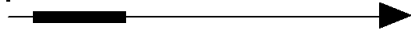


ATAP

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY
ACCESS PARTNERSHIP



Independent Living & Assistive Technology

*Partners in Removing Barriers and
Improving Access to Assistive Technology*

Independent Living (IL) services assist individuals with significant disabilities in living and functioning more independently in their own communities. In Rhode Island IL services are offered by a state agency, Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI), one Independent Living (IL) Center -- the Ocean State Center for Independent Living (OSCIL), and the Adaptive Telephone Equipment Loan Program (ATEL).

OSCIL is a consumer-controlled, community-based, cross disability, private non-profit organizations. They offer services to individuals or groups of individuals with significant disabilities.

SBVI is a unit within the Rhode Island Office of Rehabilitation Services, Department of Human Services. SBVI offers services to individuals age 55 and older who have severe visual impairments.

ATEL is a Department of Human Services funded program that provides long-term loan of adaptive telephone equipment.

To obtain Assistive Technology (AT) from an IL provider, you will need to apply for services at one of the IL Centers, SBVI or ATEL. Once you are eligible, you will be assigned an IL Counselor/Specialist at OSCIL. At SBVI you will be assigned a Social Worker. If you think an AT service or device will help you be more independent, you may ask the provider for an AT assessment, and that provider may also help you to develop an independent living plan that describes the AT services and devices you need. ATEL will work with you in determining which device will help you with communicating from your home.

The IL provider may help pay for the AT device or service you need. Your income will be used to determine whether you need to pay a share of the costs of the AT. OSCIL, SBVI, and ATEL use similar income guidelines to determine the cost of AT. Some AT services are available at no cost.

The kinds of AT available through the IL providers vary from simple to complex devices. For example:

SBVI provides adaptive equipment related to vision needs and offers a reuse program of medical equipment and other AT devices; and

OSCIL provides assistance in obtaining low-tech devices for elders and individuals with sensory impairments.

ATEL provides adaptive telephone equipment for individuals with speech challenges and hearing loss.

If you are denied AT services or devices by SBVI or OSCIL, you may appeal the denial.

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Independent Living Contacts

To apply for Independent Living Services, contact:

OSCIL (Ocean State Center for Independent Living)

1944 Warwick Avenue ~ Warwick, RI 02889

Voice 401.738.1013 ~ TTY 401.738.1015

www.oscil.org

SBVI (Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired)

Office of Rehabilitation Services

40 Fountain Street ~ Providence, RI 02903

Voice 401.222.2300 ~ TTY 401.421.7016

www.ors.ri.gov

ATEL (Adaptive Telephone Equipment Loan Program)

40 Fountain Street ~ Providence, RI 02903

Voice 401.462.7857 ~ TTY 401.421.7016

www.atel.ri.gov

For information about specific assistive technology or other resources, contact:

The ATAP Central Resource Center for Assistive Technology

110 Jefferson Boulevard, Suite I, Warwick, RI 02888-3854

800.916.8324 [TECH] (in-state) ~ 401.463.0202 (out of state)

www.atap.ri.gov

For information about your rights relating to Independent Living, assistive technology and/or for legal help in appealing a denial of services, contact:

Rhode Island Disability Law Center

275 Westminster Street, Suite 401

Providence, RI 02903

Voice 401.831.3150 ~ 800.733.5332 ~ TTY 401.831.5335