

What is TechWorks?

Our TechWorks Centers, located in Brooklyn and Manhattan, specialize in Assistive Technology devices and services to help people with disabilities be more independent in all areas of their lives.

The NYS Assistive Technology Act Program, TRAIID, has chosen TechWorks to act as their regional NYC centers since 1990. We provide free assistance for all NYC children and adults with disabilities, their families, and anyone else who supports them; helping people learn about, try, acquire and use Assistive Technology for more independence in the home, school, workplace or community. The TRAIID Program features collaborations with ACCES-VR, Money Follows the Person Medicaid waiver programs and the NYC Early Intervention Program.

What is Assistive Technology?

Not all technology is Assistive Technology. Did your computer crash? Is your Internet not working? Sorry, but we are not the people to help you.

We can help find solutions to reduce or overcome motor, sensory, intellectual or other barriers that result from disabilities. A wide range of no- to high- tech devices allows people to do things that disabilities make difficult or impossible. Anything, whether homemade, commercially available or customized for an individual, is Assistive Technology if it improves or maintains a person's abilities. Areas of Assistive Technology include vision, hearing, communication, daily living, environmental control and modifications, recreation, learning, computer access, seating, positioning, and mobility.

Assistive Technology devices usually require services to be successful. Assistance is needed to select, obtain, and customize devices. All kinds of training and technical assistance are also needed. Without services, Assistive Technology devices are either not made available or go unused.

How can TechWorks help?

Selecting an Assistive Technology device is not about the newest or most expensive thing. It is about what best allows a person to do tasks made problematic by a disability. We can help you identify the best match to your needs and find a funding source if one is available. We are not a clinic; our program is generally not intended to directly provide you with a permanent solution but we can help you learn more

about Assistive Technology and navigate the complex systems where it can be obtained, funded and supported. Our services fall into the following categories:

- **Demonstrations:** Have a specific item in mind? Come try any device in our extensive inventory with someone skilled in its use. Not sure? Tell us what you want to be able to do and we'll help you compare available options.
- **60-day Loans:** Many of our devices are available for short-term loan. If you don't need our skilled assistance, loans let you try a device to decide if it is right for you. You can also borrow items needed due to repair or funding delays, for training activities, or to accommodate short term needs like recovery from surgery or the needs of an out of town visitor.
- **Open Ended Loans and Reutilization:** We cannot allow you to keep devices paid for through the TRAIID grant but in some cases can be more flexible with items that have been donated to us.
- **Training:** We do extensive trainings on a wide range of topics for individuals and groups.
- **Public Awareness:** If you serve a group that needs to know more about Assistive Technology and the State Assistive Technology Act Program, you can invite us to your conference or resource fair.
- **Information and Assistance:** Need to know where to buy something or find a service in your community? Want to know what the experts say about best practices? Looking for free, low cost or make-your-own solutions? We can help with questions like these. We have, or can get you, the information you need. We also provide some technical assistance.
- **TechWorks To Go!:** Our fully stocked TechWorks To Go! van brings Assistive Technology to group events in the community. We can come to health and resource fairs, nursing homes, senior day centers, libraries, schools and workplaces.

Getting Assistance

Please contact us for information or to schedule an appointment (email strongly preferred):

**techworks@adaptcommunitynetwork.org
718-436-7979, extension 711**

Or, through Project Connect:
projectconnect@adaptcommunitynetwork.org • 877-827-2666

TechWorks Assistive Technology Centers

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