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Project START Annual Report

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MISSION STATEMENT

It is the express mission of Project START to empower Mississippians with disabilities through education, awareness and access to Assistive Technology.

VISION STATEMENT

Mississippi Project START (Success Through Assistive Rehabilitative Technology) was established to provide information about assistive technology to consumers and other interested parties so they may make informed decisions about available assistive technology services.



Chris M. Howard
Executive Director

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

I am pleased to present the 2017 Annual Report for the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services' (MDRS) Project START, also known as the Mississippi Technology Act Program. START stands for Success Through Assistive Rehabilitative Technology.

Project START is a program administered by the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services which provides Mississippians with disabilities access to assistive technology. Assistive Technology includes mobility devices, such as wheelchairs, accessibility software, technology for low vision and blindness, and augmentative and alternative communications devices.

For many children and adults with disabilities, access to and acquisition of assistive technology can make a tremendous difference in their ability to fully participate in employment, school, and recreational activities. The right tools—very specialized devices— allow individuals with disabilities to live, learn, work, and play independently.

Please see what great things we have done together this past year, and know that your continued support of Project START is vital to our mission and to what we can accomplish in the next year.

Sincerely,

Chris M. Howard, Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services

LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR

It's my pleasure to share with you our annual report highlighting the accomplishments of Mississippi's Assistive Technology Act Program, Project START. Working with and providing services for Mississippians with disabilities is a true blessing. Each day Project START strives to ensure every individual has the opportunity to live their life to the fullest through the assistance of assistive technology.

Last year our program assisted 856 individuals under our State Level Activities at cost savings of \$527,421 to the state of Mississippi. Those services included 582 evaluations and demonstration of assistive technology equipment, the repair and refurbishment of equipment for 61 clients and 213 short term loans of assistive technology devices from our loaner library.

I would like to personally thank Mr. Chris Howard, Executive Director of Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services, and his dedicated employees for their hard work and support of our program. Also thank you to our Advisory Council for their guidance and support, and last but not least, our dedicated staff who work tirelessly every day to assist Mississippians with a disability.

We are excited about some additions to our program for the coming year and invite you to visit our website at msprojectstart.org for more information about our services and upcoming events. You can contact us anytime, through our website or by calling our office at 601-853-5249 or 1-800-852-8328 or emailing me directly at pgaltelli@mdrs.ms.gov.

Patsy Galtelli, Director
Project START



Patsy Galtelli
Director

DEVICE REUTILIZATION

The Device Reutilization program focuses on the under-served populations in Mississippi with the mission to provide education, awareness and access of assistive technology to individuals with limited resources in their community. The program redistributes used equipment that has been sanitized, checked for safety and repaired for appropriate use.

DEVICE REASSIGNMENT/ REFURBISHMENT

■ Mobility, Seating, and Positioning	13
■ Daily Living	11
■ Computer and Related	37
■ Vision	2

CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

Highly Satisfied	61
Satisfied	2
Total Surveyed	<u>63</u>

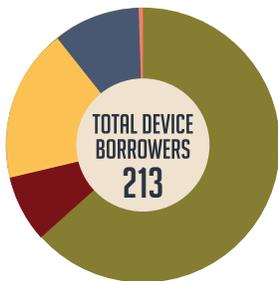
TESTIMONIAL

To guarantee a speedy recover from her hip surgery, a 60 year old female contacted Project START to borrow a bedside commode and a long handled shoe horn. Indeed, to help her during her time of misfortune , Project START loaned her a bedside commode and a long handled shoe horn, to empower her speedy recovery.

DEVICE LOAN PROGRAM

Project START provides a short term equipment loan program allowing an individual to try a device before they purchase it. This program also allows an individual to borrow a device to use while theirs is being repaired or while funding is being secured for the purchase of their device.

DEVICE LOANS BY TYPE OR BORROWER



■ Individual with Disabilities	135
■ Family members, Guardians & Authorized Representatives	17
■ Representatives of Education	38
□ Representatives of Employment	0
■ Representative of Health, Allied Health & Rehabilitation	22
■ Representative of Community Living	1
□ Representative of Technology	0

PURPOSE OF DEVICES LOANED

Assist in Decision Making (device trial or evaluation)	82
Serve as Loaner During Device Repair or While Waiting for Funding	40
Provide an Accommodation on a Short-Term Basis	91

TYPES OF DEVICES LOANED

Vision	45
Hearing	3
Speech Communication	52
Learning, Cognition, & Positioning	67
Mobility, Seating, & Positioning	70
Daily Living	26
Environmental Adaptations	34
Vehicle Modification & Transportation	0
Computers & Related	44
Recreation Sports & Leisure	3
Total	344

CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

Highly Satisfied	172
Satisfied	13
Satisfied Somewhat	0
Not at all satisfied	0
Non respondent	41
Total Surveyed	213

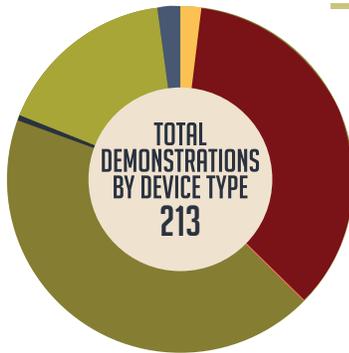
TESTIMONIAL

A 55 year old male with declining vision was not able to view old pictures of his family nor read his daily word. To help with such a trying time, Project START quickly accommodated the gentleman with a CCTV through the reutilization program, to ensure his ability to review past memories of his family, and read his daily inspirations.

DEVICE DEMONSTRATION

In addition to our offices at the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services in Madison, our partnerships provide Demonstration Centers throughout the state to educate individuals and their families or caregivers on assistive technology to aid in hearing, mobility, communication, vision and performing activities of daily living.

DEMONSTRATIONS BY DEVICE TYPE



■ Vision	12
□ Hearing	0
■ Speech Communication	203
■ Learning, Cognition, & Developmental	2
■ Mobility, Seating, & Positioning	252
■ Daily Living	3
□ Environmental Adaptations	0
■ Vehicle Modification & Transportation	98
■ Computers & Related	12
□ Recreation Sports & Leisure	0
Total	582

TYPES OF PARTICIPANTS

Individuals with Disabilities	444
Family Members, Guardians, & Authorized Representatives	67
Representative of Education	37
Representatives of Employment	1
Representative of Health, Allied Health & Rehabilitation	21
Representatives of Community Living	12
Representatives of Technology	0

CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

Highly Satisfied	471
Satisfied	86
Satisfied Somewhat	0
Not at all satisfied	0
Non respondent	25
Total Surveyed	582

TESTIMONIAL

An 11 year old nonverbal male could not communicate with his mother or teachers at his school. With the help of Project START's device demonstration, the young man was able to learn how to communicate through an augmented device, to empower his social and educational success.

TRAINING PARTICIPANTS

Project START provides training, technical assistance and public awareness activities, providing information on availability, benefits and cost of AT devices and services.

TOTAL TRAINING PARTICIPANTS

■ Individual with Disabilities	334
■ Family members, Guardians & Authorized Representatives	0
■ Representatives of Education	53
■ Representatives of Employment	0
■ Representative of Health, Allied Health & Rehabilitation	309
■ Representative of Community Living	8
■ Representative of Technology	0
Total	704



Your perspective is extremely valuable,
and we greatly appreciate any and all feedback!

Please send any comments or questions to:

Kris Geroux

kgeroux@mdrs.ms.gov

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*Mississippi Project START is funded under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998,
as amended by the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services
Administration.*

*MDRS Project START, the statewide assistive technology program for Mississippians,
is coordinated by the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services agency.*