

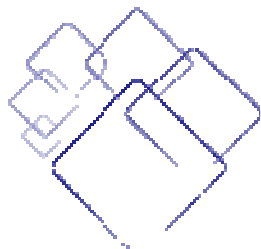
ICAN

Assistive Technology Act of 1998 provides federal funds to states to encourage the delivery of assistive devices and assistive technology services to persons with disabilities in Arkansas. Increasing Capabilities Access Network (ICAN) is the designated Arkansas Tech Act agency. ICAN contact information is listed below:

26 Corporate Hill
Little Rock, AR 72205
Call for directions
501-666-8868 V/TTY, or
800-828-2799 V/TTY
501-666-5319 Fax.
www.arkansas-ican.org



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DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER, INC.

Celebrating 30 Years — 1977 to 2007

1100 North University, Suite 201
Little Rock, AR 72207
Phone: 501-296-1775 V/TTY
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Member, National Disability Rights Network



PROTECTION & ADVOCACY FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY (PAAT)

The Protection & Advocacy
(P&A) System for Arkansans
with Disabilities.



Disability Rights Center

Disability Rights Center

800 482-1174 V/TTY

Assistive Technology (AT)

What is AT?

Assistive technology is any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of people with disabilities.

People with disabilities use AT devices and services to achieve greater independence and to enhance the quality of their lives. AT includes both devices and services.

AT devices include any item or piece of equipment used to maintain or improve the functional capabilities of a person with a disability, including devices like wheelchairs, computers, ramps, assistive listening devices, augmentative communication devices, and aids for daily living.

AT services are supports provided to people with disabilities or their caregivers to help them select, acquire, or use AT devices. Services also include functional evaluations, training on or demonstration of devices, and purchasing or leasing devices.

Who Can Benefit from AT?

Adults and/or infants and children with disabilities such as visual and hearing impairments, traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, specific learning disabilities, developmental disabilities, various physical/orthopedic impairments, etc. who need AT may be eligible for AT funding through Spe-

cial Education, Medicaid, Vocational Rehabilitation, Medicare, Veteran's Administration, state funding, higher education, employment or private insurance.

Preschool, Primary, and Secondary Education

At all educational levels, many students with disabilities can benefit from AT. Some students could not even get into the classroom without AT, such as a ramp. Other students require communication devices to talk with teachers or fellow students to enhance their educational experience.

Schools may be responsible for providing AT to students at school and sometimes at home. This is always determined on a case-by-case basis, and depends on a number of factors, including the age of the student, the type of disability, the type of instruction, and the need for AT devices and AT services for the student to benefit from education. There are several laws which address the obligation of schools to provide AT.

Medicaid

Under the federal Medicaid Act, states must pay for certain services including AT for the categorically and medically needy. States must also pay for additional services.

Employment Discrimination Laws

Employers are often required to provide AT devices and/or AT services in order to comply with their duty of "reasonable accommodation" under federal and state anti-discrimination laws. The key laws are:

- **Rehabilitation Act of 1973**

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 was the first federal statute to prohibit discrimination in employment against persons with disabilities. This Act applies to federal employers (Section 501), recipients of federal contracts (Section 503), and recipients of federal financial assistance (Section 504).

- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990**

The ADA is a broad civil rights statute that guarantees people with disabilities access to employment, public accommodations, public services and transportation and telecommunications. The ADA covers all public employers and private employers with 15 or more employees.

Protection & Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT)

The PAAT program is authorized under Section 102 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (Act). Arkansas PAAT is a program administered by the Disability Rights Center.

If you are a person with a disability or know someone with a disability that has concerns, questions and/or has been denied AT devices, or AT services, please call Disability Rights Center DRC). DRC provides information, referral, advocacy and/or litigation services at no charge.