

## What is an Assistive Technology Device

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

## What is an Assistive Technology Services

An assistive technology service is “any service that directly assists a person with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device.”

In 1994, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities was funded to develop, implement and administer a Commonwealth wide program to meet assistive technology needs of persons with disabilities, which was know as STRAID (System of Technology Related Assistive for Individuals with Disabilities). However, as a result of the requirements of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended, the program is now called the CNMI Assistive Technology Program, which is under the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities. The CNMI Assistive Technology Program has an Advisory Committee, which is comprise of individuals representing all ages and disabilities CNMI-wide, who provides guidance with activity development.

### Assistive Technology Program

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CNMI COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

# ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

OPENING DOORS TO INDEPENDENCE

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## Our Center's Mission

To provide and demonstrate how Assistive Technology can transform limitations into opportunities. We work toward this mission by providing access to Assistive Technology and related services that enable individuals with disabilities to achieve productivity, independence, and success according to their needs and interests.

## Our AT Center

Provides support and services to people of all ages and abilities throughout the CNMI. We work closely with Family Members, Teachers, Medical & Therapeutic Professionals, Schools, Businesses, Government Agencies and Vendors to better help them serve the needs of individuals with disabilities.

## Resource and Referral

Not sure where to start? Let us put our research and expertise to work to help guide you to the resources you need. Information and catalogues are available on a wide variety of Assistive Technology products and services.

## Assistive Technology Devices

Examples of assistive technology devices include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ **Computers** with or without adaptive devices, to help use a keyboard, communicate, draw, learn, work, and play.
- ◆ **Software** that can perform a range of tasks, such as read text, recognize speech, translate text to Braille, enlarge text, adapt instruction, and organize information.
- ◆ **Adaptive Equipment**, such as pencil grips, slant boards, walkers, wheelchairs, utensils, and other devices that help individuals more easily function within their environment.
- ◆ **Communication devices**, such as computer-assisted speech devices with switches for simple answers, communication boards, or specialized communication systems that can help a person communicate with computerized speech.

## Assistive Technology Devices

### What do families need to know about AT?

Assistive technology can help people at any age in all aspects of their lives: at home, at work, and in the community. The use of technology can help young children to maintain typical development, it can be used to help promote inclusion in the regular education environment, and it can assist adults in being successfully employed. AT can also help enhance communication and can help increase independence and assist individuals to live more self-determined lives. Resources are available through Medicaid, Medicare, Private Insurance, and other sources to pay for assistive technology.

## Other Resource Funding

The CNMI CDD and AT Program are currently working on the re-establishment of the Trankilu Alternative Financing Program. The Loan Program will be available to qualified CNMI Residents with disabilities. Updated information will be provided to the public upon completion. Additional criteria will be published.