



TECHNOLOGY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

Individuals with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) can benefit from assistive technology devices and services, such as mobility aides, modified driving controls, voice recognition programs, and adaptive utensils, to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities related to daily living. Assistive technology is helping people with SMA and other disabilities to access education and the workplace, live independently in their communities, and participate in recreational activities.

CURE SMA TECHNOLOGY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES:

Cure SMA is committed to expanding access and coverage to assistive technology devices and services for all individuals with SMA. SMA community principles and priorities include:



Increase Funding for Assistive Technology Act Programs: Congress established the Assistive Technology (AT) State Grants and other AT programs to promote awareness of and access to AT devices and services in all 50 state and U.S. territories. *Cure SMA will support efforts to increase funding for assistive technology programs at the Administration on Community Living (U.S. Health and Human Services) to promote greater access to these life-changing technologies and devices.*



Extend Assistive Technology Act Programs: Nearly a decade has passed since Congress updated the Assistive Technology State Grants and other AT programs. During that time, new AT devices and technologies have been developed and implemented to better meet the needs of people with disabilities. Congress must take action to update these essential AT programs. *Cure SMA will support efforts to update, expand, and extend the AT State Grants and other AT programs to ensure that they meet current and future needs of individuals with SMA.*



Promote Full Coverage of Assistive Technology Services and Devices: Assistive technology devices and services are having life-changing impacts on people with SMA and other disabilities. Unfortunately, coverage restrictions and other barriers make it difficult for individuals with disabilities to access these AT devices and services. *Cure SMA will work to remove any barriers that may limit full access to the assistive technology device or service that best meets the unique and individualized needs of every person with SMA.*



Support Research and Incentives into Assistive Technology Development: Despite the amazing advances in assistive technology, gaps in need still exist for individuals with SMA and other disabilities. *Cure SMA will support efforts to further incentivize the development and production of new assistive technology devices and services, particularly those that would address the needs of individuals with rare diseases or significant disabilities.*