



Housing and Services
Resource Center

Partnerships to Expand Accessible Housing Options with Assistive Technology

November 21, 2024



Welcome

Facilitator

Robert Groenendaal, Assistive Technology Program Manager,
Administration for Community Living



This event is being recorded.

Instructions for Zoom

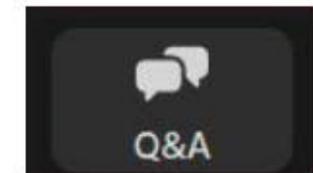
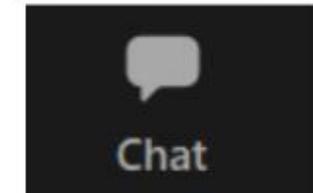
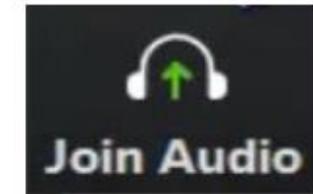
Audio Options

- Use your computer speakers, **OR** dial in using the phone number in your registration email.
- All participants are muted.

Questions and Comments

- Please actively use chat throughout the webinar, especially for your comments or to connect with other participants.
- To ask a presenter a question, please use the Q&A function.

Or, send your question or comment via email to HSRC@ACL.HHS.GOV





Accessibility

Maximizing view of ASL interpreters

- Enlarge view of ASL interpreter by “pinning” them:
- Click on their video window and select the Pin icon

Screen Reader Users: Reduce unwanted chatter

- Request speech on demand:
- Insert, Spacebar, “S”



Poll

What is your primary sector?

- Medicaid
- Health/Healthcare (non-Medicaid)
- Housing/Homeless
- Disability and/or Aging
- Human/Social Services (not included in the above)
- Community Development
- Association, Advocacy, Philanthropic, Education or Research
- Consumer
- Other



Housing and Services Resource Center

acl.gov/HousingAndServices #HousingResources





Poll Results



Agenda

- Welcome
- Introduction to Assistive Technology Options
- New York Partnership Example
 - Introduction to services
 - Using AT to expand accessible housing options
 - Services and funding for partnerships that utilize AT
- Q&A
- Conclusion



Accessibility Solutions

- Home Modifications
- Home Repairs
- **Assistive Technology (AT)**
- Weatherization



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TO PROMOTE NON-CERTIFIED HOUSING INITIATIVE

Melinda Dolezal

Director
NYS Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals
with Disabilities (TRAID) Program

Kristin Proud

Executive Director
NYS Council on Developmental Disabilities (CDD)

Carol Napierski

Vice President of Program Development & Grant
Management
NY Alliance for Inclusion & Innovation

Izel Obermeyer

Chief Clinical Officer
Westchester Institute for Human Development (WIHD)

Tony Gentry

Technology Expert
Consultant on AT/ET Project with WIHD

Erin Brunelle

Occupational Therapist
CATUB

NEW YORK STATE
TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES
(TRAID) PROGRAM

Melinda Dolezal

Director

NYS Technology Assistance for Individuals
with Disabilities (TRAID) Program



**Justice Center for the
Protection of People
with Special Needs**

NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (CDD)

Kristin Proud

Executive Director

NYS Council on Developmental
Disabilities (CDD)



**Council on
Developmental
Disabilities**

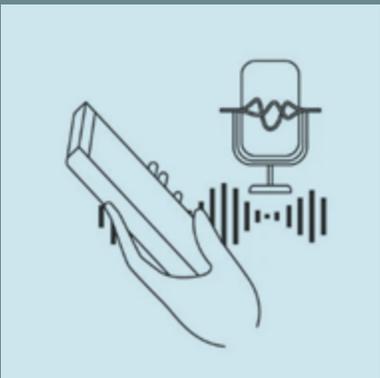
NEW YORK ALLIANCE FOR INCLUSION & INNOVATION

Carol Napierski

Vice President of Program Development &
Grant Management
NY Alliance for Inclusion & Innovation



NEW YORK
**ALLIANCE FOR
INCLUSION & INNOVATION**



PROMOTING INDEPENDENT LIVING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND/OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (IDD) THROUGH THE USE OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY (AT)

PARTNERING SITES:



PROJECT GOAL

TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE
FOR A COST-EFFECTIVE
AND SUSTAINABLE
PROGRAM MODEL TO
ALLOW INDIVIDUALS
WITH IDD TO LIVE MORE
INDEPENDENTLY IN NON-
CERTIFIED HOUSING
THROUGH THE USE OF
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

OBJECTIVES:

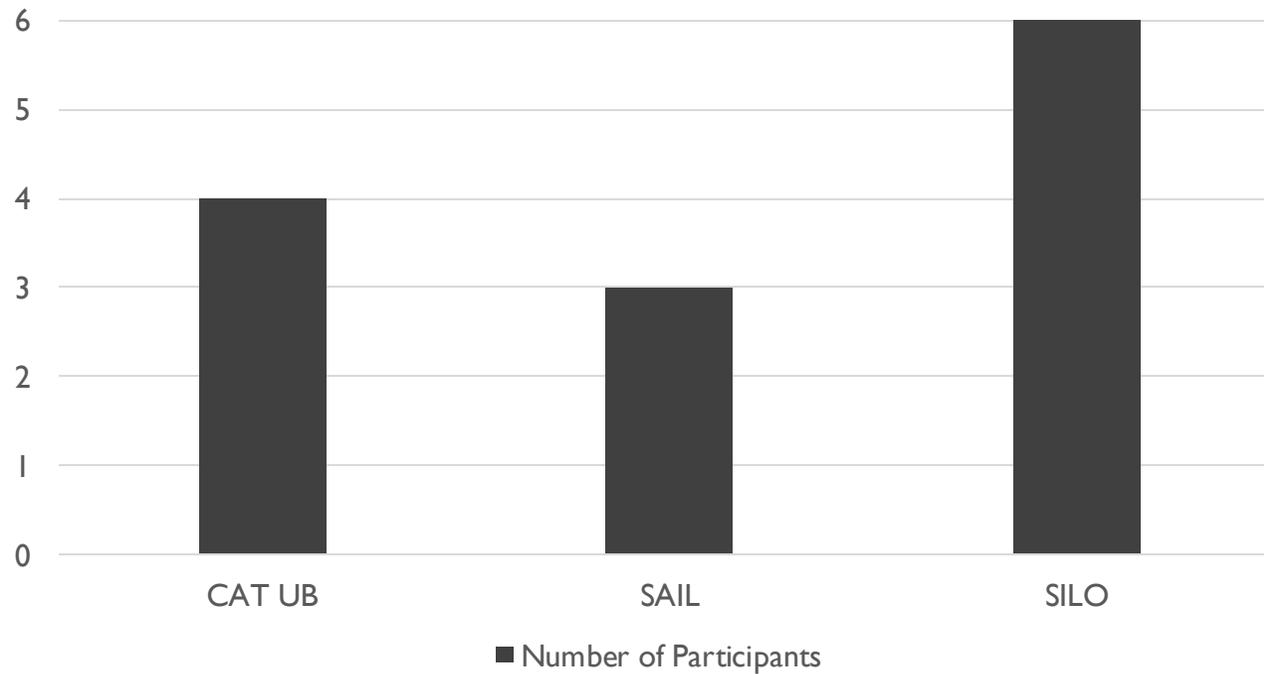
- Development of an Evaluation Toolkit, Technology Consideration Checklist, & an Online Resource Library
- Implementation of technology solutions in non-certified housing environments for individuals with IDD
- Distribution of success stories and outcomes (materials include pictures, videos, interviews, etc.) on social media or other platforms
- Dissemination of project findings and recommendations

WIHD STAFF AND CONSULTANTS

- Izel Steinmann Obermeyer Project Director
- Tricia Patrick Project Evaluator
- Jeremy Lyngdoh Prost Project Manager
- Tony Gentry Consultant, Technology Expert
- CAT UB Consultant, TRAIID Site, Erin Brunelle
- SAIL Consultant, TRAIID Site, April Diffie
- SILO Consultant, TRAIID Site, Alberta Galdi
- AAIDD Consultant, SIS®-A Assessment Experts

ENROLLMENT AS OF AUGUST 31, 2024

Number of Participants (N=13)



DEMOGRAPHICS AS OF AUGUST 31, 2024

Age	Average	43
	Median	41
Gender	Male	4
	Female	9
Race	Caucasian	10
	African American	3
Educational Level	Completed high school	9
	In High School	1
	BOCES 2yrs	1
	Individualized Education Program (IEP)	1
	Bachelors Health and Human Services	1
Employment Status	Employed	6
	Not employed	7

BARRIERS & SOLUTIONS

- Securing non-certified housing has been a challenge for the individuals with IDD
 - ✓ WIHD and partner TRAIID sites have consulted with *CDD as well as Patricia Calandra, Start up & Support Broker, from Today's Housing Resources and Initiatives to assist with outreach and enrollment*
- Getting landlord's approval for home modifications to fit the individual's need for independent living
 - ✓ WIHD created a letter agreement for TRAIID sites to share with the landlords
- Access to clinical expert AT staff can be a limiting factor
 - ✓ During this grant period, virtual support from a clinical AT expert was trialed and found to be successful

WEBSITE

[HTTPS://HOUSINGTECH.WIHD.ORG/](https://housingtech.wihd.org/)



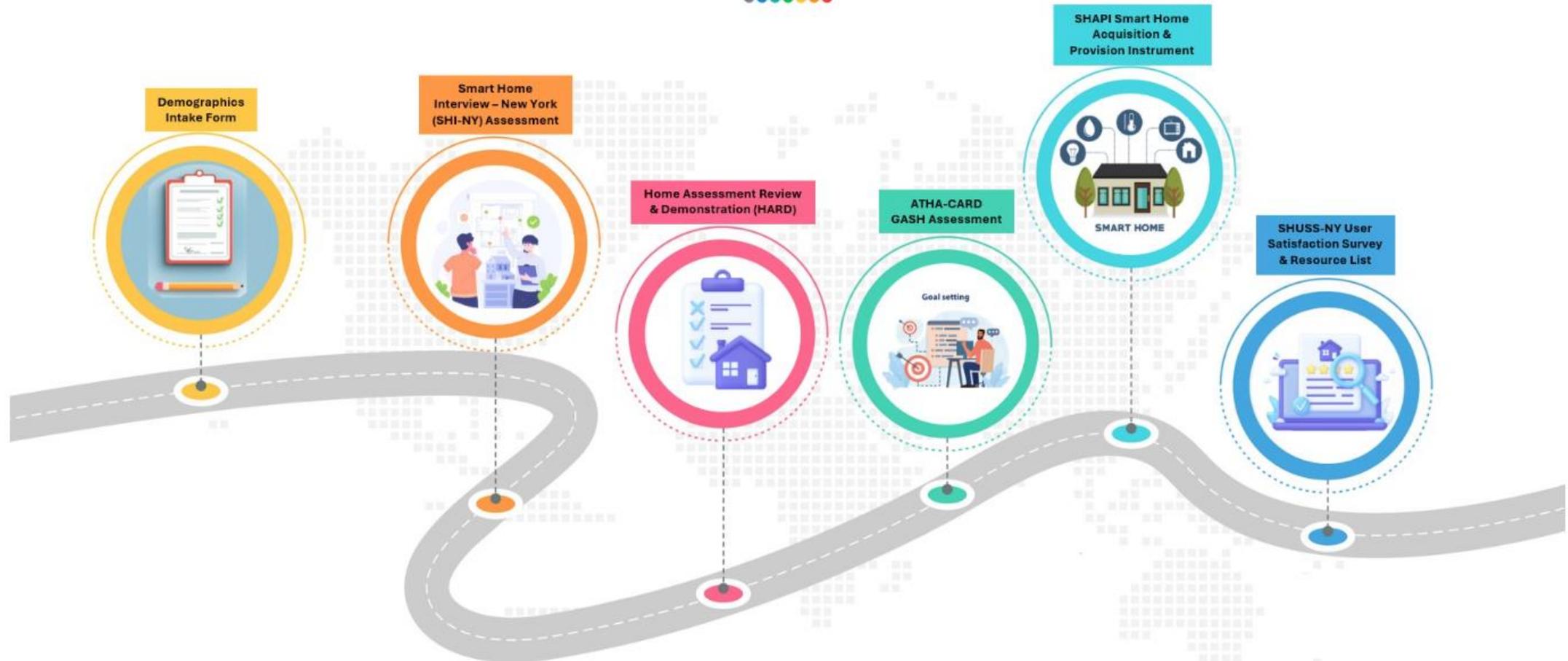
TOOLKIT

- SIS-A – AAIDD
- SHINY
- CASPAR
- SHUSS-NY (Smart Home Satisfaction Survey)
- Participant Satisfaction Survey
- Site Satisfaction Survey

- <https://housingtech.wihd.org/road-map-for-assistive-technology-provision-and-home-adaptation/>

Please click [here](#) to review instructions on how to use the road map (below) for Assistive Technology Provision and Home Adaptation (Please click the topic boxes below to review or download the materials)

Road Map for Assistive Technology Provision and Home Adaptation



How to Use the Road Map for Assistive Technology Provision and Home Adaptation

The road map is designed to help physical rehabilitation professionals assess the needs and interests of people with disabilities in their homes, in order to provide home adaptations and assistive technologies that may improve the home dweller's safety and functional performance.

Components include: (1) a demographic intake form template; (2) SHINY - a guided interview questionnaire; (3) HARD - a checklist for home review; (4) GASH – a Goal Attainment Scale-based intervention planning document; (5) ATHA-CARD – an assessment-based list of suggestions for professional referral/home adaptation/AT provision; (6) SHAPI – an AT/home adaptation recommendation and justification form; (7) SHUSS-NY – a user satisfaction survey; and (8) a resource list.

Ideally, the professional will utilize each of these tools in succession (see flow chart), while conducting a home adaptation and assistive technology intervention, in order to comprehensively support the home dweller and keep track of each step of the process.

Demographic Intake Form

A generic intake form recording identifying information, disability status, supports in place, and home adaptation/AT needs.

SHINY Assessment

All assistive technology models highlight the importance of the home dweller's preferences and interests in making decisions about recommended supports. (In some cases, it can be helpful for a caregiver to share in discussions about these issues.) The Smart Home Interview – New York (SHINY) is designed to serve as a guide and record for this discussion.

HARD Assessment

Whenever possible, touring the home and asking the home dweller to demonstrate everyday tasks can assist the professional in better understanding safety and functional performance needs. Demonstrations can also serve as reminders to the home dweller about concerns they may have overlooked during the SHINY needs and interests interview. The Home Assessment Review & Demonstration (HARD) can guide this process.

ATHA-CARD Referrals and Suggestions Table

**Assistive Technology & Home Adaptation
Clinical Assessment Reasoning Document
(ATHA-CARD)**

This document provides suggestions for assistive technologies, home adaptations and/or professional referrals based on responses to SHINY interview and HARD home assessment. These suggestions are not intended to be directive or inclusive, but to offer clinical reasoning suggestions in addressing obstacles and challenges in home access and everyday function.

Entrance/Doors & Windows

Obstacle	Recommendations
Mobility aid is faulty	Refer to physical therapist (PT) for reassessment and acquisition of appropriate mobility aid
Malfunctioning or difficult locks on doors/windows	Refer to landlord/owner for repair
Carrying items difficult	Pushcart, wheelchair basket, table at door, etc.
Doorbell not loud enough	Louder bell, flashing light doorbell, video doorbell linked to phone app, upgrade hearing aid
No second exit	Troubleshoot solution with person and caregiver.
No emergency exit plan	Develop a plan and practice it.
General safety concerns	Video doorbell and remote front door lock; motion-activated porch lighting; door or window sensor.

Stairs/Floors/Hallways

Obstacle	Recommendations
Surfaces unsafe or in poor condition	Remove tripping hazards (clutter, throw rugs, uneven carpeting, etc.) with special attention to stairs
If stairs: handrails missing, unsteady or only on one side	Refer to landlord/owner for repair/installation of sturdy handrails on both sides
Insufficient lighting in hallway or stairwell; switches inaccessible or away from stairs	Install motion-activated overhead lights of sufficient wattage in hallway and stairs with manual switch at top and bottom of stairs

FINALLY...

With much appreciation to:

- ✓ CDD for creating this opportunity
- ✓ TRAIID site partnerships were invaluable
- ✓ Tony Gentry
- ✓ Patricia Calandra
- ✓ The WIHD team

QUESTIONS



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Westchester Institute for Human Development (WIHD)

iobermeyer@wihd.org or Housingtech@wihd.org

<https://www.wihd.org/initiatives/technology-to-promote-independent-housing/>

NYS Council on Developmental Disabilities

<https://cdd.ny.gov/>

NYS Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (TRAID) Program

<https://www.justicecenter.ny.gov/traid-program>

NY Alliance for Inclusion & Innovation

NY Housing Resource Center: <https://nyhrc.org/>

NY Alliance: <https://nyalliance.org/index.php>



HSRC Website

- Slides, recording, and transcript from today will be posted on the HSRC website.
- For that and other helpful links to resources, please visit:
<https://acl.gov/HousingAndServices>



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Housing and Services Resource Center. The browser address bar displays <https://acl.gov/HousingAndServices>. The page features a dark blue header with a search bar and a 'Share' button. Below the header, the HSRC logo is on the left, and navigation links for 'About the Partnership' and 'Spread the Word' are on the right. A prominent orange button reads 'I NEED HOUSING OR SERVICES HELP'. The main content area has the headline 'Connecting the housing sector and the community living networks' with a graphic of colorful houses. Below this, a 'Welcome to the Housing and Services Resource Center!' section provides a brief description of the center's mission and goals.

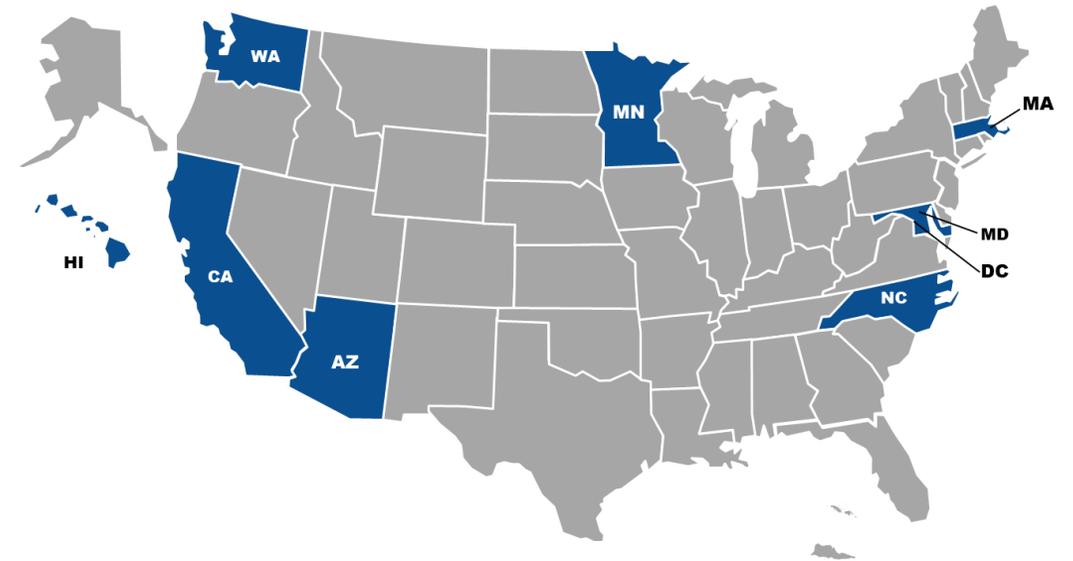


Housing & Services Partnership Accelerator (HSPA)

8 Participating States + DC

Advancing Housing Stability & Community Living

Support states and communities to accelerate the development and implementation of innovative state strategies to provide housing-related activities and supports to persons with disabilities and/or older adults who are experiencing or are at risk of experiencing homelessness.



Learn More:

<https://acl.gov/HousingAndServices/Accelerator>



AT Act Programs

Mission: The mission of the 56 AT Act Programs is to serve people with all types of disabilities, of all ages, in all environments, and provide an array of services to meet functional needs.

Legislative Authority: *The 21st Century Assistive Technology Act* or the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended.

Goal: The overall goal of the AT Act is to increase access to and acquisition of AT devices and services through a comprehensive set of state level and state leadership activities.

- AT, durable medical equipment (DME), home modifications increase accessibility of existing housing.
- AT enables people to live safely and stably in the community.
- AT for daily living activities, home safety, environmental controls, and smart home devices.
- AT device demonstrations, device loans, and financing resources.

<https://at3center.net/>



Find your AT Act Program



Find the AT Act Program in your state or territory:

<https://www.at3center.net/stateprogram>





Help Us Improve

Please complete our short feedback form at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JN7ZVVS>





Housing and Services
Resource Center

ACL is here to help you and your staff!

Email us at hsrc@acl.hhs.gov

- We want to learn about your **partnerships and innovations**.
- We have **technical assistance** available.
- We welcome subscribers to the **HSRC Listserv** (20,000 and growing).
- Visit the HSRC hub at acl.gov/HousingAndServices.





Acknowledgment



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