

IPAT Partners with CrossCountry Courier

Judie Lee, IPAT Executive Director

IPAT and CrossCountry Courier are partnering to deliver used assistive technology (AT) equipment to people throughout the state of North Dakota. IPAT has been operating the AT Swap & Shop program since 1996, which allows individuals to buy, sell, swap, or give away AT equipment through a statewide used equipment database. One of the biggest challenges for people has been transporting the used device. If someone in Williston had a lift chair for sale and someone in Drayton wished to buy it, finding someone to take it was difficult and paying for it to be shipped was expensive. IPAT met with CrossCountry Courier to discuss the problem, and they offered a solution.

CrossCountry Courier is a freight carrier headquartered in Bismarck. They have a network of 16 shipping terminals and provide delivery service to most cities throughout North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota. They were founded in 1980 and celebrate 25 years of service excellence and growth. When the problem was explained to them regarding the difficulty of transporting AT devices between communities, they volunteered their services. CrossCountry Courier will transport at NO charge, the used assistive technology devices being exchanged via the IPAT Swap & Shop to people in North Dakota.

The policies and procedures are straightforward. IPAT will be the contact for pick up and delivery. CrossCountry Courier will provide door to door pick-up and delivery of used AT within towns. There is really no size limitation and very few requirements for packaging. The schedule will be flexible and items will be picked-up and delivered when there is space on the trucks. CrossCountry Courier is not responsible for damage, but takes pride in safe delivery.

Individuals in North Dakota looking for a used AT device or having AT equipment for sale, trade or donation can call IPAT (1-800-265-4728) or connect to the IPAT website (www.ndipat.org). Anyone using the IPAT Swap & Shop to sell, buy or give away AT equipment can contact IPAT for further information on how to take advantage of this FREE shipping service.

There is a demand for used AT equipment and there is a supply of it in North Dakota. IPAT is excited to be partnering with CrossCountry Courier to make getting and receiving used AT equipment even more timely and affordable.

Emergency Preparedness & People with Disabilities

Natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina and acts of terrorism like 9-11, have shown that people with disabilities who are self-sufficient under normal circumstances may need to rely on the help of others in a disaster.

When a disaster occurs, the first priority of disaster relief organizations and government agencies is to provide for the basic needs of food, water, and safe shelter to everyone who needs them. Meeting individual needs, such as replacing medications, providing adaptive equipment, restoring electricity for equipment dependent upon power, evacuation, and/or supplying daily living supports may not happen right away. Being ready for a disaster is part of maintaining independence and is an individual responsibility. In the event of a natural disaster or statewide emergency, the following preparation tips for people with disabilities were gleaned from documents developed by the American Red Cross and FEMA:

- 1) Identify 1 person who lives at least 100 miles away to serve as a contact point. This person needs to know and can explain: a) your needs to an unfamiliar party; b) how to operate necessary equipment; c) time-table for needed medications and dosages; d) medical providers roles, names, and numbers; and e) health insurance specifics and related information.
- 2) Make a list of the type and model numbers of the assistive technology devices you require. Label the devices, and have a laminated instruction sheet available on how to use and care for each device.
- 3) Keep at least a 7-day supply of essential medications with you at all times; make copies of current prescriptions.
- 4) Prepare brief, clear, and specific written instructions and directions to give to rescue personnel; laminate. For example: Please take my oxygen, wheelchair, and communication device from under the bed; or Please don't straighten my knees, they have been surgically fused in a bent position.
- 5) Identify use of a service animal and have a 3 to 7-day supply of food and water, leash or harness, collar, identification tags, and vaccination records ready to go.
- 6) Make sure you have transportation for evacuation; know the location and availability of more than one facility if you are dependent on life-sustaining equipment or treatment.
- 7) Obtain a first aid kit, add to it the supplies needed that are disability specific, keep it in a dry, convenient place.

Emergencies can happen at a moment's notice. All individuals can decrease the impact of a disaster by taking steps to prepare before an event occurs. For further information go to www.disabilitypreparedness.org or call your local Red Cross office.

Various agencies in North Dakota are currently working to develop a voluntary registry to identify state residents with disabilities for emergency planning purposes. Public input sessions will be held this fall at eight sites. If you would like to be part of the discussion, please contact IPAT toll-free at 1-877-355-4728.

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Consumer Connection

New ListServ for Augmentative & Alternative Communication (AAC)

I would like to introduce you to the following ListSers: The AAC-List and AAC-Pals. I'm Anthony Arnold from Grand Forks, North Dakota; I have cerebral palsy, which requires me to use a power wheelchair for mobility and an augmentative and alternative communication system for communication. I have used AAC and other forms of technology for 25+ years, and having had this personal experience, I developed a strong interest to help and educate others.

The AAC-List

The AAC-List provides a place for augmentative and alternative communicators, family members, university students, and current professionals working in the field to both gain and exchange knowledge about augmentative and alternative communication, assistive technology, education, and therapy. Go to this site for more information: <http://www.aac-list.net/aac-list.html> .

AAC-Pals

All topics discussed on the AAC-Pals must be geared toward youngsters who rely on augmentative and alternative communication. AAC-Pals is open to any youngster age 7-21, and parental supervision is encouraged to promote a safe online environment. In addition to supervising all interactions on AAC-Pals, parents are encouraged to subscribe to the AAC-List. Go to this site for more information: <http://www.aac-list.net/aacpals.html> .

Thanks,
Anthony Arnold
AAC-List Owner
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FUNDING NEWS

Obtain AT with Specialized Equipment from the Medicaid Waiver for Home and Community Services

(Information obtained from the Home and Community Based Services Policy and Procedures website: <http://www.state.nd.us/robo/projects/hcbs/hcbs.htm>)

Do you need assistive technology (AT) to remain in your home, to help you be independent and/or to keep you safe? Do you qualify for the Medicaid Waiver for Home and Community Services? If so, there may be AT funding available for you. Medicaid has long paid for care in nursing facilities and other institutions. This Medicaid Waiver allows the government to pay for care in your home, which you would otherwise need from a nursing facility.

AT devices such as safety equipment, environmental control devices, specially designed wheelchair lap trays, and specialized positioning devices are listed as a covered service under “Specialized Equipment and Services” of the Medicaid Waiver for Home and Community Services. Equipment that falls under this program should “facilitate or promote a recipient's independent functioning within his or her home”. Although the qualifying specialized equipment may indirectly assist a person with his/her medical needs, this is not a requirement. Equipment covered under this waiver also includes “adaptive devices and supplies that can assist an individual to function safely in their own home”.

“The individual receiving Specialized Equipment and Supplies Services must meet the following criteria:

1. Must be eligible for the programs of Medicaid Waiver for Home and Community Services.
2. The applicant/recipient is at least 18 years of age.
3. The basis of need for the equipment is established through the assessment process and when applicable, ancillary health care providers (e.g. PT/OT, Speech and Hearing). Prior approval is required for the purchase of specialized equipment or supplies that cost in excess of \$200 per total proposal.
4. The equipment purchased is of significant benefit to the applicant/recipient in the performance of personal cares and/or household tasks in their home.
5. The recipient does not already have access to a product that serves essentially the same purpose.
6. The need for the equipment is expected to extend indefinitely.
7. The individual is motivated to use the equipment.
8. The equipment is a non-covered item under the Title XIX State Medicaid Plan or unavailable through other funding sources.
9. The informal network (family members, friends, or neighbors) is not willing or able to purchase the equipment for the individual.
10. Pre approval from the Department of Human Services is required before this service can be authorized.”

For more information, please contact IPAT at 1-800-895-4728 or ND Protection & Advocacy at 1-800-472-2670.

EQUIPMENT SPOTLIGHT

BookCourier Portable Player

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BookCourier is a portable reading device designed specifically for people with vision and learning disabilities that make reading difficult. BookCourier's text-to-speech engine reads text files from a variety of sources, including Kurzweil Educational Systems, Bookshare.org (DAISY 3 text), Grade 2 Braille, TNAUK (Talking Newspaper Association of the United Kingdom), word processors, email packages, and Internet browsers. BookCourier also plays spoken word MP3 files from providers such as Audible.com, as well as, DAISY 2.02 audio files. And, when you've read enough, BookCourier will play standard music MP3 files.

BookCourier's **user-friendly interface** has fast forward and reverse controls as well as bookmarks and other **smart navigation controls** that allow you to go wherever you want to be in a file.

Depending on the file type and the mark-up provided by the **content** publisher, you can jump by time increments or by word, sentence, paragraph, page, section, chapter, or article. And if you have a question about a feature or a key function, BookCourier's built-in talking help and talking user guide are immediately available. BookCourier also has a number of features that allow you to create a **listening environment** that's right for you.



For more information on this device please call the manufacturer at: 925-242-0310 or visit their website: <http://www.bookcourier.com> . If you would like to rent this item from the IPAT Equipment Loan Library, please call 1-800-895-4728 or email: ipatinfo@ndipat.org.

Mark Your Calendar

Third Annual Dakota Disabilities Issues Conference

"Keeping the Promise"

August 20 – 21, 2007

Kelly Inn – Bismarck, ND

Contact: Jim Moench 1-877-766-6907

or jimmoench@nddac.org

**ND Association for the Education of Young Children
2007 Fall Conference**

September 28-29, 2007

Grand International – Minot, ND

Contact: 701-857-4669

or Google: ndaeyc

The Northern Plains Conference on Aging and Disability

“Gates to Independence: Options and Choice”

October 3-5, 2007

Ramada Plaza Suites - Fargo ND

Contact MSU Moorhead Continuing Studies 218-477-5862

or constdy@mnstate.edu