

MRC - Assistive Technology Programs **July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016**

Assistive Technology – Independent Living

The Assistive Technology – Independent Living Program is a state-funded program, created in 1999 to enable individuals with severe disabilities to access assistive technology (AT) devices and training. AT devices and services help to give an individual with a disability control over their environment and achieve self-determined goals. MRC contracts with three organizations for the provision of AT assessments, purchase and set-up of equipment, training and follow-up.

# of New Referrals for AT – IL Services	269
# of New Consumers Served	324
Cumulative Total # of Consumers Served (Avg)	477

Adaptive Assistance (VR)

Adaptive Assistance serves individuals eligible for vocational rehabilitation services that require rehabilitation technology to be able to achieve an employment outcome. Through community providers, the program provides evaluations, devices and training of individuals with disabilities in utilization of assistive devices and assistive technology.

# of New Referrals	615
Cumulative Total # of Consumers Served	771

Vehicle Modifications (VR)

The Vehicle Modification Program provides driving evaluations, vehicle modifications and equipment installation to privately owned vehicles of individuals with disabilities to enable them to achieve an employment outcome by removing barriers to transportation. Vehicle modification services may include a lowered floor on vans, raised roof, automatic wheelchair lift, automatic door opener, servo primary controls, reduced-effort steering and braking, and similar modifications. Non-structural modifications may include mechanical hand controls, car-top wheelchair carriers, scooter lifts, steering knobs and similar modifications.

# of New Referrals	64
# of Jobs Successfully Completed	36
# of Non-Structural Jobs Completed	16

MassMATCH (Mass. Initiative to Maximize AT in Consumers' Hands)

Funded through the federal 2004 AT Act which funds state programs to create access to assistive technology for individuals with disabilities. Funds do not directly purchase AT for individuals, but support programs that help make AT affordable and available to people who can benefit from it. These include device demonstration programs, device loan programs, device reuse programs (to exchange, repair or recycle used equipment), and alternative financing programs (to provide access to low-cost loans). The program also provides training and technical assistance, particularly to help people with disabilities transition from school to work (or continued education) or from institution to community living. MRC's MassMATCH program funds two AT Regional Centers – in Pittsfield and Boston, as well as overseeing the AT Loan program, DME recycling programs, Get AT Stuff device reuse website, and the AT School Share initiative. The Get AT Stuff website was developed and is operated in collaboration with our New England AT program partners.

# DME devices refurbished & reused	924
Value of refurbished & reassigned DME	\$1,173,361
# long-term device loans	117
# transactions in AT Exchange	30
# device demonstrations	155
# device demonstration participants	237
# short-term devices loaned	1,169
# individuals borrowing devices	618
# individuals receiving Information & assistance	3,271
# training participants	705

Assistive Technology Loan Program (administered by Easter Seals - FFY16)

The Massachusetts Assistive Technology Loan Program (administered by Easter Seals) gives people with disabilities and their families' access to low-interest loans so they can buy the assistive technology devices they need. The program offers lower interest rates than a traditional bank loan, and may guarantee loans for applicants who are not approved for loans upon initial application to the Bank.

# of Applications	115
# of Applications Approved	55
# of Loans Made	47

Home Modification Loan Program

The state bond-funded Home Modification Loan Program provides loans up to \$30,000 to make access modifications to the primary, permanent residence of elders, adults with disabilities, and families with children with disabilities. Such modifications allow people to remain in their homes to live independently in their communities. Loans are made at 0% or 3% and may be amortizing or deferred.

# of Applications	152
# of Eligible Consumers	149
Total # of Loan Approvals	152
# of Consumers Successfully Served	116

Adaptive Housing (VR)

The Adaptive Housing Program provides housing evaluations, architectural services, housing modifications, and equipment installation to individuals with disabilities to enable them to achieve an employment outcome by removing barriers to living in their current home. Modifications may include wheelchair ramps and lifts, stair lifts, bathroom modifications (such as roll-in showers, roll under sinks and widened doors), and kitchen modifications (such as lowered counters, and roll under cooktops). Minor Home Modifications may include door openers, grab bars, handrails, and widening of doors.

# of New Referrals	17
# of Jobs Successfully Completed	5

Ergonomic Program

The Ergonomic Program provides ergonomic worksite assessments to clients, employees of the Commonwealth, and to any Massachusetts worker.

# of New Referrals	24
# of Jobs Successfully Completed	23