



# PROMOTE ACCESS TO, AND COVERAGE OF, ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

*Support the reauthorization of the Assistive Technology Act and funding for the Assistive Technology Act Programs*

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Assistive technology (AT) devices and services, such as mobility aides, voice recognition programs, screen readers, robotic arms, and adaptive pencils and utensils, greatly increase functional capabilities and enhance work participation for individuals with disabilities when they are properly prescribed, and the user receives proper training. ([Source: National Academy of Sciences](#))
- Every state and U.S. territory receives federal funding to operate a statewide AT program focused on awareness and access to AT. ([Source: Administration on Community Living](#))
- During the last program year, more than 37,000 AT devices were loaned and nearly 40,000 individuals with disabilities participated in an AT device demonstration through state AT programs. ([Source: Center for Assistive Technology Act Data Assistance](#))
- Access to, and coverage of, AT devices and services were among the top priorities identified by individuals with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA). ([Source: Cure SMA](#))

## WHY CONGRESS SHOULD ACT

Technological advances in devices and services have helped individuals with SMA and other disabilities to achieve greater independence and to live, work, and learn in their communities. Recognizing the significant impact IT devices and services can have on individuals with disabilities, Congress provided states with funding to create statewide AT programs to: evaluate the AT needs of their residents; provide education, training, and technical assistance; and establish device borrowing and reutilization programs. However, barriers remain for individuals with disabilities in accessing these life-changing AT devices and services. A [National Academy of Sciences](#) report found that barriers to IT are due to coverage restrictions and how AT discoveries are advancing at a much faster rate relative to education, regulations, and reimbursement systems.

## CURE SMA POSITION

Congress should meet the AT needs of individuals with disabilities by updating and extending Assistive Technology Act programs and increasing program funding to address current demand for AT devices and services.

- The Assistive Technology Act needs to be modernized and improved to collect data to measure AT gaps, promote collaboration among state disability-focused agencies, and expand access to assistive technology devices through increased funding and expansion of eligibility criteria for AT devices services. We support the reauthorization of the Assistive Technology Act.
- The State Grant for Assistive Technology Program provides formula funds to states and U.S. territories to provide a continuum of services to expand knowledge of and access to AT devices and services for individuals with disabilities. We support funding for AT Act programs, which includes the AT State Grant Program, at no less than \$50,000,000 in fiscal year 2022.



Cure SMA Advocacy | 800-886-1762 | [advocacy@cureSMA.org](mailto:advocacy@cureSMA.org) | [cureSMA.org](http://cureSMA.org)

Cure SMA is a national organization that advocates for individuals with spinal muscular atrophy, a progressive neurodegenerative disease that robs people of physical strength, taking away their ability to walk, swallow, and breathe.