

Assistive Technology for Employment

Sheila Simmons

Assistive Technology for Kansans

April 22, 2016

Roadmap

- What is AT? How's it used for Work?
- ATK Structure & Services
- KRS Provider Agreement and How to Access AT services for KRS customers
- AT Show n Tell

AT Services

AT Programs:

- Serve people with all disabilities of all ages.
- Focus on AT for education, employment & community living.
- Provide direct services to help people:
 - access information about AT devices.
 - acquire devices they need.

Assistive Technology (AT)

AT Devices:

- Any item or device that can be bought in a store or is specially made for an person with disabilities.

AT Categories:

- Computers & Related
- Daily Living
- Hearing
- Environmental Mods
- Learning, Cognitive, Developmental
- Position/Mobility/Seating
- Recreation/Sports/Leisure
- Speech Communication
- Vehicle, Vehicle Mods
- Vision

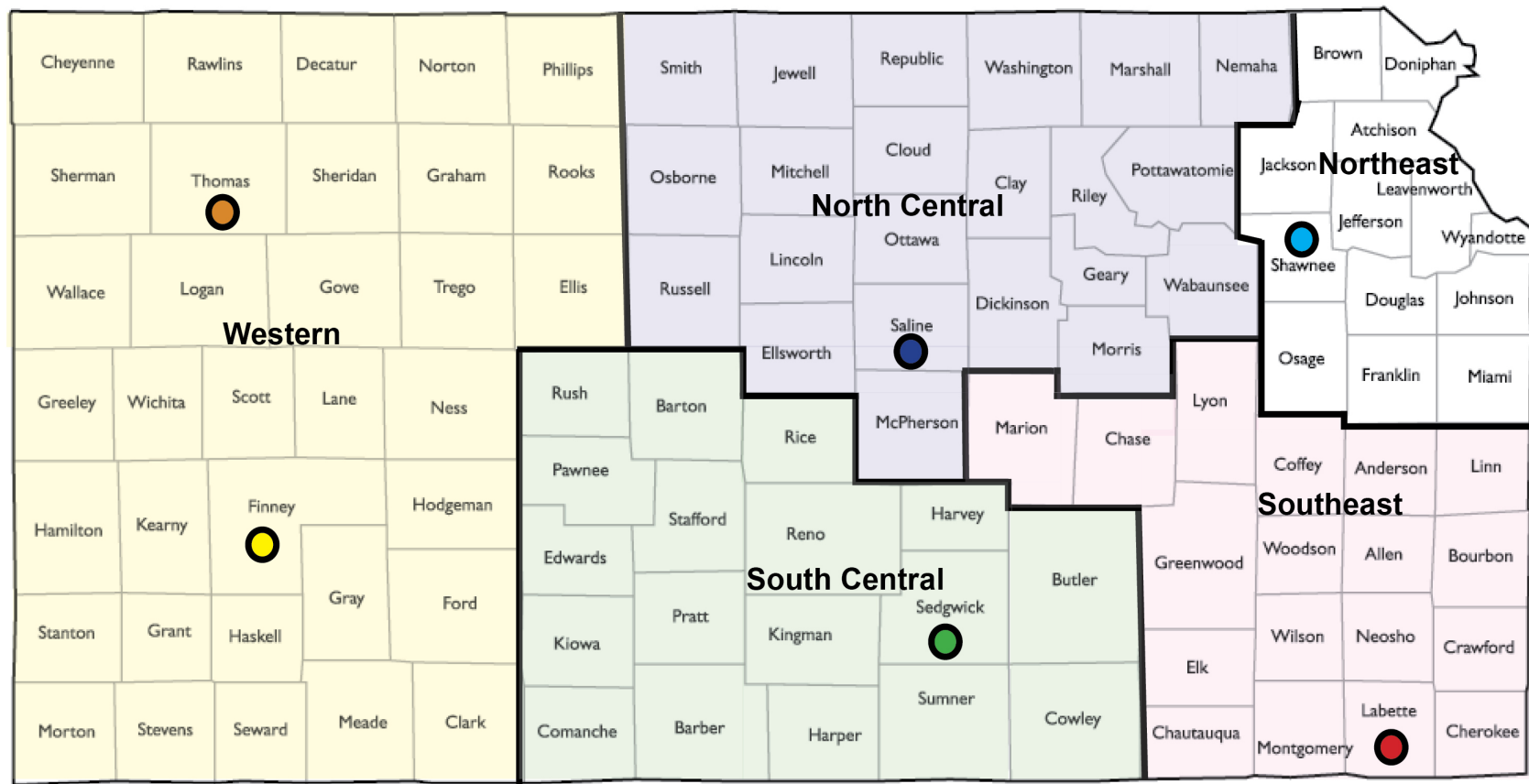
How ATK Started

- Over 660 consumers provided input on the design of the Kansas AT Program:
 - Needed to provide direct services since there was a lack of service options,
 - Statewide,
 - Same services should be available at each site,
 - Local organizations familiar with regional resources should be subcontractors,
 - Consumers should select these organizations,
 - Consumers should be the majority of the State Council for the AT Program.

Assistive Technology for Kansans

- 5 ATK Access Sites operated by established organizations in each region were selected by consumers.
- KU Life Span Institute in Parsons manages the program.
- Direct services provided:
 - Demonstration
 - Loan – Short Term Borrow
 - Fund
 - Reuse
 - Information & Assistance
 - Assessment
 - Training





ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR KANSANS AT ACCESS SITES & KANSAS EQUIPMENT EXCHANGE (ATK-KEE REUSE) NETWORKS 1-800-KAN DO IT (1-800-526-3648)

Western AT Access Site
The Assistive Technology Department of Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center
703 West Second, Oakley, Kansas 67748
PHONE: 800-KAN DO IT or 785-672-3125

Southwest Affiliate Office
KEE - AT affiliate for NKESC
Families Together
1518 Taylor Plaza, Garden City, KS 67846
PHONE: 800-KAN DO IT or 785-673-9609

North Central AT Access Site
OCCK, Inc., Solution Outreach Center
2941 Centennial, PO Box 1160
Salina, KS 67401
PHONE: 800-KAN DO IT or 785-827-9383

South Central AT Access Site
Southeast Kansas Independent Living (SKIL)
3033 West Second, Suite 104
Wichita, KS 67203
PHONE: 800-KAN DO IT or 316-942-5444

Northeast AT Access Site
Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL)
1507 SW 21st Street, Suite 203
Topeka, KS 66604
PHONE: 800-KAN DO IT or 785-267-1717

Southeast AT Access Site
Southeast Kansas Independent Living (SKIL)
1714 Main Street, PO Box 957
Parsons, KS 67357
PHONE: 800-KAN DO IT or 620-421-6551

AT for Employment

Case Study: Vision

- A woman who is legally blind needed help seeing the words so she could do her work at a local school. ATK staff had her try out a device that let her magnify and read print.



Vision Devices:

- ATK staff funded the Merlin video magnifier through the iKAN Connect program, a laptop with screen reader software through Kansas Rehabilitation Services, and a cordless phone with pager through TAP. She works part-time as a library assistant cataloging videos, entering new equipment into the loan library, and checking items in and out. She pays her bills online so saves hiring a driver and is taking online classes for a degree in educational technology.

AT for Employment

Case Study: Farm Solutions

- ATK staff helped a man who had trouble holding on to tools find ones that had handles that were comfortable for him and that extended so he didn't have to bend over so much. He's raising vegetables to sell.



Case Study: Arthritis



AT for Employment

Case Study: Memory/writing

- A woman who had a stroke due to an aneurism had problems with memory, spelling, and writing.



Reading, writing memory:

ATK staff had her try out software that could read out loud to help her file in the office and read email from coworkers. She uses a tablet to keep to do lists for work and home. The calendar and alarms on her tablet help her get to work on time.

Accessing AT Services

- Contact your local AT Access Site or a specific AT Specialist (800-526-3648).
- Authorize an AT service (functional evaluation, training, technical assistance).
- If unsure of the service needed, authorize an AT Assessment and develop a plan with the consumer and AT Specialist.
 - A specific staff person will be assigned depending on the AT category addressed.

Core Services

- Accessing AT (learning about it)
 - Demonstration: review by a qualified staff that compares the features of devices that might meet the functional needs of a person with a disability.
<http://atk.ku.edu/learn-about> (video)
 - Loan: short-term borrowing of a device to determine if it meets the person's needs, or as a short-term accommodation for a temporary need, or a replacement during a repair. <http://atk.ku.edu/learn-about#borrow> (loan inventory by category)

Core Services

- Acquisition of AT (getting it)
 - Funding: provide assistance to people with disabilities or representatives identifying funding options, completing paperwork for eligibility determination, gathering documentation on needed devices, writing justifications, and appealing as needed. <http://atk.ku.edu/get-device> (video)
 - Reuse (Request, donate): Matching a device to the needs of a person with a disability; if it's durable medical equipment it can be refurbished. <http://atk.ku.edu/get-refurbished> (reuse inventory)

Other Services

- Information & Assistance: device product and AT service information provided.
- Assessment: Qualified staff conduct an evaluation of the person's needs in the appropriate setting to determine what devices are needed and the most relevant features. *
- Training: Can be for individuals or groups. Training for individuals teaches people how to use and maintain AT devices and software or integrate it into a technology system at work or school. *
 - * Provided if 3rd party payer available.

ATK Contracts with KRS

- Priority is to provide services that allow the consumer to identify needed technology and to master the use of assistive technology to achieve employment objectives.
- Services provided are: AT Assessment (Planning process), AT Evaluation, AT Training, & AT Technical Assistance.

Questions?

ssimmons@ku.edu

620-421-8367

800-526-3648

<http://www.atk.ku.edu>