

Commit to Connect Office Hours: Resource Recap

Topic: Social Connection and Assistive Technology

Brief Overview:

Commit to Connect recorded an Office Hours on August 20, 2025, on the topic of social connection and assistive technology. Office Hours are in-depth interviews and virtual forums with a subject matter expert for anyone interested in best practices and strategies for improving social connections.

This Office Hours features Jeannie Krull, Executive Director of the Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP) and is moderated by Katie Clark Wheeler, Policy Analyst at the Administration for Community Living (ACL). During the session, Jeannie shared information on ATAP and how assistive technology can be a critical tool for fostering social connection, covering topics such as:

- Description of ATAP, definition of assistive technology (AT) and how AT Act programs operate
- Information on the National Assistive Technology Act Technical Assistance and Training (AT3) Center
- How AT can enhance social connection, including how aging and disability network organizations can leverage their state AT Program
- Emerging trends in assistive technology with the greatest potential to enhance social connection for older adults and people with disabilities

This document provides a list of resources shared during the Social Connection and Assistive Technology Office Hours.

Resources:

- ATAP (<u>ataporg.org</u>) facilitates the coordination of state and territory AT Act Programs nationally and provides technical assistance and support to its members.
- National Assistive Technology Act Technical Assistance and Training (AT3)
 Center (<u>at3center.net</u>) provides training and technical assistance for all
 Assistive Technology (AT) Act Programs.

Commit to Connect Resources:

• Join the <u>Nationwide Network of Champions</u> and connect with peers across the country interested in addressing social isolation and loneliness. This free virtual platform hosts an open forum where leaders can engage in discussions, share resources, and find events related to social connection.

•	The <u>Innovations Hub</u> is a public-facing clearinghouse of more than 100 model programs focused on social connection across the U.S., including many nutrition programs.