

Real Choice Project – No Place Like Home

In August of 2003, the Interagency Program for Assistive Technology (IPAT) was a partner in the Real Choice Project, No Place Like Home, funded by the Department of Human Services. One component of this project was to ensure a systematic exploration and delivery of assistive technology (AT) devices and services for state residents who were at risk of moving to an institution and/or those living in institutions. This outcome report addresses the particulars of the AT component delivered by IPAT.

It is widely recognized that individuals with disabilities and/or long term illnesses who are interested in remaining in their home or moving out of an institution need various types of support. Assistive technology is one of the essential support services for this population, and yet it is NOT widely recognized or acknowledged. Thus, the potential impact of AT devices and services goes unrealized. IPAT's role in this project was to make the AT option available to these individuals by providing the necessary AT services and purchasing the AT devices. The premise being that if AT devices and services are made available, the probability of remaining at home or returning to a less restrictive environment increases.