



2013



**Ability  
Tools**

Assistive Technology Network

Oct 1, 2012 — Sep 30, 2013  
**Annual Report**

## Ability Tools Overview

Ability Tools, formerly the Assistive Technology (AT) Network, is California's Assistive Technology Act Program. We provide a variety of services for Californians with disabilities of all ages.

Our services include:

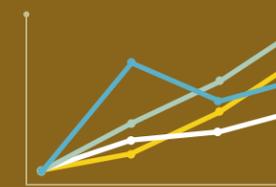
- Device Loans
- Information & Referral
- Reuse program in affiliation with organizational partners
- Training
- AT Exchange marketplace
- Interactive website
- Technical assistance to organizations on AT issues
- Community presentations & outreach to increase AT awareness
- FREE membership to connect AT enthusiasts

## About Assistive Technology (AT)

Assistive Technology (AT) makes life easier. Specifically, assistive technology is any device, gadget, hardware or software used by a person with a disability to do things for themselves that might otherwise be difficult or impossible to do because of their disability.

Assistive Technology helps people with disabilities live, work, learn and play as independently as possible. AT includes low-tech items like a reacher or a magnifying glass and high-tech equipment like tablet apps or systems that allow you to control your computer with your eyes.

*"New technology is common, new thinking is rare."*  
—Peter Blake



42,816 people learned about  
AT & Ability Tools services

3,117 people received at least one  
Ability Tools service

## Device Loans

Ability Tools funds Device Lending Libraries throughout California that loan out equipment free for 30 days. Our DLLs allow individuals to try out AT solutions before they purchase a device or to help with temporary needs. Most items can be shipped to borrowers in other areas of the state. Portable ramps, communication devices, magnifiers, iPads and reachers are examples of the hundreds of items available for loan.



*Jose at CCCIL, trying out a tablet and a large keyboard from the Ability Tools Device Lending Library program.*

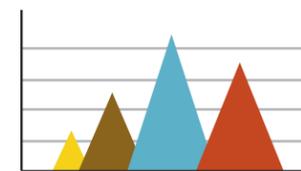
# Success Story

Over the last 15 years Central Coast Center for Independent Living (CCCIL) has been one of seven Traumatic Brain Injury sites in California serving an average of 50 community members each year. Jose is one of those consumers.

Jose has short-term memory and vision loss that makes scheduling difficult and prevents him from reading small print.

Fortunately, CCCIL's Assistive Technology Coordinator was able to demonstrate different tablets and show Jose how to take advantage of their calendar functions. He also was able to use an accessible large button black and yellow keyboard (pictured). Jose was able to borrow these devices free for 30 days to figure out what worked best for him.

Jose is now planning to go back to school and finish his GED. To prepare he is learning about the tablets' different apps that can help him succeed in school.



Total Items Loaned

1,750

## Reuse

Ability Tools and our partners engage in AT reuse by collecting donations of gently used durable medical equipment (DME), fixing and cleaning the donations, and then providing the equipment for free or low-cost to Californians with disabilities.

Examples of AT and DME commonly donated and reassigned through affiliated reuse programs include wheelchairs, scooters, walkers and hospital beds.

This year Ability Tools partnered with 4 organizations engaging in reuse. These organizations posted their used equipment on the AT Exchange website for sale or free.

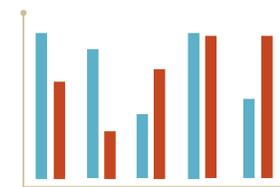
Ability Tools is the founding member of the California Assistive Technology Reuse Coalition. We lead coalition activities to advance AT reuse in California, including coordination between reuse centers. For more information, visit the coalition website at [californiareuse.org](http://californiareuse.org)

# Success Story

Fred, a 58-year-old veteran, was interested in getting a scooter due to increased difficulty walking. He contacted Karen Marshall, the AT Advocate working for CRIL in Hayward. Karen then used the Ability Tools listserv to network with other AT Advocates in Northern California to see if she could find a reuse center with a free or low-cost used scooter. Eddie Lopez, the AT Coordinator from ILRSCC in Concord, had recently received a donated scooter. It was a perfect match. Eddie and Karen were able to deliver the scooter to Fred. He was very happy, as several weeks earlier he had fallen and broken his two front teeth. With the new scooter Fred can go out and take care of his daily needs without worrying about falling.



*Fred with his refurbished scooter thanks to CRIL, ILRSCC and the Ability Tools Reuse Program.*



389 Items Reassigned  
\$185,788 Saved Through Reuse

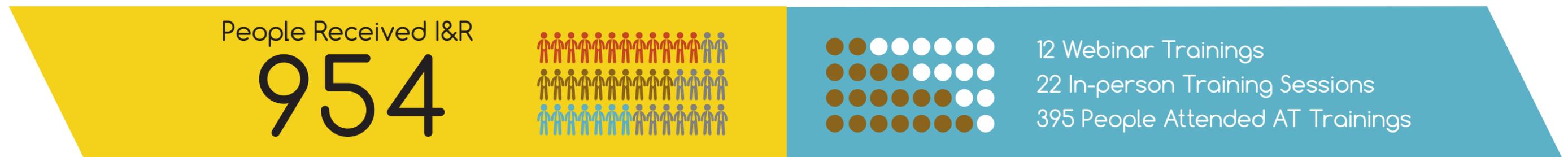
## Outreach

Ability Tools is able to reach all corners of California due to our partnership with device lending libraries, reuse centers and Independent Living Centers throughout the state. Ability Tools staff and partner organizations inform California's communities about Ability Tools services through presentations, demonstrations, materials distribution at outreach events and media mentions.



## Information & Referral

Ability Tools provides Information and Referral assistance to hundreds of Californians with disabilities looking for advice and AT funding sources. People can contact Ability Tools through our toll-free telephone information line, email and online contact form, as well as through various social media avenues like Facebook and Twitter.



## Training

Ability Tools provides in-person and online trainings on various AT Topics, including but not limited to:

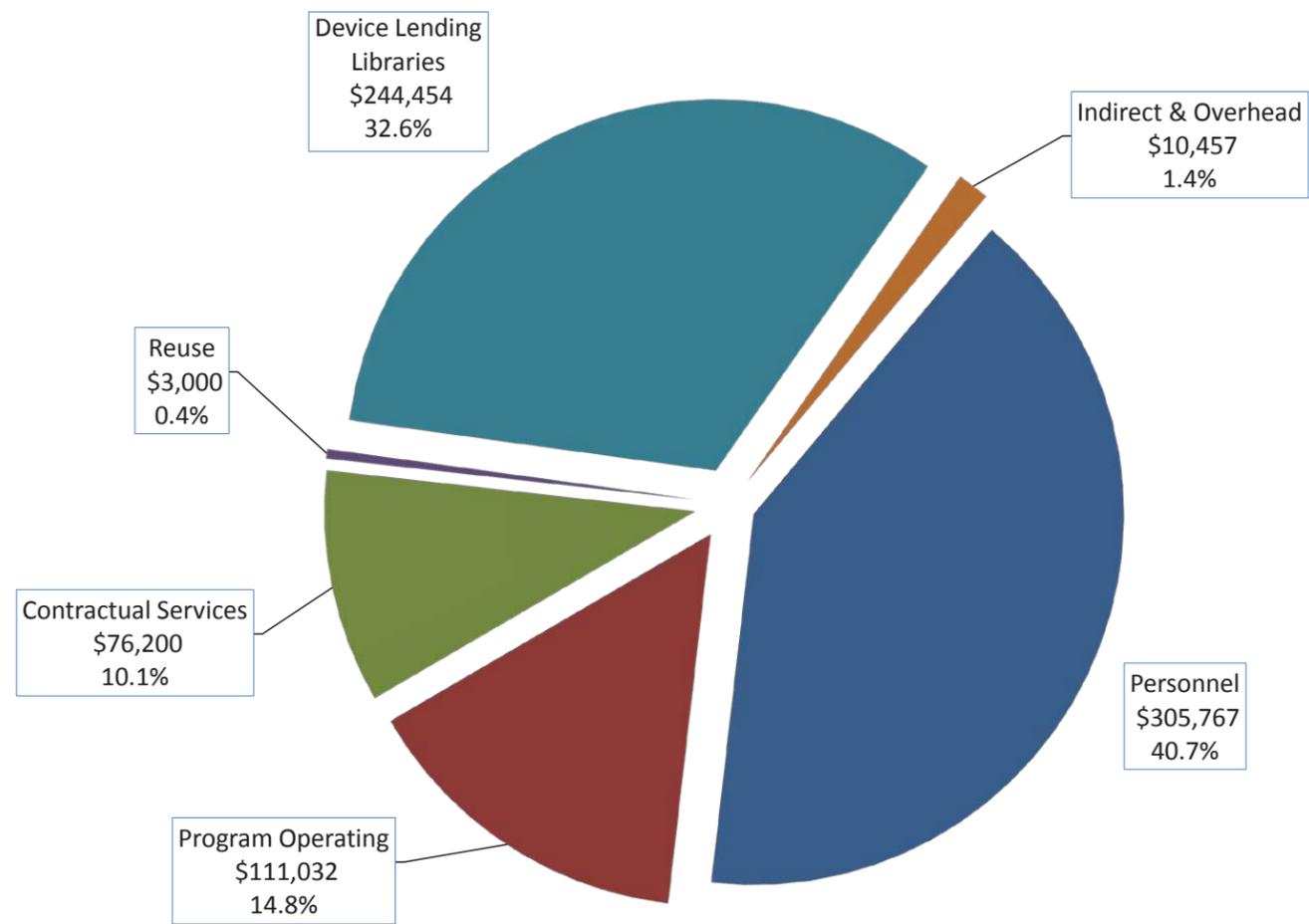
- New AT trends
- AT funding resources
- Transition & Community Living
- Learning & Literacy
- Youth/school focused AT
- Daily living aids
- Software and apps
- Professional development
- Law & Advocacy
- Communication devices and apps
- Evaluation & Assessment

Webinar trainings are archived on the Ability Tools website and YouTube channel for future viewing. All archives are open captioned. This year all in-person training sessions took place at Ability Tools quarterly regional in-person meetings.



# Assistive Technology Act Expenses

10/01/2012 to 09/30/2013



Ability Tools is a project of the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers



Ability Tools is made possible through funding from the Department of Rehabilitation, financed by the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration with funds allocated by the Assistive Technology Act of 2004.



Ability Tools would like to thank our sponsors:





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