Assistive Technology and Disability Resources and Funding

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Overview

- This training will provide information about:
  - Utah assistive technology and disability resources
  - National assistive technology and disability resources
  - Agencies and foundations that provide funding for assistive technology
  - Anything else?
"Ninety-eight percent of the adults in this country are decent, hard-working, honest Americans. It's the other lousy 2% that get all the publicity. But then - we elected them." — Lily Tomlin
Utah AT Information Sources

- Access Utah Network 800-333-8824 (Equipment, ADA & Services)
- Sanderson Center for the Deaf 800-860-4860 (I & R; coping with hearing loss; AT info)
- Utah Parent Center 800-468-1160 (Conferences, IEP training, AT information, referral and assistance, support groups, newsletter)
- UCAT 888-866-5550 (I & R, training, AT demo, adaptive computers)
- AT Lab, USU 435-797-0699 (Device demo, repair, training, evaluation)
- USDB 800-990-9328 (Disability determination services, therapists & audiologists; Early intervention; Deaf-Blind Services; Library; Foundation; Special Education Services (aides, itinerate teachers, etc.)
- DSBVI 800-284-1823 (Computer evaluation and training, orientation and mobility services, daily living skills, home repair courses, low vision screening, magnification, and other aids. Services are provided at the Center and in the community statewide. Also provides preschool vision screening, services to people who are deaf and blind, and IL services to older Utahns who are blind)
- Assist 801-355-7085 (Housing and accessibility design assistance to nonprofit and community groups and low income persons with disabilities; emergency home repair for SLC seniors, & low income)
Access Utah Network

- Provides Information and referral on disabilities
- Statewide services include:
  - List of used and new equipment
  - ADA resources
  - Human Services Information
  - Events calendar
  - Disability Links
- 800-333-UTAH (8824)
- Language line: 801-533-4636
- www.accessut.state.ut.us
Sanderson Center for the Deaf

- 800-860-4860
- www.deafservices.utah.gov
- Provides information, referral and resources to businesses, private and public agencies throughout Utah; resources on coping with hearing loss; and assistive technology information.
Utah Parent Center

- 800-468-1160, Español: 801-272-1067
- www.utahparentcenter.org
- Conferences, training, information, support, referral and assistance to parents & professionals
- Training workshops and presentations:
  - Parents as Partners in the IEP Process.
  - Having a Child with Special Needs in Your Family
  - Educated Transition Choices
  - Partnerships, Stress Management, Section 504, Others
Utah Center for Assistive Technology (UCAT)

- 888-866-5550 V/TTY
- State agency that provides training, fabrication, demonstration, funding information, and access to assistive technology devices and services, including adaptive computers
AT Lab at USU

- 435-797-0699
- www.uatpat.org
- Provides device training and demonstration, services, fabrication and modification, maintenance and repair, wheelchair evaluation, and adaptive computers
Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind (USDB)

- Disability determination services – can provide letters to support proof of disability for SSI
- Specialists
  - Therapists (low vision, occupational, physical, etc.)
  - Audiologists
- Parent-Infant Program (PIP) Early intervention
- Deaf-Blind Services
- State Special Education Services (provides aides, itinerate teachers, etc.)
Division of Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired (DSBVI)

- 800-284-1823
- www.usor.utah.gov/dsbvi.htm
- Provides computer evaluation and training, orientation and mobility services, daily living skills, home repair courses, low vision screening, magnification, and other aids. Services are provided at the Center and in the community statewide. Also provides preschool vision screening, services to people who are deaf and blind, and independent living services to older Utahns who are blind.
Assist

- Housing and accessibility design assistance to nonprofit and community groups and low income persons with disabilities; emergency home repair for SLC seniors, & people with low income

- 801-355-7085

- www.assistutah.org
Utah Clicks

- Program of the Utah Department of Health and Workforce Services that helps people complete and submit paperwork for Medicaid, Head Start, CHIP, CSHCN, Baby Watch, Baby your Baby, and Early Head Start

- [www.utahclicks.org](http://www.utahclicks.org)
Where can you look for other Utah disability information?

MY LIFE BROKEN DOWN INTO SEGMENTS

SLEEPING

WORKING

EATING

LOOKING FOR THINGS I HAD JUST A MINUTE AGO

CarlinChurch.com
Utah Resources

- 211
- Utah State Library for the Blind
  800-662-5540
- www.utah.gov
Services:

- Information and referral statewide on respite care, home health, Head Start, volunteer opportunities, counseling, protective services, shelters, support groups, employment counseling, training, adult day care, agencies, and more.

- Call 211 or 888-826-9790

- www.informationandreferral.org
Utah State Library for the Blind

- Braille, large print, and audio books; specialized playback equipment; and a radio are loaned by the library to eligible registered readers without charge.

- 800-662-5540 Toll free inside Utah
  800-453-4293 Toll free Out-of-State

- TTD 801-715-6721

- www.blindlibrary.utah.gov
State of Utah website

Available services

- Enroll Children’s Health Insurance Program
- Baby your Baby
- WIC
- Utah Cares – Community services directory
- State Agencies
- File taxes at no charge (low to mid income)

www.utah.gov
National AT Information

Do you know where to look for national assistive technology and disability information?
National AT Information

- www.ableddata.com 800-227-0216 – huge information database of AT
- www assistirivtech.net 800-726-9119 – database with products, discussion groups, AT Act programs
- www.fctd.info 202-884-8068 Family Center on Technology and Disability – free CD on AT, resources, links, more.
- www.resna.org 703-524-6686 – lists of loan and state AT programs, more.
Government Disability Information Resources

- Government
  - www.disabilityinfo.gov – “One-stop” info on disability-related information and government programs
  - www.FirstGov.gov – federal and state info - apply for grants, jobs, passport; consumer guides, etc.
  - www.govbenefits.gov – find government benefits you may be eligible for
Other National Disability Resources

- www.familyvillage.wisc.edu – info on disabilities, health, technology, recreation, education, resources, news groups, more.
- www.disabilityresources.org – extensive annotated list of internet resources including books, magazines, newsletters, videos, more.
- www.nichy.org – info on disabilities in children, state and national resources, legislation and educational practices
- www.aapd.com – large disability nonprofit which offers life insurance, prescription card, vehicle loans, no fee credit cards
Finding Funding

- What are the major funding sources for assistive technology?
Agencies that may fund AT

- Medicaid 800-662-9651
- Medicare 800-633-4227
- Private Insurance (check policy)
- Special Education (local school district)
- Children’s Special Health Care 800-829-8200
- Division of Services People w Disabilities 800-837-6811
- Division of Aging & Adult Services 877-424-4640
- Vocational Rehabilitation 800-473-7530
- Veteran’s Admin 800-613-4012
Medicaid

- Federal/state program provides basic AT for eligible people with low income. Funds devices classified as durable medical equipment, (DME) such as wheelchairs. DME means it can withstand repeated use, is used to serve a medical purpose, not useful in absence of illness or injury, and is appropriate for use in the home.

- Call 800-662-9651 or apply on the web at www.Utahclicks.org
Medicare

- Federal health insurance program that pays for medically necessary services (for diagnosis or treatment of illness or injury or to improve functioning of a malformed body member). and durable medical equipment (wheelchairs, walkers, hospital beds, etc.) for eligible beneficiaries with certain disabilities or who are age 65 and older.

- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)
Special Education

- Federal law requires that all children with disabilities receive a free appropriate education. Special education services are available on the basis of need.

- Assistive technology is eligible that is required for a free, appropriate public education.

- Assistive technology devices MUST be approved by the IEP team and written in the child’s IEP to be considered.

- For help in getting AT in the IEP, call the Utah Parent Center at 800-468-1160 or the Disability Law Center at 800-662-9080.
Children’s Special Health Services

- State agency (Utah Department of Health) that provides assessments, multi-disciplinary clinics, coordinated care and health services for children with disabilities throughout the state. Covers health-related items such as surgeries, MRI's, braces, x-rays, and lab expenses for financially eligible children.

- Call 800-829-8200.

- http://hlunix.hl.state.ut.us/cshcn/
Disability Law Center

- Enforces and strengthens laws that protect the opportunities, choices and legal rights of people with disabilities in Utah.
- Can help explain client’s rights, negotiate to get the AT they need, provide the names and numbers of other places that may help, and represent in a legal hearing if a client is denied AT. Free to eligible clients statewide.
- 800-662-9080 or 800-550-4182 TTY
- wwwdisabilitylawcenter.org
Division of Services for People with Disabilities

- State agency that serves people with mental retardation, cerebral palsy, autism, seizure disorders, brain injury, and motor disabilities if the person can’t use two limbs.

- Provides housing services; job placement and coaching; family support, respite, IL skills training; and some devices such as voice-activated software and wheelchairs.

- The division has a waiting list for services, but has a mandate to serve people with the most severe disabilities and those in crisis.

- 800-837-6811
Division of Aging and Adult Services

- Federal/state program to meet the needs of people who are 60 or older. Offers home and community-based services and low-tech devices such as grab bars, commodes, walkers, wheelchairs, smoke detectors, toilet rails, etc.

- Twelve Area Agencies on Aging provide services statewide.

- 1-877-424-4640
A Senior Moment...

That husband of mine is so inconsiderate!

This is the last time I take him grocery shopping with me.

I'm finished shopping but he's nowhere to be found!

What's keeping him?!

This is just like Earl to forget all about me.

Hey, Dad, have you seen mom lately?

She went to the store a few hours ago.

I swear, that man is getting more forgetful every day.

I'll bet he met someone he knows and they're having a gab fest somewhere!
Vocational Rehabilitation

- Federal/state program that provides employment related services for eligible citizens with disabilities, which may include medical treatment; physical, occupational, or speech therapy; VR counseling and guidance; on-the-job training; occupational/vocational training; job readiness, search and placement assistance; on-the-job supports; and transportation.

- Can provide a wide variety of employment-related assistive technology on a case-by-case basis.

- Call 800-473-7530
Other funding resources

- Centers for Independent Living – 800-355-2195
- Hearing Aid Recycling Program 800-829-8200, option 5
- Hear Now 1-800-648-4327
- Relay Utah Network 800-346-4128, 801-530-6638 TTY
- Eyecare4kids 801-255-8525
- Ability Foundation 801-261-5738
- USDB Children’s Foundation 1-800-990-9328
- Globus Relief 801-977-0444
Centers for Independent Living

- Provides a broad array of assistive technology devices to eligible persons with disabilities at no charge, as funds allow.
- Funding is usually received in July. Generally distributed first come, first served.
- Will also loan AT equipment.
- Also provides independent living training, information, recreational opportunities, support groups, transportation, advocacy, housing assistance and other services.
HARP

- The Hearing Aid Recycling Program (HARP) provides previously owned hearing aids to low income children who are hard of hearing throughout Utah at no charge.
- Donated hearing aids are cleaned and tested.
- Families are eligible if their income is no higher than 225% of the federal poverty guideline and no other funding is available.
- Call Katie at 800-829-8200, option 5
Hear Now

- Hear Now is a national non-profit program committed to assisting deaf and hard-of-hearing persons with limited financial resources within the United States.
- Small sliding fee is required.
- 1-800-648-4327
Now that we have identified some possible funding sources, where can you go to find information on assistive technology?
Ability Foundation

- Provides equipment at no charge for low income individuals with disabilities.
- Charity has been serving individuals with disabilities for over 12 years and has provided equipment to thousands of people in Utah who otherwise could not afford the equipment they need. Therapist evaluation needed.

- **Contact Name:** Ernest Robison, 801-261-5738
- **Website:** www.abilityfound.org
Other funding possibilities if public assistance is unsuccessful

- Local service clubs such as Kiwanis, Lions, Knights of Columbus often contribute funds or organize fundraisers.

- Disability organizations such as United Cerebral Palsy, Multiple Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophy, etc.

- Worker’s Compensation will pay for devices for persons with work related injuries.
Globus Relief

- Gathers, processes, and distributes medical and other supplies to charitable organizations worldwide.
- Usually charges 5% of cost.
- Assistive Technology varies from week to week. Examples include:
  - Shower & commode chairs $7.05 – $27.00 - $94.50
  - Manual wheelchairs $24.75 - $43.50
  - Power wheelchairs $270 - $320.76
  - Canes $3.31
  - Crutches $3.06
  - Walkers $22.80
  - Transfer bench $11.00
- Must go through nonprofit partner, such as UATF, CIL.
- [http://www.globusrelief.org](http://www.globusrelief.org)
- (801) 977-0444
Assistive Technology Loan Programs

- Utah Assistive Technology Foundation
  800-524-5152
- UCB Credit Union
  801-323-4396
- Digital Federal Credit Union
  800-328-8797
UCB Credit Union

- Founded in 1975 to meet needs of individuals who are blind who were not being adequately served by financial institutions in Utah.
- Subsidized loans (4% interest) to purchase adaptive equipment for the blind.
- Bill pay services – bring in bills and they will help you pay them or have them mailed directly to the credit union and they will pay them out of your account.
- Will also help reconcile statements.
- 801-323-4396
Digital Federal Credit Union

Access Loans between $1,500 and $25,000 for home modifications, chairs, medical equipment, adaptive computers.

Mobility Loans are offered from $5,000 to $100,000 and can take up to 120 months to repay.

Rates are determined by credit history, type of account, and payment method.

800-328-8797, www.dcu.org
Never give up...

"I've missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed." - Michael Jordan
Thanks for your participation!

- Questions or comments?
- Best wishes for success in your quest for assistive technology funding!