

Alabama Assistive Technology and Transition Resources

Primary Statewide General Services

Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS)

What it offers: A statewide continuum that includes Children's Rehabilitation Service, Vocational Rehabilitation Service, Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology, Vision Rehabilitation Therapy, Rehabilitation Audiology, Independent Living Services, and specialized community rehabilitation programs.

Who or when to contact: Use the ADRS website to locate the appropriate program or local office. Students preparing for employment should connect with VRS and transition services early.

Phone: ADRS State Office: 334-293-7500; VRS: 800-441-7607; Transition Services: 800-671-6842

Website: [ADRS programs and contact information](#)

Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology (RE&AT)

What it offers: Evaluation, recommendation, customization, training, and support involving computer access, communication access, reading and writing, organization, workplace modifications, daily living, home access, environmental control, custom fabrication, and other AT needs.

Who or when to contact: RE&AT services are available to people enrolled in an ADRS program. Referrals are generally made through an ADRS case manager, such as a vocational rehabilitation counselor, social worker, or community support specialist.

Phone: 800-671-6837; TTY 800-499-1816

Website: [ADRS RE&AT program](#)

Accessing Potential Through Assistive Technology (APTAT)

What it offers: Alabama's Assistive Technology Act program offers information and referral, device demonstrations, short-term device loans, training, durable medical equipment reuse, funding information, and the Ability Loan Program.

Who or when to contact: Available statewide to people of all ages and disabilities, family members, educators, employers, and professionals. Contact APTAT when you want to explore or try technology before buying, locate reused equipment, or investigate acquisition options.

Phone: 800-782-7656

Website: [APTAT services and contact information](#)

Note: APTAT's independent website is <https://accessingpotential.org/>.

Vocational Rehabilitation Service (VRS)

What it offers: Transition and employment services that may include counseling and guidance, evaluation, training, AT, accommodations, job preparation, placement, and retention services based on eligibility and an individualized employment plan.

Who or when to contact: Students with disabilities preparing for employment should connect with their school's transition contacts and the local VRS office as early as possible.

Phone: VRS: 800-441-7607; Transition Services: 800-671-6842

Website: [ADRS Vocational Rehabilitation Service](#)

University campus disability or accessibility services

What it offers: Coordinates accommodations and campus-specific accessibility processes. Offices may provide or support AT, accessible course materials, testing access, captioning, note-taking support, accessible housing coordination, and technology training.

Who or when to contact: Contact the office at each prospective college, community college, university, or training program before enrollment or as early as possible. Ask about documentation, request procedures, supported technology, learning-platform compatibility, testing, housing, transportation, labs, and trade programs.

Note: An IEP and high-school services do not automatically transfer. Each institution has its own procedures and technology environment.

Specialized Rehabilitation Services

Children's Rehabilitation Service (CRS)

What it offers: Care coordination and specialty clinics for eligible children and youth with disabilities and special health-care needs. Services may include Augmentative Communication Technology (ACT), seating and mobility, hearing, feeding, teen transition, and other interdisciplinary clinics.

Who or when to contact: Contact the nearest CRS office to ask about eligibility, enrollment, clinic availability, and referral procedures.

Phone: 800-846-3697

Website: [CRS services and office locations](#)

ADRS Lakeshore Rehabilitation Facility

What it offers: Statewide vocational evaluation, employability development, assistive technology, and Adaptive Driving Training. Driving services may include clinical and behind-the-wheel assessment, training, permit preparation, and recommendations involving vehicle access or modifications.

Who or when to contact: Typically accessed through referral by an ADRS vocational rehabilitation counselor. Contact Lakeshore or VRS for current referral information.

Phone: 205-917-8400 or 800-441-7609; VRS referral line 800-441-7607

Website: [ADRS Lakeshore services](#)

ADRS Vision Rehabilitation Therapists

What it offers: Specialized vocational rehabilitation, orientation and mobility, vision rehabilitation therapy, AT, communication access, independent-living skills, and related services for people who are blind, have low vision, are Deaf or hard of hearing, or are DeafBlind.

Who or when to contact: Contact ADRS Blind and Deaf Services or a local VRS office to ask about eligibility and referral to the appropriate specialist.

Phone: Blind or low-vision services: 800-441-7607; Deaf, hard-of-hearing, or DeafBlind services: 334-293-7128

Website: [ADRS Blind and Deaf Services](#)

State of Alabama Independent Living (SAIL)

What it offers: Home- and community-based education, AT, training, equipment or environmental modifications, and independent-living supports for eligible people with significant disabilities.

Who or when to contact: Ask ADRS for current SAIL eligibility, local contacts, referral procedures, and available services.

Website: [ADRS program overview](#)

E. H. Gentry Facility

What it offers: Customized vocational and educational rehabilitation for adults who are Deaf, Blind, DeafBlind, or have other or multiple disabilities. Services may address AT, communication, orientation and mobility, independent living, college readiness, and employment preparation.

Who or when to contact: Contact E. H. Gentry or discuss referral with the appropriate ADRS counselor or AIDB Regional Center.

Phone: 256-761-3416

Website: [E. H. Gentry Facility](#)

AIDB Statewide Regional Centers

What it offers: Community-based services for people who are Deaf, Blind, DeafBlind, or multidisabled. Depending on the center and need, services may include AT demonstrations and training, computer or smartphone access, communication support, low-vision services, family support, and vocational assistance.

Who or when to contact: Use the statewide directory to find the Regional Center serving the student's county.

Website: [AIDB Regional Center directory](#)

Alabama Freedom Center for the Blind

What it offers: An intensive adult program focused on braille, nonvisual AT, cane travel, independent living, residential living, problem-solving, confidence, and employment preparation.

Who or when to contact: Contact the program for current admissions, referral, location, and tour information.

Website: [Alabama Freedom Center for the Blind](#)

Accessible information and communication

Alabama Instructional Resource Center for the Blind (AIRCB)

What it offers: Braille and large-print textbooks, adapted educational materials, supplies, aids, and equipment for eligible Alabama K-12 students who are blind or have low vision.

Who or when to contact: School special-education coordinators or their designees generally register students and order materials. Include future accessible-material needs in transition planning.

Phone: 256-761-3237 or 256-761-3262

Website: [AIRCB services](#)

Alabama Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled

What it offers: Free braille and talking books, magazines, specialized playback equipment, and access to BARD for eligible readers who cannot use standard print because of blindness, low vision, qualifying physical disability, or qualifying reading disability.

Who or when to contact: Contact the Regional Library to ask about eligibility, certification, registration, equipment, and BARD access.

Phone: 800-392-5671 or 334-213-3906

Website: [Regional Library services](#)

Alabama Telecommunications Access Program (ATAP)

What it offers: Specialized telephone and telecommunications devices for eligible Alabama residents with hearing loss or speech disability.

Who or when to contact: Apply through the AIDB Regional Center serving the individual's county; review the current application and eligibility requirements.

Website: [ATAP program and regional contacts](#)

Alabama Relay

What it offers: No-cost relay services that support telephone communication for people who are Deaf, hard of hearing, DeafBlind, or have a speech disability.

Who or when to contact: Dial 711 or review the Alabama Relay website for current relay options and instructions.

Website: [Alabama Relay](#)

iCanConnect Alabama

What it offers: Communications equipment and individualized training for eligible people with combined significant vision and hearing loss who also meet program income requirements.

Who or when to contact: Contact the Alabama program, administered by AIDB, to review eligibility and apply.

Phone: 256-761-3500

Website: [iCanConnect Alabama](#)

Funding and acquisition pathways

School responsibility: When AT is required for a K-12 student to receive appropriate special education, the IEP team should address the device and related services. Before exit, clarify ownership and whether school-owned technology can transfer or be purchased.

Postsecondary institutions: Colleges and training programs may provide accommodations, but students must follow the institution's request process. Personal devices and personal-care services may be treated differently from academic accommodations.

Employers: An employer may be responsible for reasonable accommodations needed to perform a job, subject to the ADA process and applicable limitations. Do not purchase workplace AT without first coordinating with the employer and relevant service providers.

Vocational rehabilitation: For eligible consumers, VRS may fund AT or related services necessary for an agreed employment goal under the individualized plan.

APTAT Ability Loan Program: Alternative financing may help eligible applicants acquire AT, adaptive equipment, or related services. A loan is financing, not a grant.

Medicaid and HCBS waivers: Some waiver programs may cover AT, environmental modifications, remote supports, or related services for eligible participants. Coverage, authorization, enrollment capacity, and waiting periods vary.

Health insurance and other benefits: Coverage depends on whether equipment meets the benefit's medical-necessity and policy requirements. Educational or convenience technology may not be covered.

Reuse, grants, charitable assistance, and personal resources: These may fill gaps but should not automatically replace a school, institution, employer, or agency responsibility.

Questions to ask any program

- ☐ Do I meet the program's age, disability, residency, income, enrollment, or referral requirements?
- ☐ Does the program provide evaluation, demonstration, short-term loan, acquisition, training, customization, maintenance, or follow-up?
- ☐ Do I need a referral from a school, physician, therapist, ADRS counselor, case manager, or other professional?
- ☐ Who owns the technology, and what happens when I leave the school, program, college, or job?
- ☐ Are there costs, waiting lists, geographic limits, or restrictions on where the technology may be used?
- ☐ Can the solution be tried in the actual home, school, campus, workplace, or community environment?
- ☐ Who will train the student and supporters, and who will help if the technology fails?
- ☐ What accessible documentation should I bring, and how will my information be protected?

General contact

Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services: 602 South Lawrence Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36104; 334-293-7500. TTY users may dial 711 or use Alabama Relay. [Visit the ADRS website](#)