



Indiana Assistive Technology Act (INDATA)
2024 FISCAL YEAR ANNUAL REPORT



indata project

ABOUT THE INDATA PROJECT

As a leading provider of programs for people with disabilities in central Indiana, Easterseals Crossroads has been providing services for more than 80 years. Realizing the tremendous need for people with disabilities to achieve and maintain their greatest levels of independence, assistive technology services were incorporated into employment training programs in 1979, and the Assistive Technology Center at Easterseals Crossroads was later opened in 1990 to provide technology solutions for all program areas.

In 2007, Easterseals Crossroads partnered with the State of Indiana Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services to establish INDATA, the statewide Indiana Assistive Technology Act Program for Indiana. INDATA is funded through the Administration on Community Living of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which is made possible through the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 as amended in 2004 (ATA 2004).

INDATA MISSION

To improve access to, acquisition of and knowledge about assistive technology (AT) for individuals with disabilities of all ages.

INDATA provides AT through comprehensive statewide programs and services, which include:

- Device Demonstrations
- Device Short-Term Loans
- Device Reutilization
- Financial Loans for AT and Services
- Information and Referral
- Training



SERVICES

INDATA DEPOT – EQUIPMENT AND COMPUTER REUTILIZATION

The “Depot” provides refurbished computers and high-tech AT devices that have been donated at no charge to qualified individuals with disabilities. This program relies heavily on outside donations from businesses and individuals. Certificates of Data Destruction and Tax Donation forms are available upon request. Devices available to qualified applicants include:

- Desktop and laptop computers
- Computers equipped with Windows 11 and Office 2019
- Video magnifiers, communication devices and other high-tech AT

TRAINING AND OUTREACH

We organize and sponsor instructional events, presentations and trainings designed to increase each participant’s knowledge and skills in the area of AT.

- 4 full-day trainings on a variety of AT-related topics are provided each year.
- Full-day training topic examples include Assistive Technology and Autism; Augmentative Alternative Communication; Creating Solutions in Minutes; Apps, Tools and Devices for Everyday Living.
- Other specialized trainings to groups or organizations are provided each year. Topics for these trainings are specific to the group and include assistive technology overview; accessibility for mobile devices; job accommodations; and disability awareness.
- Guest lectures are provided to Indiana colleges and universities for education, special education, library science, engineering, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech therapy classes.

EQUIPMENT LOAN LIBRARY

Our equipment loan library provides individuals in Indiana the opportunity to try a device in the environment where it will be used so they are empowered to make an informed decision about what device works best before making a financial commitment. The library has a growing number of devices and software available to borrow.

- 30-day loans of assistive technology devices to Indiana residents
- Indiana’s largest library of AT devices for loan
- Updated equipment to assist people who have challenges with vision, communication, mobility, hearing, learning and cognition

FUNDING FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Our Alternative Financing Program (AFP) in partnership with a local lending institution provides low-interest bank loans to purchase AT or software.

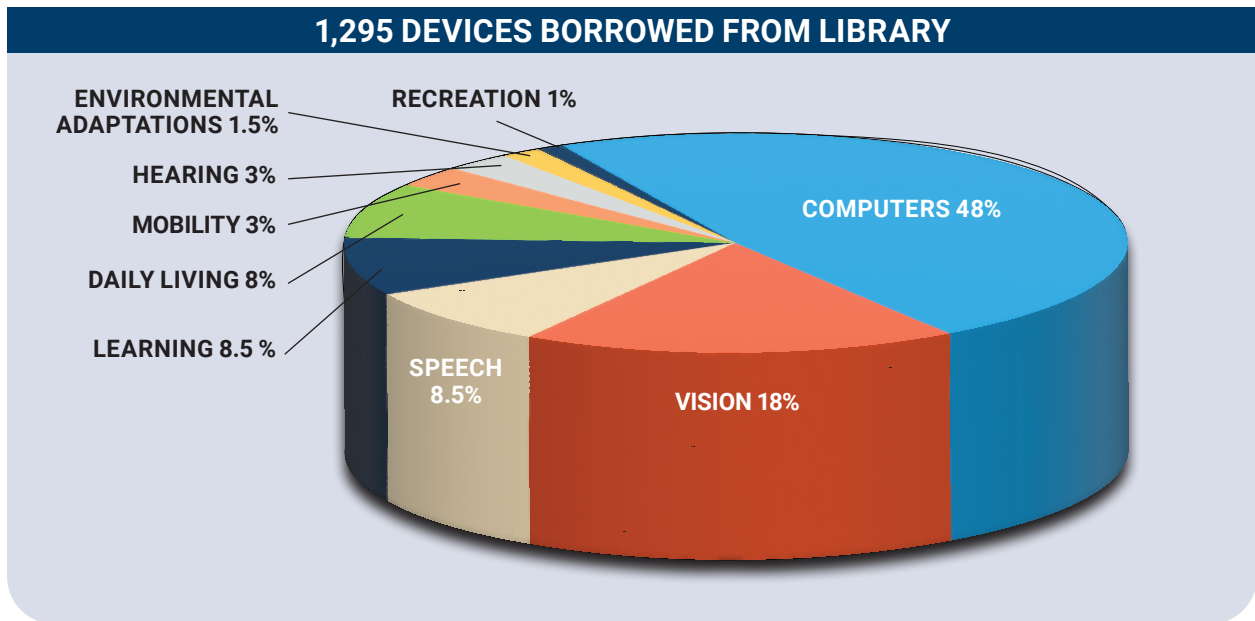
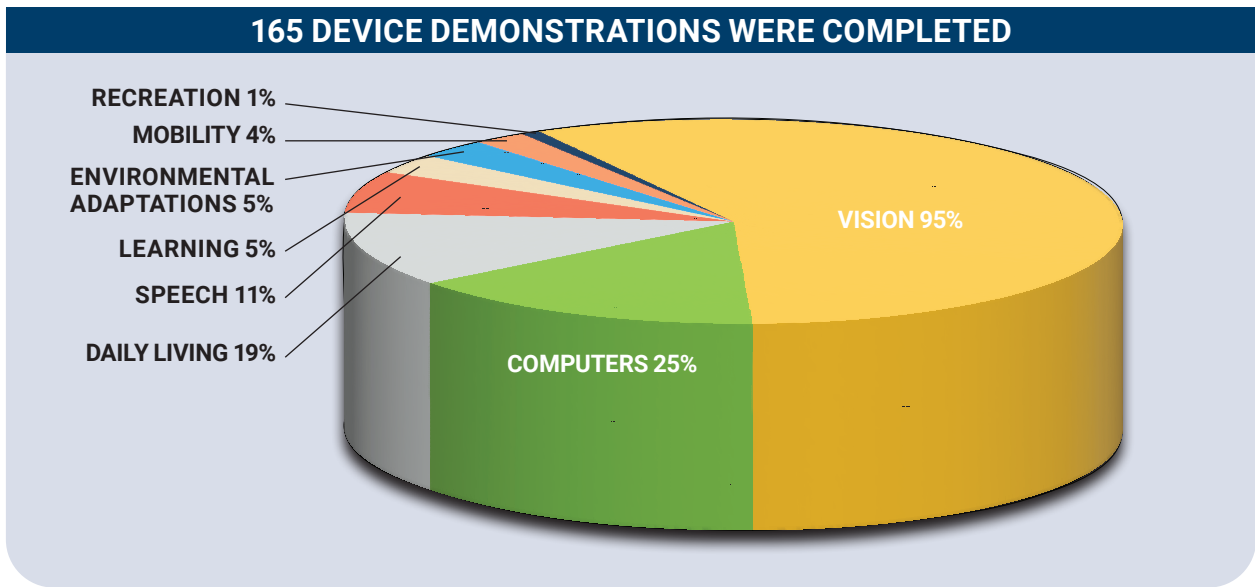
- Low-interest, extended-term loans
- Loans ranging from \$500-\$35,000
- Devices include mobility devices; hearing aids; Braille equipment; computers; motor vehicle/home modifications; iPads/mobile technology; and more.

DEVICE DEMONSTRATIONS

With our expert guidance, individuals receive demonstrations of AT device features to assist them in determining how to accomplish tasks at school, work, in their home and in the community.

- “To-your-door” demonstrations throughout Indiana
- Hands-on opportunities to learn about features, functions and options of AT

2024 FISCAL YEAR ACTIVITY





DEVICE REUTILIZATION

325 pieces of equipment were reutilized for a savings of \$184,256 by participants.

FUNDING FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AND SERVICES

11 loans totaling \$180,016 were provided to help Hoosiers obtain needed AT devices and services to help them live, work and learn independently.

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

880 Hoosiers received information and referral assistance on AT devices, services and funding through the INDATA information and referral line.

TRAINING

INDATA provided training to 677 participants, comprised of individuals with disabilities, family members, providers, advocates, educators, therapists and funders.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

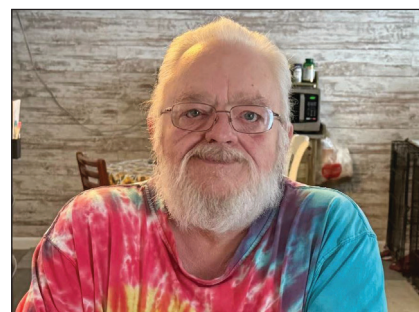
INDATA participated in 55 events across the state, spreading awareness about the benefits of AT and the services it provides.



SUCCESS SPOTLIGHTS

FINANCIAL LOANS FOR AT AND SERVICES

A lifelong animal lover, **Ron Frye's** first epiphany upon receiving hearing aids was how long he had gone without hearing the birds in his backyard. In 2008, health issues pushed Ron toward retirement. Increased time at home amplified the fact that his hearing was low. When Ron finally got a pair of basic hearing aids, he found himself getting them fixed more often than wearing them. Amid their research for financial assistance with purchasing more advanced hearing aids, Ron and his wife found the benefits of INDATA's Alternative Financing Program. Thanks to the ReSound hearing aid, Ron is better able to enjoy time with his wife, daughter and fur babies. The birds are also chirping for him once again.



Ron Frye

EQUIPMENT REUTILIZATION

Carol Loughlin's story is a testament to how technology can transform lives. Diagnosed with bipolar disorder in her early teens, the social challenges of the working world sent her into depression and self-isolation throughout her life. While living at an apartment community for fellow seniors with disabilities, she witnessed a neighbor work with INDATA's Equipment Reutilization Program to receive a laptop. Carol ended up applying for her own computer, and it opened her world to e-books, old friends on Facebook and even an online Buddhist monastery in France. She also ended up converting her living room into a home theater for streaming library videos and YouTube lectures. With this new online access, she feels like nothing is holding her back from her passion for learning. She's even been traveling with friends outside of cyberspace.



Carol Loughlin

EQUIPMENT LOAN LIBRARY/DEVICE DEMOS

Ten years ago, **Bob Butler** was diagnosed with diabetic retinopathy. Last fall, one of the injections with which he was regularly treated led to a staph infection in his left eye. Due to his vision loss, Bob has been most frustrated with not being able to read, drive or watch sports. While working with an occupational therapist last year, he learned about the assistive technology available via the INDATA Project. He then contacted Demo & Loan Lead Blake Allee, and they discussed several technology solutions including an iPad for magnified reading, audio books, and the Vision Buddy for watching sports. Since Bob was not familiar with this device, Blake was able to bring it out to his home for a demonstration. Bob ended up borrowing the device, using it to watch sports and a Bruce Springsteen concert, and enjoying a more active life with his wife and their dog, Scout.



Blake Allee and Bob Butler

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

One of our most successful training sessions last year was with **Butler University** students, teaching them about assistive technology and other tools for special education and occupational therapy. It's our privilege to arm new generations of educators and medical providers with the most up-to-date resources for people with disabilities.



Teaching Butler University students

PODCASTS AND YOUTUBE CHANNEL



ATUPDATE (ATU): A 30-minute weekly podcast to keep you up to date with the latest developments in the field of AT designed to assist persons with disabilities and special needs.

- **Started in June 2011** – 700+ total episodes – 1.5-2.5k downloads/month
- **Top 5 podcast on assistive technology** – Feedspot.com



AT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (ATFAQ): A one-hour bi-weekly question-and-answer podcast to address a wide variety of AT questions from persons with disabilities, family members, service providers and other interested parties.

- **Started in March 2015** – 190+ total episodes – 300-500k downloads/month
- **Top 5 podcast on assistive technology** – Feedspot.com



TECHTIPS (TT): Weekly YouTube videos that highlight an AT device and provide listeners a product description, a list of basic features and explains who might benefit from the device.

- **Started in July 2009** – 740+ videos – 4,650 subscribers
- **All-time total views** – 2.1 million

To learn more about our podcasts, go to www.eastersealstech.com/accessibilitychannel.



COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION

Indiana Brain Injury Board
Indiana AgrAbility Partner
Relay Indiana
VA Visually Impaired Support Team
Indiana iCanConnect
Indiana Arts Commission – Accessibility Committee
Indiana Work to Include
Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation

STAFF MEMBERS

Brian Norton – Vice President Adult Services
Josh Anderson – Director of Assistive Technology
Nikol Prieto – Outreach and Education Lead
Blake Allee – Demo and Loan Lead
Steve Carter – Equipment Loan Specialist
Alvin Alviar – ReUse Lead
Cameron Bond – ReUse Specialist
Dan Weisman – ReUse Technician
Megan Henderson – Operations Lead

Indiana's Leading Provider of
Assistive Technology Services
Since 1979



The INDATA Project at Easterseals Crossroads

4740 Kingsway Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46205
317.466.2013 or 888.466.1314
eastersealstech.com

Scan to visit
our website!

