




2014  
two thousand fourteen



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF  
REHABILITATION SERVICES

# Project START Annual Report

- 
- 3 Welcome
  - 5 Device Reutilization
  - 6 Device Loan Program
  - 7 Device Demonstration
  - 8 Training Participants

## 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.



**H.S. McMillan**  
*Executive Director*

## LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thanks to All,

On behalf of Project START and the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS), the lead entity of the Mississippi Technology Act Program, I am pleased to present our 2014 Annual Report. Many people may think they've never used assistive technology or are not aware of the benefits of assistive technology. The person wearing glasses, holding a hand magnifier, enlarging print on the computer, or using a wheel chair or cane is benefiting from the availability and use of assistive technology. It's all around us in our everyday lives helping us to work and live independently in our communities.

The mission of Project START is to empower people with disabilities through awareness and access to assistive technology. Our partnerships are vital to Project START not only fulfilling its mission, but providing a cost savings to those participating in ways such as ensuring individuals receive the appropriate equipment.

Thank you for your continued support of Project START. We look forward to another year of successfully assisting Mississippians with disabilities through the awareness and utilization of assistive technology.

H.S. McMillan, 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 1,675 individuals under our State Level Activities at cost savings of \$329,133.86 to the state of Mississippi. Those services included 1,287 evaluations and demonstration of assistive technology equipment, the repair and refurbishment of equipment for 314 clients and 74 short term loans of assistive technology devices from our loaner library.

Our State Leadership Activities program provided training to 4,674 participants and reached 70,069 people through public awareness campaigns. We also provided assistance and information to 23,311 individuals.

I would like to personally thank Mr. H.S. McMillan, 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](http://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 601-987-4872 or 1-800-852-8328 or emailing me directly at [pgaltelli@mdrs.ms.gov](mailto:pgaltelli@mdrs.ms.gov).

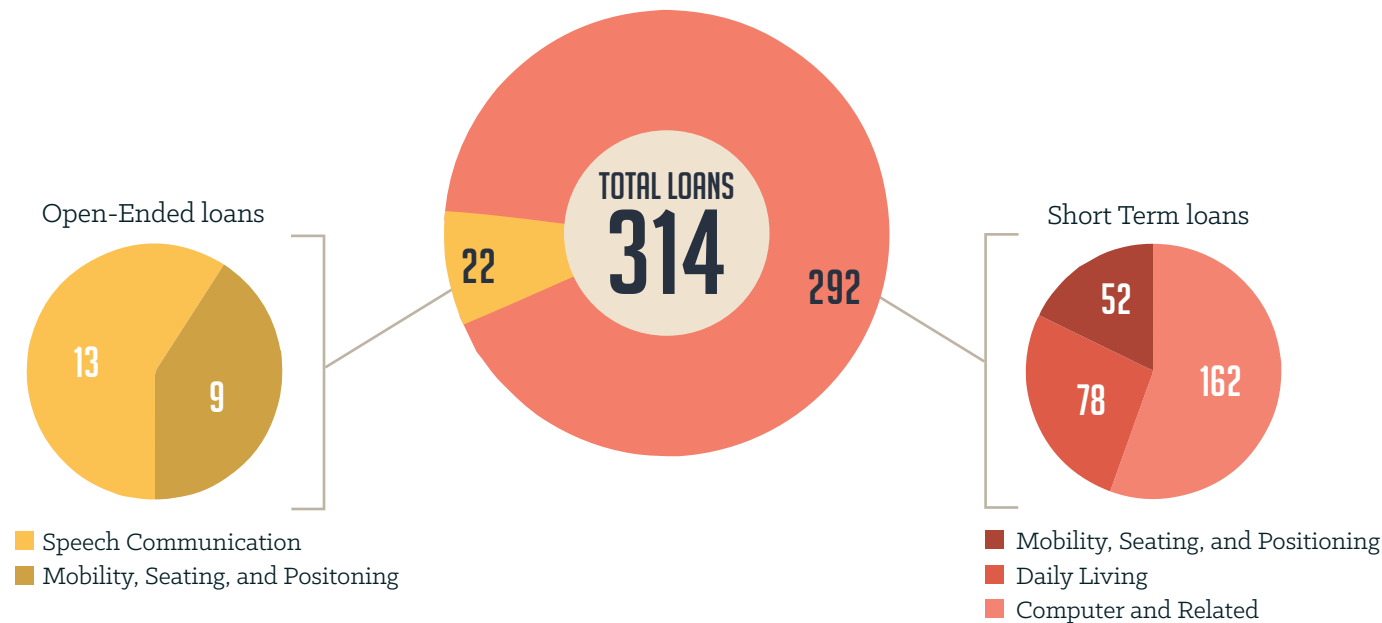
Patsy Galtelli, Director  
Project START



**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.



## PERFORMANCE MEASURES

AT Primarily Needed for Employment .....	6
AT Primarily Needed for Community Living .....	308
	314

## CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

Highly Satisfied .....	239
Satisfied .....	40
Satisfied Somewhat .....	10
Not at all satisfied .....	1
Non respondent .....	24
<b>Total Surveyed .....</b>	<b>314</b>

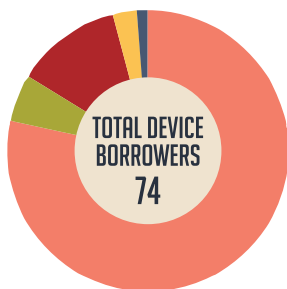
## TESTIMONIAL

We received a phone call from a father who needed assistance for his son who had been seriously injured in an automobile accident. Before his son could be released from the rehab facility, he needed a hospital bed. The father did not have the means to purchase a bed. Through the reuse program, Project START provided a hospital bed and walked the father through the process of getting his son approved for Medicaid so he could provide him with the long term medical help he needed.

# 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 .....	58
Family members, Guardians & Authorized Representatives .....	4
Representatives of Education .....	9
Representatives of Employment .....	0
Representative of Health, Allied Health & Rehabilitation .....	2
Representative of Community Living .....	1
Representative of Technology .....	0

### TYPES OF DEVICES LOANED

Assist in Decision Making (device trial or evaluation) .....	28
Serve as Loaner During Device Repair or While Waiting for Funding .....	19
Provide an Accommodation on a Short-Term Basis .....	27

## TYPES OF DEVICES LOANED

Vision .....	21
Hearing .....	1
Speech Communication .....	22
Learning, Cognition, & Positioning .....	7
Mobility, Seating, & Positioning .....	13
Daily Living .....	16
Environmental Adaptations .....	0
Vehicle Modification & Transportation .....	0
Computers & Related .....	0
Recreation Sports & Leisure .....	0
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>80</b>

## CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

Highly Satisfied .....	60
Satisfied .....	8
Satisfied Somewhat .....	0
Not at all satisfied .....	0
Non respondent .....	6
<b>Total Surveyed .....</b>	<b>74</b>

## TESTIMONIAL

Thanks so much for the walker Mac delivered Friday afternoon. It made Allyson happy. Although Allyson can only use it with teacher supervision, it gives her a different thing to sit in for a few minutes every day. It also gives her joy that she has a walker like her friend Kayla, across the hall. Allyson doesn't even seem to notice that her walker is not at all like Kayla's. But she is happy with it and thankfully happy to use it once or twice a day. This Thanksgiving season I am thankful for Project START. May God Bless you all. Patsy Simmons, Newton County High School

# DEVICE DEMONSTRATION

In addition to our offices at the Addie McBryde Center in Jackson, 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 .....	8
Hearing .....	0
Speech Communication .....	790
Learning, Cognition, & Developmental .....	137
Mobility, Seating, & Positioning .....	36
Daily Living .....	3
Environmental Adaptations .....	0
Vehicle Modification & Transportation .....	163
Computers & Related .....	150
Recreation Sports & Leisure .....	0
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>1287</b>

## TYPES OF PARTICIPANTS

Individuals with Disabilities .....	594
Family Members, Guardians, & Authorized Representatives .....	169
Representative of Education .....	384
Representatives of Employment .....	0
Representative of Health, Allied Health & Rehabilitation .....	140
Representatives of Community Living .....	0
Representatives of Technology .....	0

## NUMBER OF REFERRALS

Funding Source (non-AT Program) .....	398
Service Provider .....	691
Vendor .....	145
Repair Service .....	63

## CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

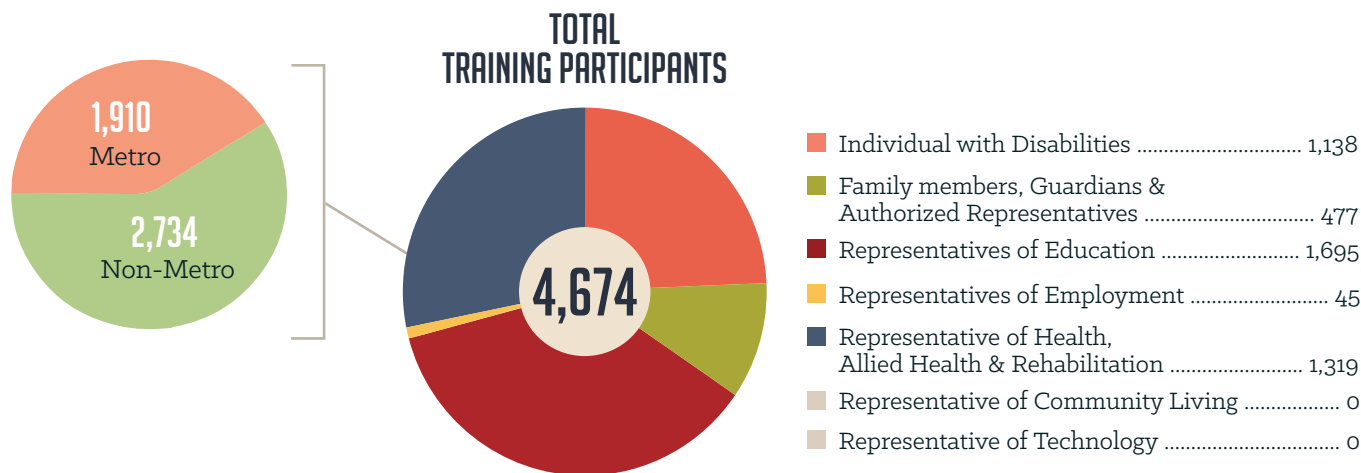
Highly Satisfied .....	1211
Satisfied .....	76
Satisfied Somewhat .....	0
Not at all satisfied .....	0
Non respondent .....	0
<b>Total Surveyed .....</b>	<b>1287</b>

## TESTIMONIAL

*We had a child come to our center who has autism. The child was evaluated and several devices were demonstrated. We were able to determine what device worked best for the child and the family received a device on loan. After training, the child began using the device and also shortly thereafter began speaking. The family is thrilled. He still needs the device but is continuing to develop natural speech.*

# TRAINING PARTICIPANTS

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



## PUBLIC AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

Newsletter.....	1,450
Other printed materials .....	580
Internet information .....	289
PSA/radio/TV/ other media .....	65,500
Presentations/expos/conferences .....	2,250
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>70,069</b>

## INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

	AT Device Service	AT Funding	Total
Individuals with Disabilities	3,714	2,893	6,607
Family Members, Guardians, & Authorized Repress	2,178	3,218	5,396
Representative of Education	3,652	312	3,964
Representative of Employment	389	252	641
Representative of Health, Allied Health, & Rehab	1,470	211	1,681
Representative of Community Living	3,212	1,810	5,022
	14,615	8,696	23,311





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

*Please send any comments or questions to:*

Patsy Galtelli

Post Office Box 1698 | Jackson, Mississippi 39215-1698

1.800.852.8328 (in MS only) | [www.msprojectstart.org](http://www.msprojectstart.org)

---

*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.*