

South Carolina **Assistive Technology Program**

CENTER FOR DISABILITY RESOURCES
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA



Improving lives through Assistive Technology
Annual Report 2021

SCATP Mission

Our mission is to enhance the independence, productivity and quality of life for all South Carolinians through access and acquisition of assistive technology.

SCATP Overview

The South Carolina Assistive Technology Program (SCATP) uses technology devices and services to help people with disabilities live, work and learn more independently. We are federally funded and part of a national network of technology-related assistance programs that provide the devices that increase, maintain or improve functional capabilities.

South Carolina Assistive Technology Program

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Dear Friends,

This year has been about getting back to our core work. We have focused on offering demonstrations, providing equipment loans, making sure residents of SC have the DME equipment they need through our Reuse program and continuing to offer top-notch trainings and workshops. We continue to ensure we have the most up-to-date assistive technology devices in our resource center to help expand the possibilities and boost the independence of the individuals we serve. Whether it's ingenious low-tech products that help a person with arthritis to grip an item easier or high-tech digital vision devices that help a person with macular degeneration continue to live at home, we are here to improve lives through technology by helping individuals and the professionals who serve them.

We are excited about what we have accomplished in 2021 and look forward to meeting our goals in 2022.
Deepest regards,

Carol Page, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, ATP
Program Manager, SC Assistive Technology Program





Yashica's Story

Yashica called SCATP to find out if there were any AT devices to help her with her vision deficit. Yashica has neurosarcoidosis, post-stroke and is a victim of domestic violence. She has three children and her vision deficit was creating barriers when communicating with her children's schools, helping her children with virtual learning, paying bills, navigating public transportation, and simply shopping at the grocery store. She met with a staff member via Zoom to look at different types of vision equipment. During the Zoom demonstration, the staff member and Yashica decided that they needed to meet in person for Yashica to have a hands-on experience with the devices. Yashica borrowed the MyEyes 2 device. She liked the device's capabilities but was unsure if it was the best device for her based on cost and usability. Yashica then borrowed an iPad with the SeeingAI app on it to see if the larger screen on the iPad would make a significant difference instead of using the app on her cell phone. Yashica was very excited about the iPad and felt that it would be the best device for her. Yashica needed assistance with funding. The SCATP staff gave her multiple funding resources and Yashica called all of them. The SCATP staff also made calls to several funding resources and the SC Lions Club agreed to fund the iPad for Yashica. Yashica has the iPad loaded with many different apps to remove barriers caused by her vision deficit and improve her life every day.

2021 Key Activities

Device Demonstrations

Our Assistive Technology (AT) professionals guide individuals with disabilities and their support providers through demonstrations of various adaptive devices to help them make informed AT purchases. Demonstrations are held in person or on zoom. Support providers may include a speech-language pathologist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, vision itinerant specialist, teacher, service coordinator, parent, spouse or other family member.

We do not charge for demonstrations and we do not write reports. We do not sell products, so our demonstrations are impartial. To schedule a demonstration, call (803) 935-5263.

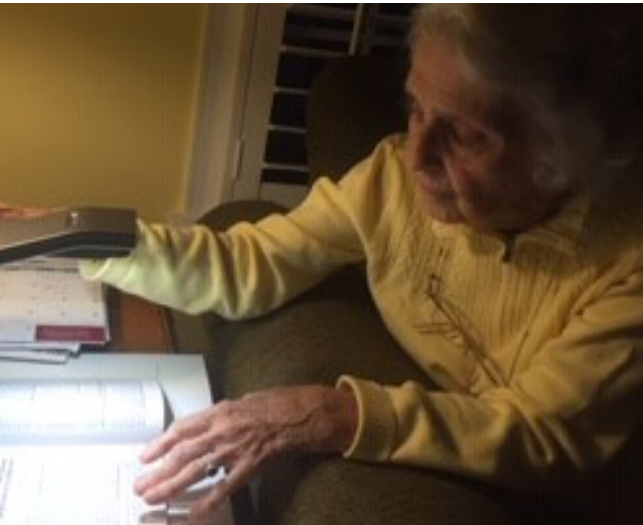
205 SCATP provided 205 AT device demonstrations to 480 South Carolinians.



Yashica and her son with new iPad

Betty's Story

Betty is 92 years old. She was having a lot of difficulty seeing to read. Her daughter and granddaughter helped her borrow vision devices from the SC Assistive Technology Program that they had seen on the Internet. Betty said her vision was not bad enough to use the devices and they were too complicated. A few months later she said she wanted to borrow the same items again, this time SCATP staff encouraged her to try another, less complicated device and she loved it. Now, Betty is able to read books, her mail, and the newsletter from her senior living community, bringing back a lot of quality of life that she had been missing for quite some time. Her granddaughter found Betty using the device and gave it to her grandmother for her birthday.



Betty using her Clear Reader device.

\$44,343

The SCATP Equipment Exchange facilitated the exchange of 9 items from individual to individual for a savings of \$44,343.

2021 Key Activities

Device Loans

We believe it is important to try a device in the environment where it will be used before making the decision to buy. That is why we loan AT devices for up to four weeks for free with a signed agreement. To borrow a device, call (803) 935-5337 to ask about a specific device.

456 SCATP provided 456 short-term equipment loans to 259 individuals allowing them to try AT devices to help them with the decision-making process.

South Carolina Assistive Technology Exchange

The South Carolina Assistive Technology Exchange is a free online reuse database that helps individuals connect with each other to find, give away or sell used equipment. On the database you can list items you need or are looking to sell or give away.

Any individual, agency representative or family member can participate in the exchange. If you need help, call us at (803) 935-5273 for assistance.

AT Reuse Service

The SCATP Reuse Service can help individuals acquire used AT, including durable medical equipment, for free. Call (803) 935-5273 to ask if we have what you are looking for and to donate used equipment.

\$405,363

The SCATP Reuse provided 295 South Carolinians with 661 pieces of equipment for a savings of \$405,363.

Trainings

Assistive technology professionals provide free or low-cost training and hands-on workshops on functional strategies and the latest devices. SCATP partnered with the SC Department of Education to co-sponsor the Assistive Technology Leadership Conference for K-12 School District staff and a 3 session webinar series on document accessibility for K-12 school district staff, members of the community and other stakeholders.

Trainings are held via Zoom, at SCATP and on-site at schools and other organizations.

8,958

 155 trainings on assistive technology reached 8,958 individuals.

224

 3 trainings on document and website accessibility reached 224 individuals.

Free 4 All Event

The AT Reuse Service hosted the Free 4 All Event on July 16th-17th at SCATP. The two-day event allowed individuals to get needed durable medical equipment. Individuals drove from all parts of the state to participate in this event. This event was a huge success and plans are being made to host the next Free 4 All event.



\$40,124

44 people received 131 pieces of equipment during this event at a savings of \$40,124.

Bridget's Story

I am a physical therapist in the Lexington 4 School District. I had spent a great deal of time googling but found nothing. I called SCATP and the staff member was a great help and put me on a good path to finding more information. Thank you for referring me to the Palmetto Health driver training program and providing me with the vehicle modification information. I contacted the program and received great information for my student. When the student gets her beginner's permit she will explore the program. It means so much to have a program like SCATP to call and know the staff are willing to help!

Carolyn's Story

I am a social worker for the SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs. I brought one of my consumers to the AT Resource Center. His name was Jeffrey. With your help, Jeffrey was able to get a sip and puff wheelchair. Jeffrey passed away two weeks ago and I would like to donate the wheelchair back to your program so someone else could benefit from it. Your program helped make Jeffrey's life easier and happier.

Shannon's Story

I am a home-based teacher in Aiken County. I am thrilled to tell you that my student really likes the toys that were given to him from the Reuse service. He is able to press the button to activate the toys on his own sometimes! I think the horse is his favorite. I now have another student on my caseload who has similar needs. I plan to contact you about borrowing some toys to use with him in the future.

Again, thank you. The student's family really appreciates that he has toys that he can use.



You Fuel Our Success

The SC Assistive Technology Program has a long history of providing hope and support to families and professionals.

Thank you to all of the agencies and organizations that we partner with throughout South Carolina. The work we do is made possible and maximized by working with agencies and organizations that have a similar mission.

You can help us improve lives through assistive technology. It's easy!

Make a referral. Do you know an individual with a disability that could benefit from using assistive technology? If the answer is yes, refer them to 803-935-5263.

2021 Key Activities

SC Assistive Technology Expo

SCATP hosted the 28th annual SC Assistive Technology Expo. The 2021 Expo was the first ever Virtual Expo with 885 individuals attending the expo on Zoom.

This event featured a nationally recognized key-note speaker. Don Johnston is the CEO and Founder of Don Johnston Incorporated. Mr. Johnston has dedicated forty years to developing human learning tools and curriculum for classrooms to serve the widest range of student learning needs.



The format for the 2021 Virtual Assistive Technology Expo was 30-minute sessions of fast-paced demonstrations showcasing assistive technology for people with a wide range of disabilities.

The free annual expo is the go-to event for people with disabilities, their families, seniors, veterans, healthcare professionals, and educators to learn about the latest assistive technology products and services.

Expo 2022

The 2022 virtual expo will be Tuesday, March 1. Go to www.sc.edu/medicine/scatp to register.

Transition

Transition services prepare students for further education, employment and independent living. Assistive technology helps every child with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meet their transition goals. Our organization helps assess and provide loaner devices and training in the use of assistive technology.

SCATP collaborates with **AbleSC's SC Youth Leadership Forum (YLF)** for young adults with disabilities.

The **Transition Alliance of South Carolina (TASC)** helps young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities make a successful transition from high school to adult life. SCATP is on the TASC Board of Directors and collaborates on transition activities.



New Project in 2021

Mobility Independence Project

The SC Assistive Technology Program was one of four state Assistive Technology Programs to receive the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation High Impact Innovative Assistive Technology Grant (HIAT). The \$74,542 grant was used to purchase six wheelchairs. The manual and powered wheelchairs are loaned out to people with paralysis during the waiting period for their personal wheelchair to be delivered. Funding for these new cycles of grants were made possible through a cooperative agreement with the Administration for Community Living (ACL grant #90PRRC0002-03-00). This program would not have been possible without the collaboration of the staff at the SC National Seating and Mobility offices who helped deliver and set-up the wheelchairs.



20 Over 12 months, SCATP expects 20 individuals with paralysis to access this equipment.

Adapted Toy Project

The SC Assistive Technology Program offered its third Adapted Toy Workshop just in time for the holidays.

Children with disabilities often have difficulty interacting with toys. Due to Covid-19, the SC Assistive Technology Program invited families, professionals and school staff to mail or ship battery-operated toys to the SC Assistive Technology Resource Center to have the toys adapted for switch use. The toys were then shipped back to the individuals. SCATP will host the Adapted Toy Workshop as an annual event because the need for these toys is so great.

SCATP has many switches and toys adapted for switch use available for demonstration and loan. For more information please call 803-935-5263.

54 SCATP adapted 54 toys for 33 people for a savings of \$5,644.



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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
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South Carolina
School of Medicine Columbia

SC Assistive Technology Program

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Our Services »
Our team of professionals can demonstrate assistive devices and guide you through our device loan program so you can try equipment for yourself.

Resources for You »
From assessment to funding, we can help you find the information, tools and technologies to make your day just a little easier.

Learn More About Us »
We are here to help people with disabilities lead full, active lives. Call, email or visit our facility to learn more about how we can assist you.

Covid 19 Update
April 30, 2021: We are following the guidelines from USC School of Medicine. SCATP staff are available for in-person demonstrations by appointment or via Zoom by appointment. Our **device loan and reuse services** are fully functional. All of our trainings are being offered virtually as webinars. Check out our

New Website Launched in 2021

SCATP website sc.edu/medicine/scatp

Facebook address facebook.com/scassistivetechologyprogram

Twitter address twitter.com/scatptweets



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