

## Assistive Technology & Older Kentuckians

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An estimated 5 million people over 65 have age-related difficulty with daily life functions. Cooking, bathing, dressing, getting out of bed, carrying groceries and housework can be affected by the normal process of aging. Changes in vision, hearing, mobility and dexterity may be the result accidents or debilitating diseases, such as Alzheimer's, Arthritis, Macular Degeneration, etc. The following types of assistive technology can enable people to remain independent and allow individuals to live in their own homes by increasing the safety of the home environment.

### Devices That Might Be Helpful Include:

- Emergency Alert Systems
- Shower Chair
- Special Fasteners
- Crutches
- Hearing Aids
- Lift Chairs
- Wheelchairs
- Communication Devices
- Magnifiers
- Reaching Devices
- Walkers
- Canes

### Adaptations in the home that may assist with daily living can include:

- Grab bars in bathtubs
- Ramps
- Easy access refrigerators
- Easy gliding hardware
- Enhanced Lighting
- Adjustable kitchen shelves
- Easy-to-grab handles
- Handrails on outside of steps
- Pull cords for audible alarms

### Financial Help

Funding for mobility devices such as wheelchairs, walkers, canes and now Aug Com devices may be obtained as they clearly fill a medical need. Outlined below are programs that might be able to assist in purchasing these devices.

### Medicare, Medicaid and Private Insurance

Anyone over 65 who is eligible for social security or railroad benefits qualifies for Medicare. If you do not qualify for social security, you may voluntarily sign up for Medicare for a monthly fee. Since Medicare will only pay for 80% of expenses, and will not pay for emergency alert systems, hearing aids, and home modifications, other sources must be found to supplement their coverage. Items covered by Medicare, such as wheelchairs, often have restrictions on cost, models and types that can be purchased. There are many special private insurance programs that are specifically designed as Medicare supplements that can help fill the gaps. Medicaid offers programs such as the Home and Community Based Waiver, Michelle P, and Supports for Community Living Waivers, which can provide assistive technology and some home modifications along with other services. It is important to note that an individual cannot be made eligible for the waivers just to get assistive technology or home modifications. The individual must receive extensive services that enable them to stay in the home. For more information on Medicaid programs call (502) 564-5560 or visit [chfs.ky.gov/dms](http://chfs.ky.gov/dms).

## **Department for Aging and Independent Living**

The Kentucky Department for Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) oversees the administration of statewide programs and services on behalf of Kentucky's elderly and individuals with disabilities. This is done in partnership with Kentucky's 15 Area Agencies on Aging and Independent Living, community mental health centers, Center for Independent Living and other community partners. Some of the programs include: Homecare, Hart Supported Living, Personal Care Attendant and 2 brain injury programs. Services can include purchase of assistive technology and some home modification. For more information, call (502) 564-6930 or visit [chfs.ky.gov/dail](http://chfs.ky.gov/dail).

## **Veteran's Administration**

Veteran's Administration offers a program for making the home accessible. Financial amounts are based on the disability. For more information and eligibility requirements on this program and other services, contact VA at (800) 827-1000.

## **Kentucky Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

The Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing's (KCDHH) Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) provides residents of Kentucky, who are deaf, hard of hearing, speech impaired or have both a hearing and vision loss, with landline or wireless equipment to make communication on the telephone more accessible. For more information, visit [kcdhh.ky.gov](http://kcdhh.ky.gov).

## **KATS Network**

The KATS Network publishes a funding guide for Assistive Technology. This funding guide can be accessed on our website [katsnet.org](http://katsnet.org) or you can call us for a print copy: (800) 327-5287.

## **Alternative Finance/ Financial Loan Programs**

The Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation provides an affordable choice to individuals to purchase their own assistive technology with a low interest loan. For more information, contact Sarah A. Richardson, at (877) 675-0195 or visit [katlc.ky.gov](http://katlc.ky.gov).

## **Assistive Technology Resource Centers**

There are five regional assistive technology resource centers available for consultation, technical assistance, demonstrations and short-term equipment loans. For contact information call: (800) 327-5287 or visit [katsnet.org](http://katsnet.org).

## **Kentucky Centers for Independent Living**

### **Center for Accessible Living (CAL) – Louisville**

(888) 813-8497

[calky.org](http://calky.org)

### **CAL – Murray**

(888) 261-6194

### **CAL – Covington**

(859) 940-3843

Rene Thompson

### **Independence Place – Lexington**

(877) 266-2807

[independenceplaceky.org](http://independenceplaceky.org)

### **Independence Place – Ashland**

(606) 585-5846

### **Independence Place – The Cumberland**

(606) 765-0547

## **Disabilities Resources Initiative – Bowling Green**

(877) 437-5045

[dri-ky.org](http://dri-ky.org)

## **Pathfinders for Independent Living – Harlan**

(606) 573-5777

[pathfindersilc.org/employees.html](http://pathfindersilc.org/employees.html)

## **KY Office for the Blind/Independent Living**

(800) 222-1215

<http://blind.ky.gov/>

## **Statewide Independent Living Council**

[silc.ovr.ky.gov](http://silc.ovr.ky.gov)

## **Resources for Independence**

[resources4independence.org](http://resources4independence.org)

## **Organizations and Websites that help Older Kentuckians**

### **Alzheimer's Disease & Related Disorders Assn - Louisville Chapter**

(800) 272-3900

[alz.org](http://alz.org)

### **KY Commission for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing**

(502) 573-2604

[kcdhh.ky.gov](http://kcdhh.ky.gov)

Videophone(502) 416-0607

### **KY Deaf-Blind Program**

(800) 222-1215

<http://blind.ky.gov/>

### **KY Lions Club**

[kylions.net](http://kylions.net)

### **KY Occupational Therapy (KOTA)**

(888) 987-5682

[kotaweb.org](http://kotaweb.org)

### **Lexington Family**

(859) 223-1765

[lexingtonfamily.com](http://lexingtonfamily.com)

### **Administration on Aging**

(202) 619-0724

[aoa.gov](http://aoa.gov)

### **American Cancer Society**

(502) 584-6782

[cancer.org](http://cancer.org)

### **Benefits Checkup**

[benefitscheckup.org](http://benefitscheckup.org)

### **Elder Care Locator**

(800) 677-1116

[eldercare.gov](http://eldercare.gov)

### **Information & Services for Seniors**

(800) 333-4636

[seniors.gov](http://seniors.gov)

## **National Council on Aging**

(202) 479-1200

[ncoa.org/index.cfm](http://ncoa.org/index.cfm)

## **Resource Directory for Older People**

[nia.nih.gov](http://nia.nih.gov)

For more information contact the KATS Network toll free at (800) 327-5287 or online at [katsnet.org](http://katsnet.org).