

What exactly is AT? *It's okay if you don't know!*

Assistive Technology (AT) is any item — whether it's a piece of equipment or software — that helps people with disabilities to be independent, thrive and function



**Disability is
not one size
fits all and
neither is AT**

Assistive technology is an umbrella term

The same way that disability is a broad term, so is AT! We can't forget that disability is a broad term. A person with a disability can have a physical, visual, or learning disability as quick examples





Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES

Assistive Technology Program

Maryland TAP provides statewide access to assistive technology (AT) through equipment demonstrations, loans, reuse, financing, and training



Maryland Assitive Technology Program (*MDTAP*) serves Marylanders with all disablities in so many ways!

The 3D printing lab offers free AT that can be 3D printed, it offers portable ramps to borrow, and has statewide AT libraries where you can can test out or borrow items for a span of time

I use Assistive Technology (AT) everyday.

Not only do I use AT, I serve as the *Chairwoman* of the Maryland Technology Loan Program Board.

I created this presentation with my AT!

I'm using it today as a presenter.

Maryland Technology Loan Program (ATLP) is one of our most important programs for Marylanders with disabilities

ATLP allows individuals with disabilities to get low interest loans for adapted vehicles, home modifications, and items such as wheelchairs as examples

It's **crucial** to fund AT programs and the AT financing programs

Without funding for assistive technology, I cannot live a fulfilling life full of opportunities, independence and dignity

Disability should not have a price tag, but it does. The financing loan programs allow disabled people to access things that they need to live a better quality of lifetime

Independence

- Adapted vehicles allow people the mobility to travel especially in rural areas like mine
- It allows students of all ages whether middle school or college as examples to participate fully

Quality of Life

- Individuals can participate better in community and social gatherings
- Leads to better opportunities including education, work, volunteering, etc
- Can help ease pain, lead to more functionality and lead to better care

Dignity

- Home modifications allow individuals to stay in their own homes vs. going to institutions
- Removing barriers to loans that keep disabled people from having freedom and autonomy

My state AT programs gives people with disabilities like myself a better quality of life



Without AT: I would not be able to do the things I love such as my hobbies like reading or being an advocate. AT gives me freedom and dignity!

Our aging population benefits from AT as well



We all age into disability and needing varying AT. The same way that **anyone can become disabled at any time**



Serving on the Board as a Director and being disabled, I have seen both sides — my own needs and those of my community — when it comes to assistive technology and accessibility

“For most people, technology makes things easier. For people with disabilities, however, technology makes things possible.”

– Mary Pat Radabaugh, Director of IBM National Support Center for Persons with Disabilities, 1988