

Delivering AT Services

IPAT developed the Assistive Technology Client Profile Form as a tool to help identify potential AT needs of an individual. The form was designed as a checklist to be completed by individuals independently or with their family members and/or service providers. It required no prior knowledge of assistive technology and served as the referral tool for the project. The form identified potential AT needs in the areas of home safety, daily living, mobility, dexterity, communication, hearing, seeing, and problem solving tasks. Once completed, the forms were submitted to IPAT for review and follow-up.

IPAT selected applicants who wanted to delay or eliminate having to enter an institutional setting or had a desire to move to a less-restrictive environment. IPAT also sought to represent diversity in age, location, disability, and AT device needs in project participants. Upon receiving a referral which met project criteria, IPAT contacted the individual and/or family member to schedule an AT assessment. This typically involved meeting the individual in need of AT services at their residence, with family members and/or service providers present. The initial meeting started the AT assessment process where AT needs were identified and prioritized, based upon the individual's input. Subsequent onsite visits were scheduled to discuss, demonstrate, or try-out selected AT devices and/or home modification options to determine feature match and individual preference. When final AT device choices were made, IPAT used No Place Like Home project dollars to purchase them.

Once the devices were purchased, IPAT provided the necessary AT follow-up services. These included delivery and set-up of the equipment, as well as specific training on the assistive technology devices, so that the individual recipients, family members and direct care providers would know how to use them.