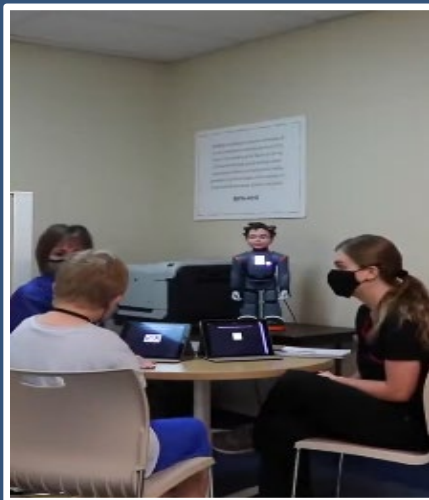


# 2020

# Annual Report



**KATS Network**  
*Disability Solutions Through Technology*



**KATS Network Coordinating Center**

8412 Westport Rd  
Louisville, KY 40242  
(800) 327-5287  
[www.katsnet.org](http://www.katsnet.org)





*The KATS Network's mission is to make assistive technology (AT) information, devices and services easily obtainable for people of any age and/or disability. At home, work, school or play, AT provides choice, control and independence for persons with disabilities of all ages.*

---

The Kentucky Assistive Technology Service Network (KATS Network, for short) is Kentucky's statewide assistive technology program funded under the Assistive Technology Act of 2004. Administratively, the KATS Network is housed within the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Program Policy & Support Branch, Support/ Systems Section.

---

*With all of the challenges and restrictions that we have faced during the COVID-19 pandemic, the KATS Network would like to commend our Regional AT Centers for the tremendous work they have accomplished. Thank you for all you do, and thank you to all of those that we have served. Our mission is to make assistive technology (AT) information, devices, and services easily obtainable for people of any age or disability. We hope that we have played a small part in enabling you to live, learn, work and play with ease and independence. We wish you much success as we continue to navigate through this unprecedented time.*



**-Jimmy Brown, KATS Network Program Coordinator**



The KATS Network provides access to AT through a network of five (5) Regional AT Resource Centers (ATRCs) across the state. The Regional ATRCs operate AT demonstration programs, lending libraries and AT reutilization programs. The KATS Network Coordinating Center and each of the ATRCs work cooperatively to provide outreach, information & referral services, and training on various AT topics. Technical Assistance and collaboration is also provided to state agencies and organizations to enhance the understanding of and access to AT and accessible information technology (IT).

# Key Activities 2020

## KATS Network FFY 2020 Statistics

- **1,111** assistive technology (AT) devices loaned to **736** Kentuckians through lending library activities;
- **279** demonstrations to **1,098** Kentuckians of all ages and all disabilities;
- **2,075** AT/DME devices provided at no cost to **478** individuals through AT Reuse activities for a total cost savings of **\$587,858**
- **20,844** individuals received information and referral services related to AT devices, services, funding and related disability topics
- **1,433** individuals and professional participated in training events statewide
- The KATS Network of programs touched **24,589** individuals with disabilities, their families, and service providers.



## FFY 2020 Highlights

- The KATS Network received a **\$75,000** grant through the **Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation** to implement smart home technology lending library, called **My New Kentucky Smart Home**. This program will allow individuals with paralysis to test out an array of hands-free smart home assistive technology such as door locks, garage door openers, doorbells and more before purchasing.
- **205** individuals and professionals registered for and attended one or more sessions at our **Annual Statewide Assistive Technology Conference**, which was held as a virtual event due to the COVID-19 pandemic and statewide social distancing guidelines. Sessions included **Assistive Technology for Agriculture, Google Chromebook Accessibility – Using ChromeVox, 3D Printing Fundamentals, Smart Home Automation**, and a **Panel Discussion: Parenting with a Disability**.

# 2020 Success Stories

## AT/DME Reuse

---

### *Submitted by Project CARAT – Paintsville, KY*

Peggy P's husband, who recently had knee surgery, needed a walker to go to therapy because his old walker had become unusable. He was also in need of a bariatric toilet chair due to his health condition. Both were available and delivered to her in Morgan County. She was very appreciative, as insurance did not cover either item.

### *Submitted by Project CARAT – Hazard, KY*

Peter needed an adult gait trainer. After searching through the statewide AT Locator database, we located one at our Lexington location. Peter's aunt Kim and our site coordinator worked to secure the gait trainer until she could pick it up in Lexington. It warms our hearts to see Peter up and walking with the gait trainer he received from the Project CARAT program. We were so happy to play a small part in helping Peter walk.

## Lending Library

---

### *Submitted by Redwood ATRC – Ft. Mitchell, KY*

A toddler with low-trunk control needed help sitting up and standing. Redwood's ATRC loaned a Special Tomato Soft-Touch Sitter and an Easy Stand Stander to the family for them to use. The loan of the seating system and stander helped this child overcome the barrier of mobility. Redwood's ATRC collaborated with the child's physical therapist to provide the most appropriate seating system and stander for them to trial. This device loan allowed the toddler to bear weight in a standing position and strengthen her trunk muscles. The devices loaned made such improvement that she is now sitting independently, pulling to stand, and standing. The Special Tomato Soft-Touch Sitter and Easy Stand Stander improved this child's access to education. She was able to gain mobility and explore her surroundings to learn about her environment.

*Submitted by HDI-CATS ATRC – Lexington, KY*

Laura H. was referred to us by an occupational therapist. She has macular degeneration and histoplasmosis. She is completely blind in one eye and has less than 20/80 in the other. She was interested in devices to help her with reading, writing and using the computer. Laura set up an appointment to come in and check out our visual impairment assistive technology. After spending some time getting to know Laura's needs and abilities, we looked over some of our AT. Laura checked out several items from our lending library: Reading Pen, 2x Page Magnifier, Handsfree Magnifier, Pico Pocket Video Magnifier, and the Merlin LCD Video Magnifier System. She is hoping to be able to purchase similar items once she determines what works best for her.

## **Device Demonstrations**

---

*Submitted by Wendell Foster ATRC – Owensboro, KY*

An instructional aide from Sorgho Elementary needed an advanced communication device (more than two outputs) for a 6-year-old student with a traumatic brain injury. Our AT Specialist demonstrated the Talkable 4 Multiple Message AAC Communicator with 12-Level Option and the Ablenet QuickTalker 7. The Talkable 4 was accessible to the student. A short-term loan allowed the student to try out the communication device in the classroom. The school decided to purchase the communication device for the student to communicate with his teachers and classmates.

*Submitted by HDI-CATS ATRC – Lexington, KY*

An individual returning home after suffering a stroke needed a communication device to communicate with his family. The ATRC Coordinator demonstrated a variety of communication devices to help determine what might work best. This demonstration overcame the barrier of communication for this individual who had had a stroke. The ATRC collaborated with the individual to provide the device demonstration, which led to a device loan. The device demonstration helped the family make an informed decision on which communication device would work best. The ATRC arranged for the individual to try the communication device at home to communicate with his family. The communication device gave this individual a way to communicate and be more fully engaged with his family.



# Additional Services

The KATS Network also provides Training, Technical Assistance, Public Awareness, and Information & Awareness. Below is a look at some of our accomplishments in these areas over the past year.

## Training

---

The KATS Network and its participating Regional AT Centers provided/hosted training to 1,433 individuals, family members and professionals across the state on a variety of topics including: Google Chromebook Accessibility, DIY 3D Printed AT solutions, Smart Home Automation, and a Go-Baby-Go build day, among others.

Our Annual AT Conference included a session titled “3D Printing Fundamentals for Assistive Technology” as part of our Annual Summer AT Conference. Presenters focused on the basics of 3D printing and its applicability to assistive technology and the process of 3D printing of adaptive devices from an Occupational Therapy perspective. Samples of 3D printed devices were on display, including adaptive keyboard devices, bottle openers, penholders, a key turner, and a signature guide. Participants learned about devices that one could create in a timely and low-cost manner. 126 participants attended this session virtually using the Zoom platform.

Wendell Foster ATRC hosted a Go-Baby-Go build day in Owensboro. Participants adapted five ride-on PowerWheels cars for children with limited mobility. Wendell Foster’s physical therapists developed a plan for each child based on their seating and positioning needs. Participating children were able to leave the session with a fully adapted ride-on car. The modified cars will improve access to the child’s environment and allow them to participate in age-appropriate activities.

## Technical Assistance

---

The statewide program worked with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation to improve the accessibility of forms used within the agency. The KATS Coordinating Center worked directly with OVR staff to provide training on how to check for accessibility and how to ensure accessibility during the development phase. This work resulted in the establishment of an OVR Accessibility workgroup with representation from each Branch within the agency to discuss and implement guidelines, training, policies related to the accessibility of all forms, documents, memos, and emails used within and sent from the agency to both staff and consumers. The workgroup will begin in FFY 2021.

## Public Awareness and Information & Assistance

---

The KATS Network and its five Regional ATRCs provided information and awareness to 20,844 individuals, family members and service providers across the Commonwealth.

# KATS Network Locations

## KATS Network Coordinating Center

8412 Westport Rd.  
Louisville, KY 40242  
(800) 327-5287

<https://www.katsnet.org/>

## Carl D. Perkins Training Vocational Center

### Project CARAT - Paintsville

5659 Main St.  
Thelma, KY 41260  
(606) 788-7080

### EnTECH

### Project CARAT - Louisville

812 S. Second St.  
Louisville, KY 40203  
(502) 992-2448

## HDI-CATS

### Project CARAT - Lexington

2358 Nicholasville Rd.  
Lexington, KY 40503  
(859) 218-7979

### Redwood AT Resource Center

71 Orphanage Rd.  
Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017  
(800) 728-9807

## Wendell Foster Technology and Resource Center

815 Triplett St.  
Owensboro, KY 42302  
(800) 209-6202

## Satellite Locations

---

### CARAT Hazard

UK Center of Excellence in Rural Health  
750 Morton Blvd.  
Hazard, KY 41701  
(606) 439-3557

### CARAT Paducah

911 Joe Clifton Dr  
Paducah, KY 42001  
(270) 538-6844