



Connecticut Tech Act Project

CTTAP News

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The *new* CT Tech Act Project

Achievement through Technology

By Arlene Lugo, Assistive Technology Coordinator

Welcome to the first Quarterly Newsletter for the CT Tech Act Project (CTTAP) since 2005. CTTAP has undergone some significant changes over the past few years. In this issue, you'll find out about the new staff running the CT Tech Act Project, read about the new programs the CT Tech Act Project has established and what programs are under development. Future issues will contain information about other Assistive Technology resources, upcoming events and more.

Let me start by talking about the changes in staff -- John Ficarro the CTTAP Project Director since 1991 retired in 2005. In January of 2006, I became the Assistive Technology Coordinator and I am very happy to be here! I look forward to working together and bringing greater access to Assistive Technology to all Connecticut residents who need AT.

CTTAP is now operating within the Connect to Work Center in the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services. The Connect to Work Center is the Premier Resource Center for Benefits Information.



The Connect to Work Center
The Premier Resource Center for Benefits Information

Mission Statement:

Increasing independence and improving the lives of individuals with disabilities through increased access to Assistive Technology for work, school and community living.

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Another change that has taken place is that each of the 56 AT Programs throughout the United States and its territories are now responsible to write a State Plan every four years and to report measurable outcomes to the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA).

One other major change I want to mention is that CTTAP's focus is not only to raise awareness of Assistive Technology, but also to *increase access to and acquisition of Assistive Technology* devices and services.

What **hasn't** changed is the fact that the CT Tech Act Project is a statewide program for individuals with disabilities ... of all ages and all disabilities, as well as family members, educators, employers and other professionals. Anyone who needs information or services around Assistive Technology can access the CT Tech Act Project via email or phone.

What is Assistive Technology?

Assistive Technology (AT) is any item or piece of equipment that is used to *increase, maintain or improve* the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of life, including at school, at work, at home and in the community.

Overview of CTTAP Programs

Over the past year, we have been working hard to make sure that our current programs continue to run smoothly and that new programs help to increase access to Assistive Technology devices and services.

Please send comments, suggestions or articles to:

*CT Tech Act Project
25 Sigourney St,
11th Floor
Hartford, CT 06016*

OR

*Click on the
"Contact Us"
link on our website:
www.CTtechact.com*

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The New CTTAP website:

The address to the CTTAP website has changed – you can find us at: www.CTtechact.com

Please visit our website frequently for updates on CTTAP programs, news, events and resources related to Assistive Technology.

The Tech Mentor Program



The Tech Mentor Program was recently established as a peer to peer mentor program where individuals with disabilities who have personal experience using AT in their own lives can help guide and support other individuals with disabilities who need Assistive Technology.

If you think you would benefit from the support and guidance of a Tech Mentor or think you would make a good Tech Mentor, call CTTAP.

The Assistive Technology Exchange

One of our exciting new programs is the AT Exchange, which is an online classifieds.

You can find new and used AT devices for sale or give-a-way and you can

post AT devices that you no longer need or use. Log on to our website and click on AT Exchange to browse through the listings.



You don't have to have a computer to use the site – just give us a call and we can help you find AT devices that are listed or post an AT devices for you.

To Subscribe:

- Send an email to: arlene.lugo@ct.gov
- Click on the "News" link on our website www.CTtechact.com
- Call 860-424-4881

CTTAP is funded by the U.S. Department of Education under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended. No official endorsement by the U.S. Department of Education of any product, commodity, service or enterprise mentioned in this publication is intended or should be inferred.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this information is available in alternate formats upon request.

Since this is a new website - we are counting on you to look in your closets, basements and garages for AT devices that you don't need anymore and post them on the site.

The AT Loan Program

The AT Loan program has been operating since 1993 and we are in the process of revamping the program so that more individuals with disabilities



can access the low interest loans to purchase needed AT devices and services.

Check our website for updates on the AT Loan Program and for the new online application.

Programs Under Development

Equipment Recycling & Device Demonstration

The CT Tech Act Project is working in partnership with the *NEAT Marketplace* and the *Disability Resource Center of Fairfield County* to establish a satellite Equipment Recycling Center and AT Device Demonstration Center, located at 80 Ferry Blvd, Stratford, CT (203) 378-6977.

New Partnerships

The CT Tech Act Project has established new partnerships with *Southern CT State University's Center for Adaptive Technology*, *UConn Center on Aging* and the *Corporation for Independent Living* to provide long-term loans of AT devices.

I will talk more about these new programs in the next CTTAP News. For more information and updates on all of our projects, check us out at www.CTtechact.com.

Achievement through Technology