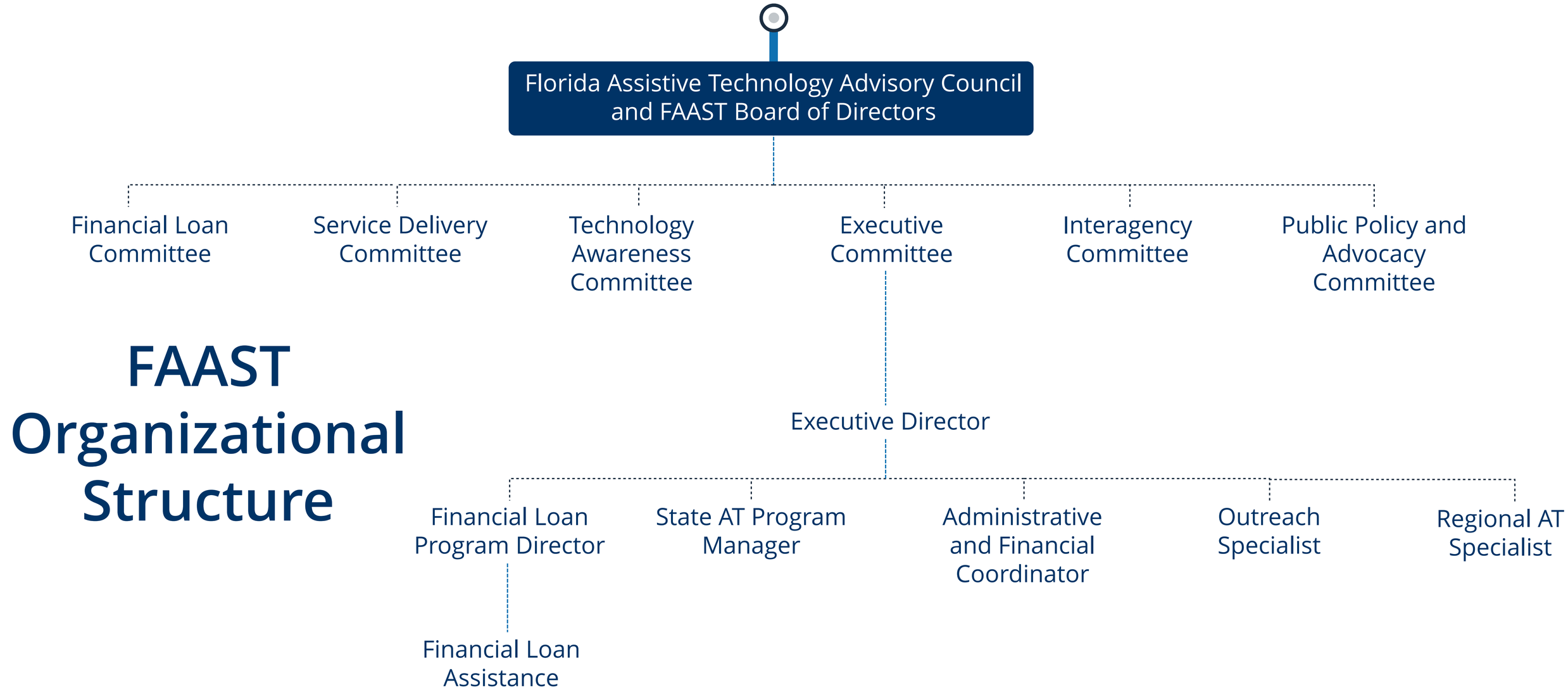
2022 ATAC ORIENTATION

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 by increasing access to assistive technology through empowerment and collaboration.

FAAST Organizational Structure



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Regional AT Specialist
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Administrative and Financial Coordinator
Megan Atkinson
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Ext. 105

Outreach Specialist
Tim McCann
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Ext. 103

Internal Structure

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

FAAST.org/services/

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT AND

STATE PLAN

FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

FAAST FY 2023 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 **$838,291**. 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 **$750,000** 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 **$1,588,291**.

FAAST FY 2023 Income, Continued…

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 $1,714,065.53,** per the latest bank statements from Smith Bruer Advisors ending October 31, 2022.

FAAST FY 2023

INCOME CONTINUED

FAAST has two grants continuing in fiscal year 22-23

- Step Up Grant, University of Miami, Year 3 of 5, **$36,323.14**
- Get Out and Play, Craig H. Neilsen Foundation, Year 2 of 2, **$36,000.00**

FAAST received a two new 1-year grants beginning October 2022

- AFP Grant, Administration for Community Living, **$640,343.00**
- AT Public Health Workforce, Administration for Community Living, **$80,000.00**

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 October 31, 2022, the Board Designated Operating Reserve has **$303,169.18**

FAAST Contractual Obligations

- FAAST has two contracts with the Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), for the HHS funds and the General Revenue (GR) funds and for AT Public Health Workforce funds.

- The VR contract supports 12 Regional Demonstration Centers (RDCs) and 10 AT Reutilization Grants.

FAAST Financials

COPIES ARE IN YOUR ORIENTATION PACKET

- 2020 Tax Form 990
- FY 2021 Audit Financial Statements
- FY 2022-2023 Annual Budget with Amendment
- Certificate of Status
- July 2022 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?

FLORIDA ALLIANCE FOR ASSISTIVE SERVICES & TECHNOLOGY

FAAST

Policies and Procedures

ATAC Bylaws

Committees

ATAC Committees

- Interagency Committee
- Technology Awareness Committee
- Public Policy and Advocacy Committee
- Financial Loan 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.

FINANCIAL LOAN COMMITTEE

Members of the committee shall be appointed by the chairperson. The secretary/treasurer will serve on the committee. The function of the Financial Loan Committee is to oversee and review the activities of the FAAST Financial Loan Program in accordance with federal/state requirements. The Committee will review and report on financial and program activities of the FAAST Financial Loan 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).

Analyze and study the current service delivery model and determine if FAAST is making the best use of resources, abilities, and knowledge to meet the needs of Floridians with disabilities.

Assist staff with creation of the new VR contract deliverables and model service delivery plan to best meet these deliverables.

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

1. Board Member Role Article
2. Board Responsibilities Guide
3. Case Study for Advisory Council
4. Introduction to Advisory Councils
5. Overview of Florida Sunshine and Public Records Law
6. Quick Guide to Parliamentary Procedures

ATAC Member Roster and Member Directory

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:

FAAST.org

FAAST is also on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram