In 2020, FAAST reached the milestone of funding over $1 MILLION in financial loans since the program began in June 2015.

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</table>
FAAST is the state of Florida’s assistive technology program. Assistive technology activities provided by FAAST include device loans, device demonstrations, device reutilization, device training, information and assistance, and a state-wide financing program. FAAST serves Floridians with disabilities and their family members, service providers, educators, therapists, employers, health and rehabilitation professionals, assistive technology vendors, and all other interested parties throughout Florida.

The Florida Alliance for Assistive Services & Technology, Inc. is a non-profit organization focused on enhancing inclusion for Floridians with disabilities of all ages through collaboration and empowerment. By creating a collaborative environment for individuals with disabilities, their families, educators, government officials, and other community stakeholders, we enhance the community for us all.
2021 Assistive Technology Advisory Council

Enrique Escallon, Co-Chair FY2021
Paul Tobin, Co-Chair FY2021
Janet Good, State Representative FY2021
Eddie Hall, NHLP Chair FY2021
Kailey Medlock, Member At-Large FY2021
Brian Nerland, Member At-Large FY2021
Brande Shelton, Treasurer/Secretary FY2021
Shavaughn Barnes
James Bayonne
Horace Brown, Vocational Rehabilitation Representative
Stephanie Brown, Division of Blind Services Representative
Betsy Burgos
Genevieve English-Charles, Division of Blind Services Representative
Ryan Fierst, Department of Economic Opportunity Representative
Katy Howell
Mary Jarrett
Lesa Kretschmer
Marcial Lembert
TJ Moon
Elizabeth Moya, Department of Education Representative
Brandon Palermo
Renee Proctor
Monica Russell, Career Source Florida Representative
The 2020-2021 fiscal year was a historic year for FAAST. It was the first year implementing the Strategic Plan 2020, a three-year plan created by the Assistive Technology Advisory Council (ATAC) in the summer of 2020. FAAST began working to raise public awareness of the organization and expand FAAST services to reach more Floridians through an equitable and quality service, all while addressing structural and operational opportunities.

FAAST has a new look! This fiscal year brought new branding standards to the organization that gave the FAAST logo a refreshing and active appearance. With the new brand standards, FAAST updated all of its marketing materials and even created some new ones, like the State Agency Toolkit, a reference guide for agencies to understand and utilize assistive technology with clients. FAAST also began a renewed focus on collecting client testimonials, strengthening relationships with partner organizations and businesses, and expanding online training webinars.
Evaluating and Updating the FAAST Service Delivery through the Regional Demonstration Center Program

Serving all Floridians through an equitable and quality service delivery model is no small task! FAAST took this on by first evaluating the Regional Demonstration Center program model. FAAST has historically served clients with disabilities through six regional locations in Pensacola, Tallahassee, Jacksonville, Tampa, Orlando, and Miami. FAAST services were being provided in the immediate areas for these locations but not as frequently in the bordering counties. The Assistive Technology Advisory Council researched other states’ Assistive Technology Act programs for best practices and analyzed FAAST data from the last five years to create a new service delivery model based on 12 regional locations. The new model expands FAAST services to help reach all 67 counties in a more equitable manner. FAAST brought on many new partners, and the new Regional Demonstration Center locations opened on October 1, 2021.
The last piece of the Strategic Plan 2020 focused on internal operations and structure. Under the new Executive Director’s lead, FAAST updated its organization chart and refreshed employee job descriptions and titles. Every manual was reviewed and updated to ensure appropriate processes were implemented throughout the organization. The final piece was a review and update to the FAAST By-laws, which broke the Interagency and Public Policy and Advocacy Committee into two committees.
What is Assistive Technology (A.T.)?

Assistive technology helps people with disabilities live, work, learn and play as independently as possible. A.T. is any device, item, gadget, tool, hardware, or software used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of individuals of all ages with disabilities and older adults who may find a need for assistance. Assistive technology provides people with disabilities the option to access education and the workplace, live within their communities, and enjoy recreational activities.
Did you know that the term “assistive technology” applies to everything from post-it notes to motorized mobility devices, as long as it assists the individual in need of assistance?

Assistive technology device demonstrations, short-term loans, training, and information and assistance activities are conducted across the state of Florida by the FAAST Regional Demonstration Centers. These centers are located in Pensacola, Orlando, Tampa, and Miami, with new locations in Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Gainesville, Winter Park, Ft. Myers, and Ft. Lauderdale. Visitors can see examples of assistive technology, such as speech-generating devices, adaptive computer equipment, and aids for daily living.

The following data is from the FAAST Annual Progress Report required from the Administration for Community Living. For a copy of the report, please contact Whitney Doyle at WDoyle@FAAST.org.
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.

In 2021, 2,082 individuals participated in 1,058 device demonstrations conducted by FAAST Regional Demonstration Centers. Projecting a modest $100 savings for the individual realized by just half of the total demonstrations conducted results in statewide savings of $52,900.

Number and Type of Demonstrations of AT Devices/Services

*See page 14 for icon references*
### Number and Type of Participants in Device Demonstrations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>720</td>
<td>Individuals with Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>795</td>
<td>Family Members, Guardians, and Authorized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Representatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87</td>
<td>Representatives of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Representatives of Employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>358</td>
<td>Representatives of Health, Allied Health, and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rehabilitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93</td>
<td>Representatives of Community Living</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Representatives of Technology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Primary Purpose for Which Demonstrated AT is Needed and Decision-Making Outcome

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>WILL</th>
<th>WILL NOT</th>
<th>Have not made a decision</th>
<th>Nonrespondent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Living</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Decided that AT device/service **WILL** meet needs
- Decided that AT device/service **WILL NOT** meet needs
- Have not made a decision
- Nonrespondent
Participant Rating Services

- Highly Satisfied - 1,875
- Satisfied - 197
- Satisfied Somewhat - 8
- Nonrespondent - 2

Participant Rating Services: 90.06% Highly Satisfied, 9.46% Satisfied, 0.38% Satisfied Somewhat, 0.1% Nonrespondent.
Device Short-Term Loans

The device loan program provides short-term loans of assistive technology devices to individuals with disabilities, family members, professionals, and others. The devices are used at home, in schools, at work, and in the community. The program allows potential technology users the opportunity to try out devices to ensure that it is a good fit prior to purchase, to use as a backup, or to use while waiting on funding.

In 2021, 1,799 individuals borrowed 2,905 devices for short-term device loans operated through FAAST Regional Demonstration Centers. Assuming an average savings of $1,000 per device loan (as determined by the National Assistive Technology Act Technical Assistance and Training Center) and keeping in mind multiple items are often borrowed to find a solution, we calculate a statewide savings of $1.1 million. In addition, assuming a minimal $10-per-day rental fee for the average device loan period, we project a statewide savings of $156,000 for devices borrowed to meet a short-term need (since these devices did not have to be rented).
Primary Purpose of Short-Term Device Loan

- Assist in decision-making (device trial or evaluation)
- Serve as a loaner during service repair or while waiting for funding
- Provide an accommodation on a short-term basis for a time-limited event/situation
- Conduct training, self-education or other professional development activity

- Assist in decision-making (device trial or evaluation)
  - 23
- Serve as a loaner during service repair or while waiting for funding
  - 285
- Provide an accommodation on a short-term basis for a time-limited event/situation
  - 212
- Conduct training, self-education or other professional development activity
  - 1,279
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Device and Number of Loans</th>
<th>Type of Device and Number of Loans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>VISION</strong></td>
<td><strong>DAILY LIVING</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Vision Icon" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Daily Living Icon" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>339</td>
<td>311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HEARING</strong></td>
<td><strong>ENVIRONMENTAL ADAPTATIONS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Hearing Icon" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Environmental Adaptations Icon" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPEECH COMMUNICATION</strong></td>
<td><strong>VEHICLE MODIFICATION AND TRANSPORTATION</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Speech Communication Icon" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Vehicle Modification Icon" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>493</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LEARNING, COGNITION, AND DEVELOPMENT</strong></td>
<td><strong>COMPUTERS AND RELATED</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Learning Icon" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Computers Icon" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>281</td>
<td>1,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MOBILITY, SEATING, AND POSITIONING</strong></td>
<td><strong>RECREATION, SPORTS, AND LEISURE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Mobility Icon" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Recreation Icon" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>134</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Outcomes for Decision-Making Loans

Community Living
- Decided that AT device/service **WILL** meet needs: 490
- Decided that AT device/service **WILL NOT** meet needs: 39
- Have not made a decision: 27
- Nonrespondent: 17

Employment
- Decided that AT device/service **WILL** meet needs: 82
- Decided that AT device/service **WILL NOT** meet needs: 6
- Have not made a decision: 4

Education
- Decided that AT device/service **WILL** meet needs: 453
- Decided that AT device/service **WILL NOT** meet needs: 59
- Have not made a decision: 71
- Nonrespondent: 27
Participants Rating Services

- **HIGHLY SATISFIED**: 83.82%, 1,508
- **SATISFIED**: 4.89%, 88
- **SATISFIED SOMEWHAT**: 0.44%, 8
- **NOT AT ALL SATISFIED**: 0.22%, 4
- **NONRESPONDENT**: 10.62%, 191

Response Rate = 89.38%
Reason for Accessing Loaned AT

- Could only afford the AT through the AT program: 11
- AT was only available through the AT program: 13
- AT was available through other programs, but the system was too complex or the wait time too long: 47
- Nonrespondent: 15

**Community Living**
- Could only afford the AT through the AT program: 97
- AT was only available through the AT program: 43
- AT was available through other programs, but the system was too complex or the wait time too long: 20
- Nonrespondent: 15

**Employment**
- Could only afford the AT through the AT program: 86
- AT was only available through the AT program: 9
- AT was available through other programs, but the system was too complex or the wait time too long: 26
- Nonrespondent: 9

**Education**
- Could only afford the AT through the AT program: 15
- AT was only available through the AT program: 20
- AT was available through other programs, but the system was too complex or the wait time too long: 26
- Nonrespondent: 9
Assistive Technology 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 the goal of increasing skills, knowledge, and competency.

In FY 2021, FAAST trained a total of 10,024 participants.

Participants in Assistive Technology Training

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2,744</td>
<td>Individuals with Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,710</td>
<td>Family Members, Guardians, and Authorized Representatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>398</td>
<td>Representatives of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,167</td>
<td>Representatives of Employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,852</td>
<td>Representatives of Health, Allied Health, and Rehabilitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>532</td>
<td>Representatives of Community Living</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74</td>
<td>Representatives of Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>547</td>
<td>Unable to Categorize</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Primary Topic of Training and Number of Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AT Products/Services</td>
<td>9,909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AT Funding/Policy/Practice</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combination of any/all of the above</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### #FAAST Fact:

17K Services Provided to Individuals.

FAAST provided an estimated 17,054 assistive technology services to individuals throughout Florida.
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.

In FY 2021, FAAST provided information and assistance services to 3,671 individuals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Recipients</th>
<th>AT Device/Service</th>
<th>AT Funding</th>
<th>Total Participant Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals with Disabilities</td>
<td>1,054</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>1,455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Members, Guardians, and Authorized Representatives</td>
<td>829</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representatives of Education</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representatives of Employment</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representatives of Health, Allied Health, and Rehabilitation</td>
<td>727</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representatives of Community Living</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representatives of Technology</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unable to Categorize</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,069</strong></td>
<td><strong>602</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,671</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
State Financing

As a direct lender, FAAST makes loans to qualified individuals with disabilities and their families for assistive technology devices and services. FAAST 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. FAAST works with individuals who have low credit scores and fixed incomes.

In 2021, 69 borrowers obtained financial loans totaling $468,119 to buy 119 devices. The vast majority (92.7%) of recipients indicated that if the state financing activity they used was not available, they would not have been able to purchase/obtain the AT device due to cost or availability, potentially resulting in individuals who are unable to successfully work, learn, or live in the community.
## Loan Made to Applicants by Income Range

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Range</th>
<th># of Loans</th>
<th>% of Loans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$15,000 or Less</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$15,001 - $30,000</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$30,001 - $45,000</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>23.19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$45,001 - $60,000</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$60,001 - $70,000</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$70,001 or More</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14.49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>69</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Interest Rates

- **Highest Interest Rate**: 8%
- **Lowest Interest Rate**: 5%
- **Average Interest Rate**: 5.56%
### Number and Dollar Value of Loans Made

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of AT</th>
<th># of Devices Financed</th>
<th>$ Value of Loans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vision</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>$32,541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearing</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>$172,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech Communication</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning, Cognition, and Development</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobility, Seating, and Positioning</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>$58,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Living</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>$73,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Adaptations</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Modification and Transportation</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>$125,907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computers and Related</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$1,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation, Sports, and Leisure</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$3,148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purpose and Reason</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Could only afford the AT through the AT program</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AT was only available through the AT program</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AT was available through other programs, but the system was too complex or the wait time too long</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the Above</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonrespondent</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Loan Partners

FAAST continued to provide modified vehicle loans and disability-related home modification loans through the help of two key partners. First Federal Bank of Florida continues to provide support for vehicle loans through the Bank Guarantee program, and SELF, a Florida-based non-profit, continues to provide support for home modifications through the interest-rate buy-down program. Both organizations are important partners for FAAST to be able to extend loans and the opportunity for credit to more individuals throughout Florida.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Loan</th>
<th># of Devices Financed</th>
<th>$ Value of Loans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct Loan Program</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>$337,274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Guarantee Program</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>$172,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Buy-Down Program</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$48,945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>69</strong></td>
<td><strong>$468,119</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Device Reutilization

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. FAAST partnered with Centers for Independent Living in Pensacola, Largo, Ft. Myers, Ft. Lauderdale, and Miami to provide reutilization services.

In 2021, 433 recipients acquired 636 reutilized devices through FAAST. A total of $144,869 was saved by device recipients by purchasing/obtaining reutilized AT instead of new. In addition, 85% of the reutilized device recipients indicated that they would not have been able to afford the AT or obtain it from other sources if it were not for the reuse services of FAAST. The cost of those individuals being unable to work, learn or live in the community without the AT they need would be immeasurable.
## Reutilization Activities by Device Category and Cost

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device Category</th>
<th>Reassigned/Refurbished and Repaired</th>
<th>Current Purchase Price</th>
<th>Which Device(s) Were Sold</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vision</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearing</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>$1,550</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech Communication</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning, Cognition, and Development</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobility, Seating, and Positioning</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>$103,276</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Living</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>$17,858</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Adaptations</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>$8,410</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Modification and Transportation</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>$7,041</td>
<td>$240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computers and Related</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>$4,600</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation, Sports, and Leisure</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$1,675</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Could only afford the AT through the AT program
AT was only available through the AT program
AT was available through other programs, but the system was too complex or the wait time too long
Nonrespondent

Primary Purpose for Which AT is Needed and Reason for Using the Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Living</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>355</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Participants Rating Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highly Satisfied</th>
<th>396</th>
<th>91.45%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Satisfied</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>8.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfied Somewhat</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all Satisfied</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonrespondent</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Response Rate

100%
The Step Up AT to Promote Early Literacy project is an innovative and integrated toolkit with online and in-person professional development resources to support parents and train early childhood teachers to adopt evidenced-based AT practices. The project emphasizes the use of AT tools and strategies to support early literacy experiences for young children with disabilities. The program is delivered with individualized coaching in early childhood classrooms so that teachers not only receive training but also AT is applied and integrated into their everyday practices. Currently, the region of focus is South Florida; however, the intention is to serve all of Florida and beyond. The Step Up AT Project at the University of Miami Mailman Center for Child Development began fall of 2016 in partnership with the Florida’s state AT program - FAAST.
Where We’ve Been

In preparation for year four of Step Up AT (2019-20), we worked with a consultant to strengthen our coaching model based on the current evidence-based Practice-Based Coaching (PBC) model. With a consultant, we developed a new coaching framework based on 12 essential AT teaching practices and the key components of PBC—collaborative partnerships, goal setting and action plans, practice-based observation, and debriefing with the teacher. Year four was the second year of the randomized control trial phase, which began in September 2018.

This fourth year included two childcare centers that served as intervention schools and two new centers that served as control schools. The two schools receiving the intervention included 9 specialized classrooms, 22 teachers and aides, and 32 children with diverse abilities and their primary caregivers. Two Step Up AT coaches delivered the program during year four using the PBC model. Post-intervention data still needs to be analyzed for final results. In previous years, the pre to post-intervention data shows that teachers who have participated in Step Up AT have significantly increased their AT use in the classroom. In total, 74 teachers have participated, and 135 children and their parents across 7 schools.
Where We’re Going

We have just received another round of funding from the US Department of Education. These next 5 years will again be focused on the South Florida region; however, the project is expanding to a virtual train-the-trainer model. Our coaches will now be Master Coaches who train in-service specialists who work at school centers and programs such as Head Start. With this model, we will modify our resources to fit the training and development needs of the participating sites so that their professional development resources can be used ongoing within these programs that serve children with and at risk for delays or disabilities. FAAST will continue to serve as our collaborative partner to maintain and strengthen the Step Up AT Lending Library, and to build and host more robust online resources for Step Up AT and their collaborating school partners.

Our partnership with Head Start of Miami-Dade continues to grow; there are 7 sites under consideration for the next school year. The team found that when peer coaches can put forth maximum effort and attention on a smaller set of teachers, there is a greater chance of implementation and fidelity. Step Up AT is very excited to continue strengthening the corps of professionals equipped with the knowledge to plan for and use assistive technology in the preschool setting.
Craig H. Neilsen Foundation Pandemic Support Fund

FAAST received a grant from the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation to support individuals who have spinal cord injuries during the COVID-19 pandemic. With this grant, FAAST was able to purchase technology devices to allow 39 Floridians to access online content. FAAST provided a choice of a tablet or lightweight laptop for each participant. Through a pre and post-survey, FAAST learned that 75% of participants stated that a lack of technology was the barrier to them participating in online activities. This number dropped to 26% after receiving a device.
Revenue

- Grants and Contracts: 73.7%
- Interest from Financial Loans: 23.8%
- Investment Return: 1.5%
- Contributions: 0.7%
- Other Income: 0.3%

How We Are Funded

- State AT
- Federal AT: $700,000
- Grants: $200,000
- Investment Returns: $400,000
- Other: $30,000
Expenses

- Assistive Technology Program: 82.23%
- State Financing Program: 10.78%
- Administrative: 6.98%
FAAST Resource Directory

A one-stop resource for all things related to Assistive Technology; a searchable database that allows users to use multiple keywords, including specific types of AT, location, and classifications. Additionally, it enables partner/center autonomy within the FAAST brand guidelines.

The Resource Directory allows users to find the following on the searchable database:

- Regional Centers (RDC)
- Regional Reuse Centers (RRC)
- Centers for Independent Living (CIL)
- AT Vendor / Business Directory
- AT Providers
- Employers (Partners who want to post job opportunities)
- Financial Assistance/Loan Programs
- Classifieds (User Posted)
- Events
- Blogs
- Video Tutorials

This tool makes AT more accessible by allowing users to connect with service providers in a practical way and find/purchase available equipment in their area.
Regional Locations 2022

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.

Atlantic RDC
Regions Served - Brevard, Orange, Seminole, and Volusia
University of Central Florida School of Communication Sciences and Disorders
3280 Progress Drive, Suite 250
Orlando, FL 32826
Tel: 407-823-4876
AtlanticRDC@FAAST.org

Broward RDC
Regions Served - Broward
University of Miami Mailman Center for Child Development
1601 NW 12th Avenue, # 2018
Miami, FL 33136
Tel: 305-243-5706 | TTY: 305-243-7885
ANevaras@Med.Miami.Edu

Central RDC
Regions Served - Hillsborough, Manatee, and Pinellas
Tampa General Hospital
6 Tampa General Circle, Room 214
Tampa, FL 33606
Tel: 813-844-7591 | TTY: 813-844-7767
FAASTcen@TGH.org

Gulf Coast RDC
Regions Served - Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Walton
Center for Independent Living of Northwest Florida
21 South Tarragona Street, Suite 101
Pensacola, FL 32502
Tel/TTY: 850-595-5566
Sorenson VRS: 850-208-3106
Video Relay: 711
Info@CILNWF.org

Midland RDC
Regions Served - Hardee, Highlands, Osceola, Polk
Center for Independent Living in Central Florida Inc. (CIL-CF)
720 N Denning Drive
Winter Park, FL 32789
Tel: 407-623-1070 | Video Relay: 711
MidlandRDC@FAAST.org

North Central RDC
Regions Served - Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Marion, Suwannee, Union
Center for Independent Living of North Central Florida
222 SW 36th Terrace, Gainesville, FL 32607
Tel: 352-378-7474
MBrisbane@CILNCF.org
Northeast RDC
Regions Served - Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, and Saint Johns
Center for Independent Living of Jacksonville
2709 Art Museum Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32207
Tel: 904-399-8484
JWood@CILJacksonville.org

Northwest RDC
Regions Served - Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla, and Washington
FAAST State Headquarters
2145 Delta Blvd, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32303
Tel: 850-487-3278 | TTY: 1-877-506-2723
Info@FAAST.org

South RDC
Regions Served - Miami-Dade and Monroe University of Miami Mailman Center for Child Development
1601 NW 12th Avenue, # 2018
Miami, FL 33136
Tel: 305-243-5706 | TTY: 305-243-7885
ANevares@Med.Miami.Edu

Southeast RDC
Regions Served - Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, and Saint Lucie
Center for Independent Living of Broward
4800 N State Rd 7, Suite 102
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33319
Tel: 954-722-6400
SoutheastRDC@FAAST.org

Southwest RDC
Regions Served - Collier, Hendry, Lee, Sarasota, Charlotte, DeSoto, and Glades
Center for Independent Living of Gulf Coast
7011 Cypress Terrace Suite 103
Fort Myers, Florida 33907
Tel: 239-260-4575
Video Phone: 954-320-6860
SouthWestRDC@FAAST.org

West Central RDC
Regions Served - Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Pasco, and Sumter
Hope Services, Inc.
5426 Land O Lakes Blvd.
Land O Lakes, FL 34639
Tel: 813-907-3731
Office@HopeGetsJobs.com
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.

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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

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

CIL of South Florida
6666 Biscayne Blvd, Miami, FL 33138
Voice: (305) 751-8025
Videophone: (786) 347-7318
Email: info@cilsf.org
Thank You to Our 2021 Partners!

Center for Independent Broward
Center for Independent of Gulf Coast
Center for Independent of Northwest Florida
Center for Independent of South Florida
Disability Achievement Center
Hope Haven
Tampa General Rehabilitation Center
The Family Café
University of Central Florida Communication Disorders Clinic
University of Miami Mailman Center for Child Development

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