

MICHIGAN

Assistive Technology

Resources



MICHIGAN Assistive Technology Resources

AT Xchange

contact MDRC via email at ATX@prosynergy.org

A new Michigan-based website where people can buy, sell or give away assistive technology (AT)

Do you have a used AT item in storage that could really help someone who has a disability? It could be anything from a wheelchair, stair lift, Braille reader, or reacher! If so, just post a classified ad AT Xchange.org. Include a digital photo. ATxchange is open to vendors who have **used** equipment for sale also. And don't worry about cost, ATXchange is a **free service!**

Maybe you or someone you know is looking for AT? Check out ATXchange.org! If you can't find what you are looking for, you can post it as an item wanted and receive an email message telling you if and when someone posts the item you are looking for. You may find the AT you are seeking for a bargain price – even for free!

Categories of devices listed on The AT Xchange are:

- [Computers and related](#)
- [Daily Living](#)
- [Environmental Adaptations](#)
- [Hearing](#)
- [Learning, Cognitive, & Developmental](#)
- [Mobility, Seating & Positioning](#)
- [Recreation, Sports, and Leisure](#)
- [Speech Communication](#)
- [Vehicle Modification and Transportation](#)
- [Vision](#)
- [Other](#)

Assistive Technology of Michigan

43000 W. Nine Mile Rd., Suite 113

Novi, MI 48375

Phone: (248) 348-7161

Fax: (248) 348-7131

E-mail: atofmich@juno.com

Website: <http://www.atofmich.com/>

Contact Name: Ghassan Souri

Organization Type: General

Disabilities Served: General / Non-disability Specific

Assistive Technology of Michigan works to provide comprehensive assistive technology services. These services include on-site evaluations, custom design and development, equipment recommendations, equipment set-up and training, and follow-up services. Follow-up services fall in the following areas: computer access, electronic aids for daily living, worksite accommodation, AT training, computer skills training, funding consultation. Assistive

Technology of Michigan provides these services to individuals with physical, sensory and learning disabilities. In addition, AT of Michigan sells hundred of AT hardware and software equipment for the convenience of their clients.

Blind Children's Fund

311 West Broadway Suite 1

Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Phone: (989) 779-9966

Fax: (989) 779-0015

E-mail: bcf@blindchildrensfund.org

Website: <http://www.blindchildrensfund.org/>

Organization Type: Advocacy and Law, Disability/Disorder Specific, Information Centers, National Organizations and Associations, Parent/Family Support, Private Sector Companies

Disabilities Served: Deaf / Blind, Visual Impairment / Blind

Blind Children's Fund, a non-profit organization, promotes the development of materials and methods regarding how to care for and work with and educate infants and young children. BCF develops articles, handouts and video materials for use by both parents and professionals. The mission of BCF is to encourage the development, education and welfare of children with visual and/or multiple impairments. BCF seeks to increase global awareness regarding the need for early and continuing intervention services and to provide children, parents and professionals with information and resources for promoting the independence and dignity of children with disabilities.

Michigan Assistive Technology Project

c/o Michigan Disability Rights Coalition

780 W. Lake Lansing Road, Suite 200

East Lansing, MI 48823

Contact: Kathryn Wyeth

Phone/TTY: (517) 333-2477

Phone: (800) 760-4600 (In State)

Fax: (517) 333-2677

Email: kdwyeth@prosynergy.org

Web: <http://www.copower.org/AT/index.htm>

Device Reutilization:

Michigan administers the AT Xchange (ATX) for individuals with an AT device wishing to either sell it or give it away. You can also post items you are looking for and receive an e-mail when something is available in your category! Vendors are welcome to list used equipment too. [Visit the AT Xchange!](#)

Device Demonstration:

The purpose of a device demonstration is to help people compare and contrast the features and benefits of a variety of devices in order to make an informed buying

decision. Michigan's plan is to increase the number of people reached through demonstrations of AT in the state through subcontracts in unserved and underserved regions. [A list of local projects providing device demonstration through subcontracts with the AT Program.](#)

State Financing Activities:

Michigan operates the Michigan AT Loan Fund to provide low interest loans to people with disabilities so they can purchase AT. Michigan Disability Rights Coalition has now transferred ownership of this fund to United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan. MDRC also transferred ownership of the Michigan Telework Loan Fund which provides loans for the purchase of equipment for people with disabilities to work at home or operate home businesses. For more information about the loan funds please visit: <http://www.michiganloanfunds.org/>.

State Leadership Activities:

Michigan's program subcontracts with consumer-directed organizations to provide training statewide. Michigan also provides, in partnership with local groups; toll-free information and referral services, information through presentations at conferences; and collaboration on publications and training materials about AT.

The program provides [AT Connections](#), an email-based newsletter published 10 times a year on Michigan AT activities, coordination and collaboration on statewide issues, and a website.

Artificial Language Laboratory

405 Computer Center
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824-1042
Phone: (517) 353-5399
Fax: (517) 353-4766
Email: artlang@pilot.msu.edu

The ALL staff performs evaluations of individuals to determine what assistive communication technology may be appropriate to meet their needs. Evaluations also assess the suitability of upgrading an individual's current system to take advantage of new developments.

The ALL conducts innovative projects of intensive intervention with individuals who experience severe communication handicaps. Working with each person's medical, therapeutic, and educational team and family, the ALL adapts and customizes communication systems for such persons when commercial technology is not available to fulfill their needs. The ALL provides longterm follow-up and maintenance of equipment.

The ALL provides training for students and faculty at Michigan State University in the tools and techniques of assistive communication technology. The ALL also offers inservice training for the staff of school districts, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and other institutions.

Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (SBPH)

Michigan Library and Historical Center
702 West Kalamazoo St
PO Box 30007
Lansing, MI 48909-7507

The Michigan Network of Regional and Subregional Libraries serving people with visual and physical handicaps offers best-sellers, mysteries, westerns, biographies, how-to books and other types of materials found in a public library. The only difference is that the books are recorded on cassette or printed in braille and will arrive at your door through the regular U.S. postal service. Just like standard print books, these publications are unabridged (not condensed) and contain all of the information found in the print version - right down to the book jacket. And best of all, this service is FREE, there is not even a charge to mail materials to or from the library.

You do not need to be legally blind to use our services - if standard print has become difficult for you, a friend, or a family member, please call **1-800-992-9012**.

Schools and facilities that have eligible clients or patients are also welcome! We do 99% of our business through the mail, so you need never leave the comfort of your own home.

This program is made possible by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. See their Frequently Asked Questions for more information about this free, nation-wide program. For more information about the history of the Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in Michigan.

Michigan Commission for the Blind

201 N. Washington, 2nd Floor; P.O. Box 30652
Lansing, MI 48909

Phone: (517) 373-2062 (517) 373-4025 (TTY)

Fax: (517) 335-5140

Website: http://www.michigan.gov/dleg/0,1607,7-154-28077_28313---,00.html

Organization Type: General

Disabilities Served: Visual Impairment / Blind

The Michigan Commission for the Blind is the state government agency that provides training, services, and other opportunities to individuals who are blind or visually impaired, so that each person can achieve his or her own goals for independence and/or employment. Each year, the Commission serves approximately 4,500 individuals who are blind or visually impaired, providing services in all 83 counties of the state. The mission of the Michigan Commission for the Blind is to provide opportunity to individuals who are blind or visually impaired to achieve employability and/or function independently in society. They envision Michigan as a place where individuals with visual impairments can live, learn, work, raise a family, and enjoy life.

Michigan Disability Rights Coalition

3498 East Lake Lansing Road, Ste 100
East Lansing, MI 48823

In Michigan: 1(800) 760-4600
or (517) 333-2477 Fax (517) 333-2677

MDRC works to build opportunities for people with disabilities so they may live fully integrated lives within their chosen communities, now and in the future. Full citizenship is the expected role that people with disabilities will play, and their hopes and dreams parallel those of citizens without disabilities.

MDRC is a state-wide network of individuals and organizations that advances the issues of Michigan's disability community through grassroots activism, public education and advocacy.

Michigan's Assistive Technology Resource (MATR)

1023 South U.S. 27

St. Johns, MI 48879-2424

Phone: (800) 274-7426 (989) 224-0333 TTY: (989) 224-0246

Fax: (989) 224-0330

E-mail: mits@edzone.net

Website: <http://www.cenmi.org/matr/>

Organization Type: Assistive Technology, Information Centers, State and Local Organizations

Disabilities Served: General / Non-disability Specific

The overall purpose of Michigan's Assistive Technology Resource (MATR) is to provide information services, support materials, technical assistance, and training to local and intermediate school districts in Michigan to increase their capacity to address the needs of students with disabilities for assistive technology.

The Michigan Loan Funds

3401 E. Saginaw, Suite 216

Lansing, MI 48912

Phone: 1-(800) 828-2714

Fax: (517) 203-1203

E-mail: info@michiganloanfunds.org

Website: <http://www.michiganloanfunds.org/>

Contact Name: Carolyn Brown, Loan Fund Manager at UCP of Michigan

Organization Type: General

Disabilities Served: General / Non-disability Specific

The Michigan Loan Funds, run by UCP of Michigan, are two low-interest loan funds available to people with disabilities.

The Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund allows people with disabilities in the State of Michigan and their family members to obtain low-interest loans to purchase assistive technology. Examples include, but are not limited to: hearing aids, modified vehicles, wheelchairs, and scooters. Flexible loan terms are available and applicants can request loan amounts up to \$20,000.

The Michigan TeleWork Loan Fund allows people with disabilities in the State of Michigan, their family members, and in some cases, their employers to obtain low-interest loans to purchase any item or piece of equipment needed to work from home, a remote site, or from a telework center. This equipment does not have to be assistive technology. People with disabilities can either work from home for an employer or start their own home-based business. The maximum loan amount is \$20,000.

Michigan Residents

The Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (MDRC) has established the Assistive Technology Loan Fund to help people with disabilities purchase assistive technology devices and services. The Loan Fund provides low-cost financing to persons with disabilities to purchase assistive technology devices that allow for greater access, enhanced communication and job opportunities. For more information please visit: <http://www.mi-atlf.org/>

Organizations Especially for Parents

Parent Training and Information Center (PTI)

Mary C. Suurmeyer, Executive Director
Citizens Alliance to Uphold Special Education (CAUSE)
5668 N. Okemos Road
East Lansing, MI 48823-2999
(517) 886-9167; (800) 221-9105 (in MI)
E-mail: info@causeonline.org
Web: www.causeonline.org

(Serving Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties)
Citizens Alliance to Uphold Special Education (CAUSE)
Tri-County Partnership
Northland Towers
15565 Northland Drive, Suite 506E
Southfield, MI 48075
(248) 424-9610; (800) 298-4424
E-mail: infodetroit@causeonline.org

Parent-To-Parent

Mary Marin, Executive Director
Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs
Family Support Network of Michigan
Children's Special Health Care Services
Michigan Department of Community Health
Cadillac Place
3056 W. Grand Boulevard, Suite 3-350
Detroit, MI 48202-6033
(313) 456-4381; (800) 359-3722 (Family Phonenumber)
Web: www.michigan.gov/cshcs

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Donna Oser, Executive Director
Michigan Congress of Parents, Teachers and Students
7402 Westshire Drive, Suite 115
Lansing, MI 48917
(517) 622-4782
E-mail: donnar@michiganpta.org
Web: www.michiganptsa.org

Training and Technical Assistance for Family Involvement

Sandee Koski and Kelly Organski, Coordinators
Michigan Alliance for Family
Parent Mentoring, Training and Leadership Opportunities
1325 S. Washington Avenue
Lansing, MI 48910
(517) 487-5426; (800) 292-7851
E-mail: sandee.k@arcmi.org
E-mail: kelly.o@arcmi.org
Web: www.arcmi.org

Sherri Boyd, Director
Michigan Alliance for Families
Lansing Main Office
1325 S. Washington Avenue
Lansing, MI 48910
(517) 487-5426; (800) 292-7851
E-mail: sherri@arcmi.org
Web: www.wash.k12.mi.us/perform/

Other Disability Organizations

John Cocciolone, CEO/President
Easter Seals Michigan
1105 N. Telegraph
Waterford, MI 48329
(248) 451-2900; (800) 757-3257 (in MI)
E-mail: jcocciolone@essmichigan.org
Web: www.essmichigan.org

Duncan Wyeth, Executive Director
Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth
Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns and Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing
201 N. Washington Square, Suite 150
Lansing, MI 48913
(517) 335-6004 (V/TTY); (877) 499-6232

Email: dodhh@michigan.gov

E-mail: mcdc@michigan.gov

Web: www.mcdc-dodhh.org

Web: www.midisability.org

Dr. Joanne Marttila Pierson, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Associate Director

Judy Nantau, Assistant Head of Clinical Services

University Center for the Development of Language and Literacy

University of Michigan

1111 E. Catherine Street

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-2054

(734) 764-8440

E-mail: ucll@umich.edu

Web: www.languageexperts.org

Lora Frankel, Executive Director

VSA arts of Michigan

P.O. Box 02805

100 W. Alexandrine

Detroit, MI 48202-2805

(313) 832-3303 (V/TTY)

E-mail: info@vsami.org

Web: www.vsami.org