

# How Assistive Technology (AT) and the Older Americans Act work together

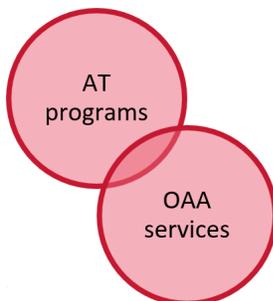
## What is AT?

AT includes products and services that support people to live independently.

### State and Territory AT Programs

The **AT Act of 1998** created AT Programs to support access to AT for people with disabilities, older adults, and their caregivers. AT programs provide:

- Public awareness and training
- Information and assistance
- Device demonstrations, loans, and reuse
- State financing



Older adults often can receive support for AT products and services through both **State and Territory AT Programs** and **Older Americans Act (OAA) programs**.

### Older Americans Act (OAA)

Originally passed in 1965, the **OAA** provides funding for programs and services supporting older adults and caregivers. Examples include:

- Personal care, homemaker services, home-delivered meals, congregate meals, case management, supportive services, and assisted transportation for older adults
- Counseling, respite care, supplemental services, access assistance, and information services for caregivers

People with mobility needs use AT to:



Support Walking, Balance, and Mobility



In **FY 2020**, **AT programs** expanded access to and acquisition of **mobility, seating, and positioning products** through:

<b>3,668</b>	device demonstrations
<b>6,527</b>	short-term device loans
<b>28,316</b>	reused devices and \$15.2 million in savings
<b>\$310,124</b>	cash loans to purchase 78 devices
<b>\$179,400</b>	leveraged funding to provide 424 devices

**OAA services**, such as caregiver support services, can help caregivers locate and obtain devices to assist care recipients with mobility, seating, and positioning.

**People with transportation needs use AT to:**

**Access Transportation**



In FY 2020, **AT programs** expanded access to and acquisition of **vehicle modification and transportation devices** through:

<b>802</b>	device demonstrations
<b>71</b>	short-term device loans
<b>57</b>	reused devices and \$243,255 in savings
<b>\$3,710,736</b>	cash loans to purchase 186 devices
<b>\$279,746</b>	leveraged funding to provide 63 devices

**OAA assisted transportation services** can include wheelchair lifts to ensure access for people with transportation needs. Some Area Agencies on Aging may use OAA funds to offer small grants that can be used to install ramps or grab bars in the homes of eligible older adults.

**People with hearing impairments use AT to:**

**Enhance Listening**



In FY 2020, **AT programs** expanded access to and acquisition of **hearing devices** through:

<b>1,790</b>	device demonstrations
<b>1,950</b>	short-term device loans
<b>442</b>	reused devices and \$126,040 in savings
<b>\$1,547,378</b>	cash loans to purchase 551 devices
<b>\$1,010,422</b>	leveraged funding to provide 3,133 devices

**OAA case management services** can help older adults locate and obtain AT devices to support hearing needs.

**People with vision impairments use AT to:**



**Read Websites or Documents and Input Text**

In FY 2020, **AT programs** expanded access to and acquisition of **vision devices** through:

**3,175** device demonstrations

**3,152** short-term device loans

**1,191** reused devices and \$591,539 in savings

**\$71,924** cash loans to purchase 33 devices

**\$728,949** leveraged funding to provide 1,035 devices

**Navigate the World**



**OAA case management services** can help older adults locate and obtain AT devices to support vision needs.

**People who need support in daily activities use AT to:**

**Support Personal Hygiene and Independent Living**



**Support Healthy Eating**



In FY 2020, **AT programs** expanded access to and acquisition of **daily living devices** through:

**3,192** device demonstrations

**4,816** short-term device loans

**29,343** reused devices and \$4.3 million in savings

**\$278,173** cash loans to purchase 51 devices

**\$312,161** leveraged funding to provide 660 devices

Many OAA home-delivered meal participants have multiple functional impairments, which may include limited ability to open containers like milk cartons and sealed meal trays. Packaging for **OAA home-delivered meals** should be easy to open and foods should be easy to consume.

Source: Center for Assistive Technology Act Data Assistance [FY 2020 National Data Summary of State Assistive Technology Programs](#)