



**DEPARTMENT OF  
ADMINISTRATION**

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY - STAR

Technology for  
Health and Safety for Aging Adults

Amy Perron, Program Director  
For Minnesota STAR Program.  
Our mission is to help ALL MINNESOTANS  
With disabilities and aging adults gain  
access to acquire the assistive technology  
they need to live, learn, work and play!



# We are Aging!

- In the United States, as of 2020 16.5% of the population were seniors
- In 2030 the number is expected rise to 20%
- As the number of retirements increase the number of workers entering the work force is decreasing



"Senior citizens" by [nicubunu.photo](#) is licensed under [CC BY-SA 2.0](#).

# What Does This mean to us?

- **Healthcare and Caregiving**
- **Rising Costs for Long-Term Care**
- **Social and Support Services**
- **Economic Impact on Seniors**



# Technology, Can it Help?

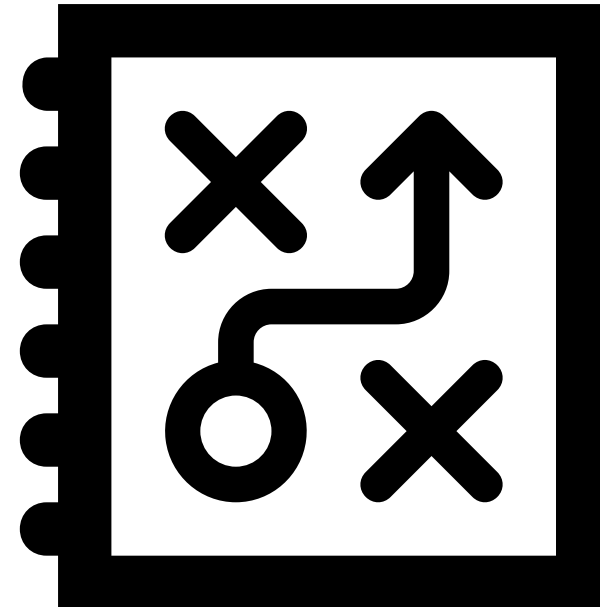
- Health Monitoring and Telemedicine
- Social Connectivity
- Cognitive Health
- Safety and Independence
- Financial Management
- Learning and Leisure



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# Challenges and Considerations

- Ease of Use and Complexity
- Affordability
- Physical and Cognitive Limitations
- Access to Technology
- Training and Support
- Privacy and Security Concerns



# What is Assistive Technology?

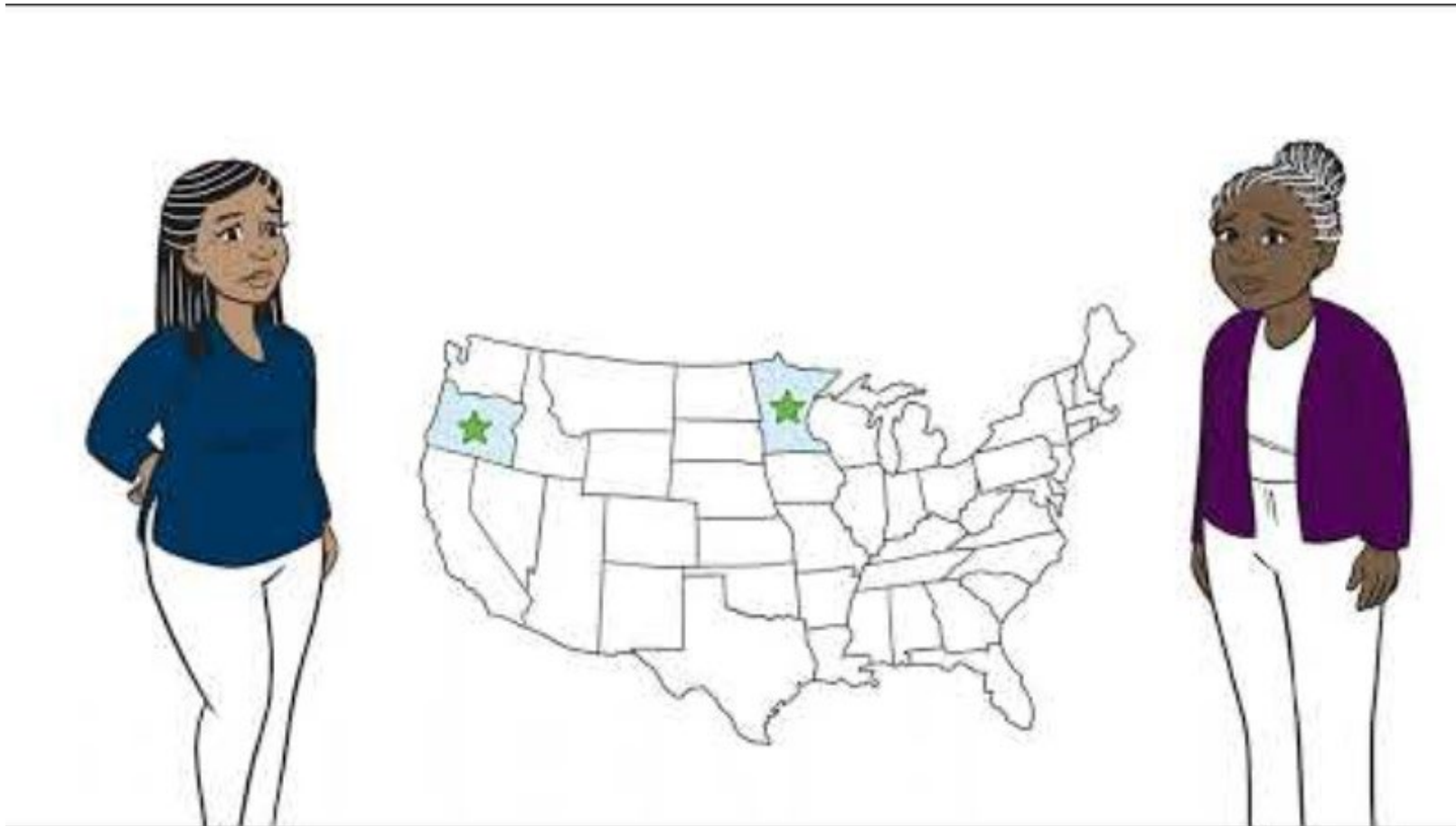
...any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially, off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities

[20 U.S.C. Chapter 33, Section 1401 (25)]



Image credit ND Assistive

# Assistive Technology – Live Life Your Way





# Minnesota STAR Program

- System of Technology to Achieve Results (STAR)
- Minnesota's federally funded Assistive Technology Act Program
- Housed within the MN Department of Administration
- Providing services to ALL MINNESOTANS
  - No proof of disability required.
  - There is no cost for the STAR Program services



- **What is the purpose of an assistive technology (AT) demonstration?**
  - Become familiar with specific types of AT
  - Opportunity to compare functions and features
  - Do I like this item?



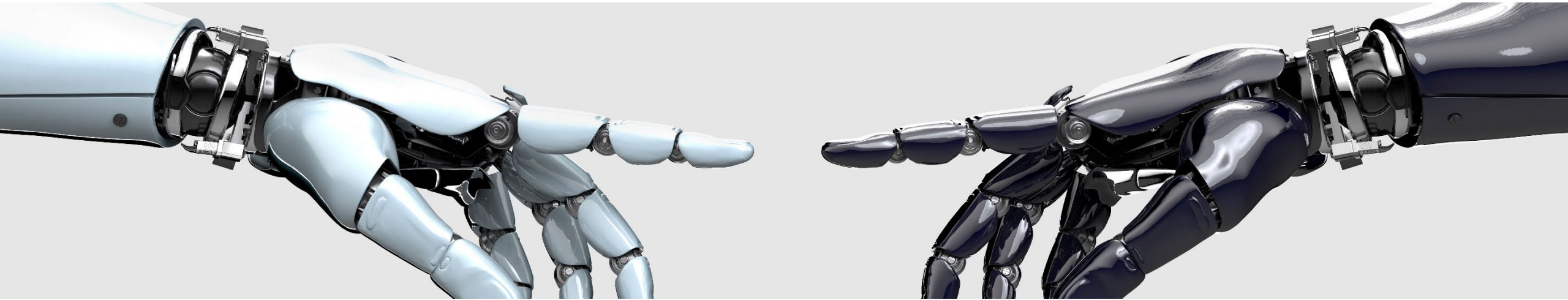
# STAR Short-Term Loans

- **Why would someone borrow an AT device?**
  - Allow individuals an opportunity to try of the technology to determine if it will meet their needs before making a purchase
  - Temporary Loan
  - Professional development



Image from William AV

The screenshot displays the MN.AT4All.com website interface. On the left is a dark sidebar with the Minnesota Department of Administration logo and navigation links: "Login or Create Account", "Home", "ITEMS" (with sub-links for "Newly Listed Items" and "Item List"), and "CONTACT" (with sub-links for "Contact Us" and "Participating Programs"). The main content area features a search bar at the top and a grid of eight category tiles, each with an image and a label: "Computers and Related" (keyboard), "Daily Living" (child in a swing), "Environmental Adaptations" (ramp), "Hearing" (woman on phone), "Learning, Cognition, and Developmental" (two children reading), "Mobility, Seating, and Positioning" (wheelchair), "Recreation, Sports, and Leisure" (person with a cane playing soccer), and "Speech Communication" (microphone). A question mark icon is visible in the bottom right corner of the grid.

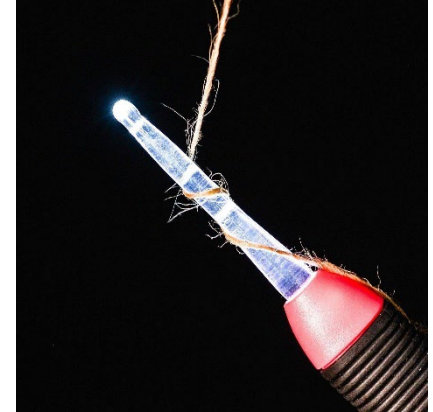


Let's Talk Technology!

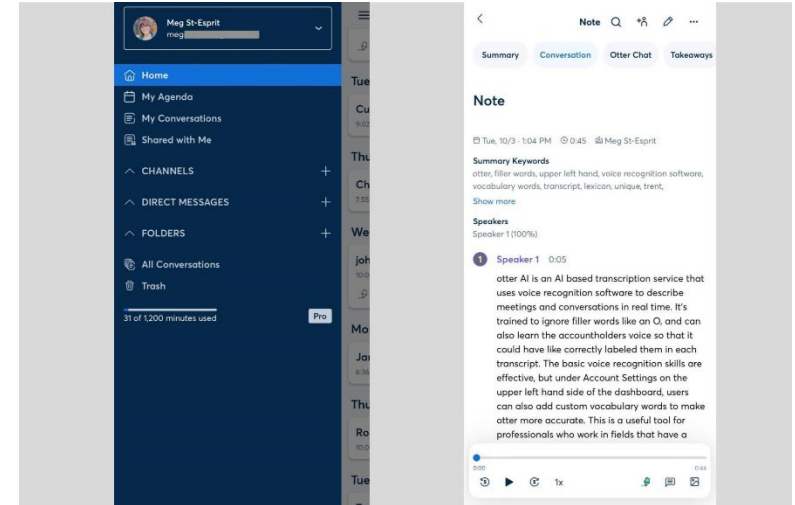
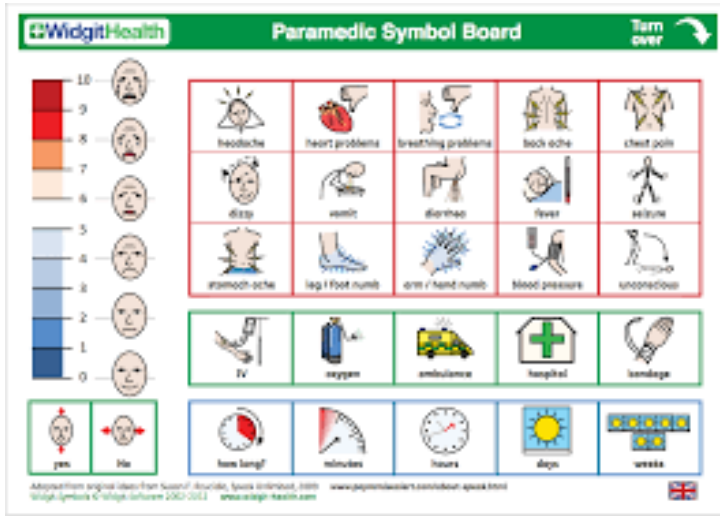
# Hearing Aids and Amplification Devices



# Vision Aids



# Communication Tools





# Cognitive Aids



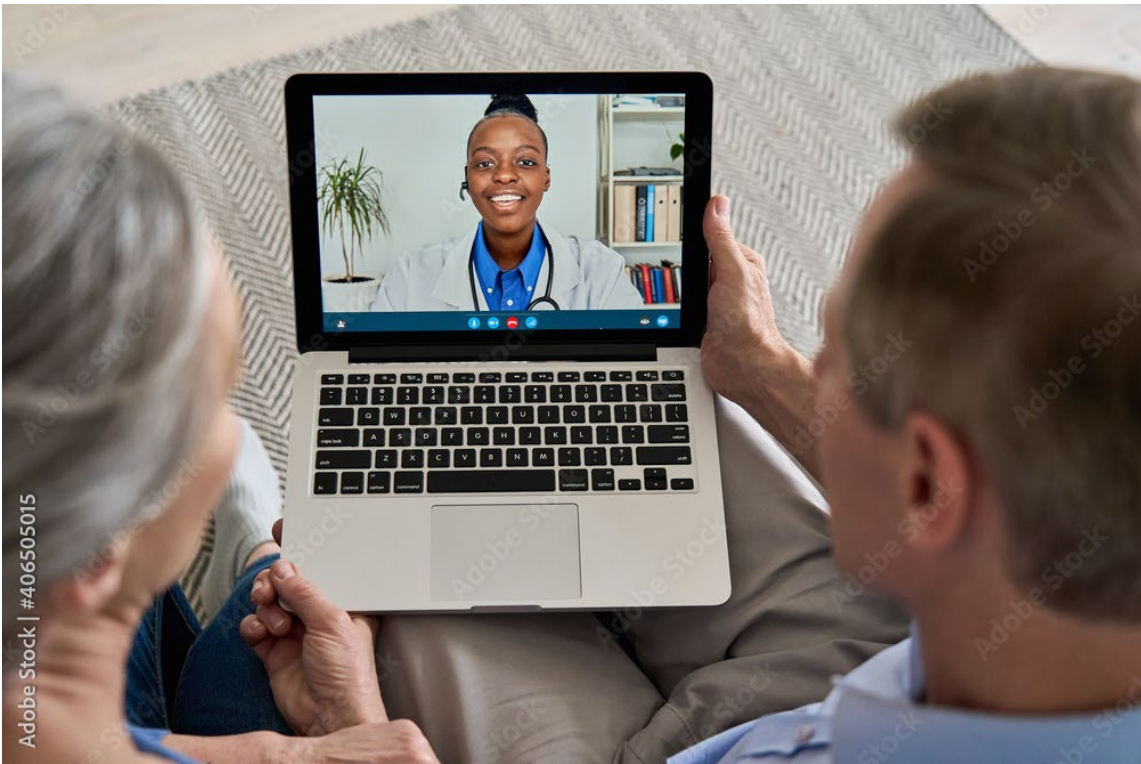
# Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS)



# Smart Home Technology



# Health Monitoring Tech



## Contact STAR

- Call 651-201-2295
- Email: [star.program@state.mn.us](mailto:star.program@state.mn.us)

## Other Resources

- Senior Community Services: TECH services
- Senior LinkAge Line: 800-333-2433
- MN ACT (Formerly TED)
- Area Agencies on Aging (AAA's)
- MN Live Well AT Home

