equipment and aids for daily living; however, we accept all types of assistive technology!

Can anyone post a device on the AT List?

- Yes! Anyone can either donate it to a local Regional ReUse Center or post it themselves on the AT List. To post an ad, visit [www.faast.org/listings](http://www.faast.org/listings)

What kind of equipment donations does FAAST accept?

- FAAST accepts all types of assistive technology! Contact a local Regional Reuse Center for more on how to donate a device.

Can FAAST bring the device to an individual?

- Since some devices are large and resources may be limited to transport the equipment, it is a case-by-case situation.

How long can someone keep the equipment?

- An individual can keep the device for as long as they need it! FAAST only asks that they return it when they're done with it so someone else who needs it can use it, keeping the ReUse cycle going!

An individual's device is broken, can FAAST repair it?

- The Regional ReUse Centers can repair broken assistive technology devices. A trained staff member or community partner will fix the device. Funds for this service are limited, so device repairs are on a first-come, first-serve basis.

How long do device repairs take?

- Since every situation is different, repair wait times vary. To borrow a device during repair, ask a local Regional ReUse Center!

## Definitions and Popular Terms

**Assistive Technology (AT)** is any item, piece of equipment, or product system that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of individuals who have disabilities and older adults. Assistive technology provides people who have disabilities the option to access education and the workplace, to live within their communities, and enjoy recreational activities. (Page 3)

**Assistive Technology Service** - An assistive technology service directly assists an individual with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an AT device. (Page 3)

**Assistive Technology Training** activities are instructional events, usually planned in advance for a specific purpose or audience that are designed to increase participants' knowledge, skills, and competencies regarding AT. (Page 5)

**Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)** is a term that's used to describe various methods of communication that can help people who are unable to use verbal speech to communicate. AAC methods vary and may be personalized to meet each individual's needs. (Page 8)

**Device Demonstration** compare the features and benefits of a particular AT device or category of devices for an individual or small group of individuals. (Page 4)

**Durable Medical Equipment (DME)** is any equipment that provides therapeutic benefits to an individual in need because of certain medical conditions and/or illnesses. DME consists of items which: are primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose; are not useful to a person in the absence of illness or injury; are ordered or prescribed by a physician; are reusable; can stand repeated use and are appropriate for use in the home. DME includes, but is not limited to, wheelchairs (manual and electric), hospital beds, traction equipment, canes, crutches, walkers, kidney machines, ventilators, oxygen, monitors, pressure mattresses, lifts, nebulizers, bili blankets and bili lights. (Page 5)

**Financial Loans** are monetary loans given to individuals for purchase of AT devices and services. The purpose for the financial loan is 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). (Page 5)

**Information and Assistance** activities are conducted to provide individuals with accurate, timely, and complete responses to their requests for information about assistive technology devices and services and about the AT services offered by FFAST. (Page 5)

**New Horizon Loan Program (NHLP)** is the name of the financial loan program at FFAST. (Page 23)

**Reutilization** is a term define as the act of using something again for a particular purpose. (Page 5)

**Short-Term Device Loan** allows individuals, employers, public agencies, or others seeking to meet the needs of targeted individuals and entities, including others seeking to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), the ability to borrow assistive technology devices for up to 30 days. (Page 4)

## Contact FFAST

Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology, Inc.

820 E Park Ave, D-200, Tallahassee, FL 32301

Phone: 850-487-3278

Toll-Free: 844-353-2278

TTY: 877-506-2723

Fax: 850-575-4216

Email: [info@faastinc.org](mailto:info@faastinc.org)

Website: [www.faast.org](http://www.faast.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FAASTInc>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/FAASTInc>

Instagram: @FAASTInc

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrjfh4gW3u33TgWrQrECXJA>

This publication was made possible by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living. FFAST also receives funding from the Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocation Rehabilitation. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the above entities.