

Assistive Technology: A Resource for Long-Term Care Options Counseling



A PROFESSIONAL'S GUIDE



Webcast: Assistive Technology: A Resource for Long-Term Care Options Counseling

Competency/skill - Provide helpful information and resources in the area of assistive technology

Objectives:

1. Define assistive technology.
2. Describe resources that can help promote safety in the home.
3. Provide information on where consumers can locate helpful information and support.
4. Describe common issues and strategies for helping consumers deal with these issues.
5. Identify devices that are used to support individuals with sensory disabilities.

Sample discussion questions:

1. During the webcast Ralph Pelky and Holly Laux-O'Higgins described the WisTech program. What are key features of the program and how can people access it?
2. What is durable medical equipment and how do people access it?
3. People may need financial assistance to purchase assistive technology, discuss what WisLoan can do to help?
4. What agencies may be helpful for people who could benefit from assistive technology?

Assistive Technology:

A Resource
For Long Term Care
Options Counseling

Assistive Technology (AT)

- Definition: Any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially or off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

WisTech

- Wisconsin's Assistive Technology program
- Funded under Federal AT Act
- Device Loan program
- Device Demonstrations
- Equipment Reutilization
- Alternative Financing (WisLoan)
- <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/wistech/index.htm>

Devices for Sensory Disabilities

- Visual magnifiers, closed circuit TVs, talking devices, audio text materials
- Computer access devices/software
Large display, voice output, voice recognition
- Hearing aids, Assistive Listening Devices
 - Most effective when assessment is done by audiologist

Devices for Safety

- (When Individual can initiate their own response)
 - Calling for help via phone
 - Automatic dialing
 - Voice activated calls
 - Cell phones with programmed numbers

Safety

- Lifeline type services
- Personal emergency response phone
- Other monitoring
 - Listening devices
 - Wireless doorbell
 - Video camera

Monitoring

- To keep track of movements, personal space issues.
- Wanderguard type devices
- Monitors for movement, standing up, etc.
- Global positioning devices

Privacy

- Phones
 - Caller ID
 - Call Blocking of Certain numbers
 - Contact PSC for Annoyance Call Bureau
- Doors and Security
 - Security systems
 - Keyless door locks
 - Peep holes
 - Phone Video at entry

Durable Medical Equipment - DME

- Includes Assistive Technology that is "Medically Necessary"
- Policy Limitations by program
- Medical Necessity differs by state, federal, private providers

Who Supplies DME ?

- Medical Equipment
Vendors, Pharmacies, Rehab
Clinics, Hospital Outpatient
 - Usually requires Prior Authorization (PA)
 - Most items can be obtained without PA for Rental (60 days)
- Consider used equipment (Wheelchair Recycling Program)

Other Resources

- Independent Living Centers
- Catalogs, on-line resources
- TEPP funding to access phone services
- WisLoan to obtain financing for purchase of equipment

Independent Living Centers

- Provide individual assistance regarding selecting, trying-out many AT devices
- Direct consumers to manufacturers and funding sources
- 8 ILCs are located throughout the state
 - <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/physical/ILCs.htm>

Wheelchair Recycling Program

<http://www.wrp.org/>

- Recycled, repaired, and cleaned DME for purchase.
- Wheelchairs, hospital beds, lifts, bath equipment.
- An option for persons who are not covered by Medicaid/Medicare or desire back-up equipment.
- Lower cost for institutional equipment.

WisLoan as a Funding Option

- Wisconsin's Alternative Financing Program
- Helping people with disabilities to purchase assistive technology (AT)

How Loan Board Decides

- Application is anonymous
- Credit history
- Credit score
- Monthly income/expenses
- Does the requested item meet AT definition?
- Is it likely that the consumer will pay back the loan?

Loan Process

- Consumer contacts their ILC
- Meet with ILC staff, discuss AT and make application
- Application is reviewed at monthly WisLoan Board meeting
- Decision – approve, deny, ask for more info

WisLoan – What does our experience Indicate?

- Applicants – Persons with Disabilities
 - Live on low incomes
 - willing to take on unrealistic financial obligations to get what they want.
- Misinformation, limited choices, lack of information, resources regarding available technologies and funding
- Serious need for financial literacy and credit/fraud abuse information to avoid costly financial alternatives
- Greatest AT need is for personal transportation due to disability and lack of options.

AT Requested

- Vehicles or Vehicle Modifications 54%
- Home Modifications 13%
- Hearing Aids 11%
- Computers 6%
- Other items...visual aid, chair lift, daily living aids, etc.

Helpful Information

- WisLoan website
<http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/wisloan.htm>
- WI Department of Financial Institutions
<http://www.wdfi.org/links/fe.htm>
- UW Extension Family Living – Financial management
<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/economics/management.cfm>

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WisTech 608-267-9091	Wisconsin Assistive Technology Program
	http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/wistech/index.htm
Assistive Technology Resources	
AbleData	http://www.abledata.com
AssistiveTech	http://www.assistivetech.net
The Boulevard – directory of AT providers	http://www.blvd.com/
National Rehabilitation Information Center	http://www.naric.com/
AT user information developed by NIDRR	http://www.techconnections.org/
Selecting AT with user involvement	http://www.usatechguide.org/
Assistive Technology Catalogs	
AT online catalog	http://www.dynamic-living.com
AT online catalog	http://www.independentliving.com/
AT online catalog	http://www.maxiaids.com
Online catalog for low vision devices	http://www.goldviolin.com/
Telesensory-visual impaired products	http://www.telesensory.com/
AT online catalog for visually impaired	http://www.beyondsight.com
AT related to Alzheimers patients	http://www.thealzheimersstore.com/
Recreational Resources	
Fishing has no boundaries	http://www.fhnbinc.org/
Active travel for persons w disabilities	http://www.wildernessinquiry.org/index.html
Outdoor adaptive equipment	www.vulpineadaptive.com
Easter Seals recreation programs	http://www.wi-easterseals.org/
Association of blind athletes	http://www.usaba.org/
Ski for Light	http://www.sfl.org/
WI DNR Accessible Recreation	http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/at/af/open/
Vocational Programs	
WI Division of Vocational Rehabilitation	http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/dvr/
Veterans Vocational Rehabilitation	http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/
Service Animals	
Guide Dogs for the blind	http://www.guidedogs.com/
Leader Dogs	http://www.leaderdog.org/
Seeing Eye Dogs	http://www.seeingeye.org/

Blind/low vision Resources	
Blind/low vision resources	http://www.lighthouse.org/
National Federation of the Blind	http://www.nfb.org/#
Wisconsin Council for the Blind	http://www.wcblind.org/
American Printing House for the Blind	http://www.aph.org/
Badger Association of the Blind	http://www.badgerassoc.org/
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Resources	
Info on Hearing Aids	http://www.hearingaidhelp.com/index.html
Hard of Hearing Association	http://www.shhh.org/index.cfm
Home Modification Resources	
National home modification coalition	http://www.homemods.org/
National Assoc of Remodeling Industry	http://www.nari.org/
Universal Design Education Materials Online	http://www.udeducation.org/
Funding Resources	
USDA Rural Development Grants&Loans	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wi/programs/rhs/repair.htm
VA grants for home modifications	http://www.homeloans.va.gov/sah.htm
WisLoan - AT and Home Modifications	http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/wistech/wisloan.htm
Professional Associations	
American Speech & Hearing Assoc	http://www.asha.org/index.cfm
American Occupational Therapy Association	http://www.aota.org/
American Physical Therapy Association	http://www.apta.org/
Rehabilitation Engineering & AT Society of NA	http://www.resna.org/index.php
State-Federal Disability Agencies	
Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services	http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/bdds/index.htm
Bureau for the Blind	http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/blind/
Bureau for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing	http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/sensory/
Physical Disabilities	http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/Disabilities/Physical/index.htm
Bureau of Community Mental Health	http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/MH_BCMH/index.htm
Wisconsin Medicaid DME Provider Info	http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/medicaid/updates/provtype/54medvend.htm#medicaid

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