Program Description

The Assistive Technology Program at WIHD consists of a number of programs conducted by our multi-disciplinary team of professionals: occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, education and other specialists.

Our team collaborates with individuals and their families, caregivers and/or related service providers to identify assistive technology devices, adaptations and strategies to improve mobility, communication, computer access, access to the school curriculum, or control over the environment.

Assistive technology is considered any piece of equipment that helps people with disabilities improve their ability to perform everyday tasks.

As one of 67 University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, the Westchester Institute for Human Development (WIHD) is dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities and vulnerable children through professional education, direct service provision, and innovative research. For over 45 years, WIHD has been a key regional resource providing a wide range of medical, dental, clinical and social services to individuals with disabilities, vulnerable children, families and professionals throughout Westchester County and the Lower Hudson Valley. At WIHD, everything we do is guided by our vision of a future in which all people, including people with disabilities and vulnerable children, live healthy and productive lives as full members of society.

For more information, please visit our website: [www.wihd.org](http://www.wihd.org).

[https://www.facebook.com/WIHD.org/](https://www.facebook.com/WIHD.org/)

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Valhalla, NY 10595

WIHD complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

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Services

Assistive Technology Evaluations
Assistive Technology Training
Technical Assistance
Loan Programs
AT equipment is available for loan to the following individuals:
• Infants and toddlers: ages 0 to 3 years
• Preschoolers: ages 3 to 5 years
• School age children
• Adults
• Seniors
• Clients with degenerative disorders including Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)
• Adult consumers awaiting assistive technology equipment through NYSCB
• Clients through Access-VR

Direct Services
Occupational Therapists on the team can provide direct occupational therapy services to students in schools through separate contracts with school districts.

Lower Hudson Valley Regional Technology Center
Through a TRAID grant, we provide no-cost information, device demonstrations, loans, training, and technical assistance and advocacy on AT devices and services for residents of Westchester, Putnam, and Rockland Counties.

AT in Action

Farma
Farma is a bright, creative 18-year old young lady who is unable to write due to paralysis from her neck down.

She was introduced to using a mouthstick, which would enable her to operate an iPad using her mouth.

To help her develop the muscles needed to master this new skills, occupational therapist, Izel Obermeyer, the director of the AT program at WIHD, introduced Farma to mouth painting.

This has been a gift to Farma in more ways than one: In addition to helping her master the mouthstick, it gave her an enjoyable new pastime, and opened up whole new avenues for creative expression.

To this end, Farma then decided she wanted to also use a head mouse, which allows her to control the mouse on her screen through head movements, and recently started using Adobe Illustrator to design clothes.

Farma is an amazing person who taught herself many features of the Illustrator design process and was able to design a T-shirt using only her head movements.

The AT program at WIHD always uses a person centered approach to address the whole person, and not just the disability or the tech.

The picture above was done by Farma

Program Staff

The AT Program has a team of dedicated professionals who ensures the quality of the services clients receive at WIHD. Izel Obermeyer, OTR/L, ATP, FAOTA, is the program director. For inquiries into the general AT program please contact our program coordinator, Jessica Hangach at (914) 493-1317 and for loan program matters, contact Beth Heyd, the loan program and equipment manager, at (914) 493-7364.

Who can use the Assistive Technology Program?
• Individuals of all ages with disabilities of all types
• Family members
• School or program administrators
• Service providers:
  • Speech-language pathologists
  • Occupational therapists
  • Physical therapists
  • Educators
  • Psychologists
  • Paraprofessionals
• Employers and other professionals
• General public