

History and Services

Coalition For Independence (CFI) is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to address the unmet needs of people with disabilities. CFI began providing Independent Living services in 1988, and continues to develop new programs and services to address the day-to-day needs of its consumers.

Current services provided by CFI includes; Information and Referral services, Independent Living Skills training, Peer support, Advocacy support and training, Home and Community Based services, Vocational training and Placement services, and Assistive Technology services. Specific information on the Assistive Technology services is listed below.

Assistive Technology Services

CFI Assistive Technology (AT) program provides information, services and resources that helps build independence and safety for individuals with disabilities in their home and community settings. The assistive technology services include:

Information and Referral

Information and Referral services are provided regarding equipment, equipment applications, manufacturers, funding and other issues related to assistive technology. The AT program houses a collection of print and audiovisual materials on various assistive technology devices and related topics available.

Equipment Demonstration Showrooms

The AT program has the distinction of housing the largest inventory of assistive technology devices in the Greater Kansas City area. Demonstration showrooms offer service providers, family members and individuals with disabilities the opportunity for "hands-on" experiences with equipment. A variety of items designed to enhance communication, mobility, vision, hearing, recreation, computer access and other activities of daily living is available.

Assistive Technology Evaluations & Training

A Speech-Language Pathologist provides augmentative communication evaluations and training for individuals, early childhood programs and local school districts. In addition, an Augmentative Communication Clinic is provided through a joint effort with Children's Mercy Hospital's OT/PT Department.

A Computer Access Specialist provides computer assisted technology resources and services for individuals, local school districts and Vocational Rehabilitation programs. Consultation and training services on adaptive computer hardware and software for PC and Macintosh platforms are provided to assist individuals with disabilities access to computers.

A Rehabilitation Engineer is available to design and develop customized solutions and/or modify commercial equipment to meet the specific needs of an individual that allows them increased physical access to their home, school, work and other community environments.

An Occupational Therapist is also available to participate in evaluations and trainings to address specific motor coordination, sensory input or cognitive skills of an individual, as necessary.

Professional and Family Training

The AT program provides specialized support, working closely with individuals to train them in the use and benefits of assistive technology. Workshop and presentation topics include both general and specific skill training. Areas addressed include augmentative communication, computer access, assistive devices, environmental access, legislative issues and funding. In addition, the program provides workshops on switch access and toy adaptation. Training is provided on-site or in community settings.

Recycled Equipment Program

Through the Recycled Equipment program, CFI provides a cost-effective resource that collects, sanitizes, repairs and redistributes used durable medical equipment and assistive devices to persons with disabilities. The program ensures that individuals with disabilities have greater access to needed durable medical equipment that enables them to increase their productivity, independence and community participation.