

## The Telecommunications Access Program (TAP)

Provides vouchers for specialized telephone equipment for Kansas residents with hearing, vision, speech, cognitive, or mobility disabilities/impairments.

### Assistive Technology for Kansas

2601 Gabriel, Parsons, KS 67357 | 800-526-3648, 866-666-1470 | (620) 421-0954 FAX

[atk.ku.edu/kansas](http://atk.ku.edu/kansas) Email [atkapss@ku.edu](mailto:atkapss@ku.edu)

### A demonstration site is available at Mid-America Alliance for Access

626 Minnesota Ave, Suite 200 Kansas City, KS 66101

321-5140/V, 866-201-3829, 321-5216/TTY

<http://www.weloveaccess.org/kansas-location>

where they provide medical equipment, home modification resources, and information and advocacy for individuals with disabilities.

### What types of phones are available? (See details on page 2)

- TTY text telephones for the deaf
- Amplified phones for persons who are hard of hearing
- Large-button phones for persons with low vision
- Braille phones for people who are blind
- Voice-activated phones for people with limited use of their hands
- Photo phones for people with memory loss
- Emergency response phones

**How do I know whether I qualify for TAP?** You must be a Kansas resident. You must have telephone service in your home. You must have a certified disability. You must have a household income of less than \$55,000 per year, plus a dependent allowance.

**How do I apply for TAP?** You will need to fill out an application that includes a signature by your physician, ophthalmologist, audiologist, speech pathologist, vocational rehabilitation counselor, or optometrist.

**Where do I get an application?** Contact the TAP office, or see <http://atk.ku.edu/ks-tap> to download and print an application. Once your application has been approved, TAP will send you a voucher for an amount that will cover the cost of your phone, and a list of vendors from whom you must order your equipment. The approved vendors will need your voucher for payment and will send you the phone you need.

**How often may I apply for TAP?** Every four years.

## Available TAP equipment includes:

- **Cordless phones that amplify incoming sounds** and voices for extra-loud and clear conversations. Adjustable volume and tone control allow you to get the best possible clarity in your conversations.
- **Large-number amplified phones**, with an adjustable built-in volume control that makes incoming sounds louder; tone and frequency adjustments that provide clarity of sound; a loud ringer to let you know the phone is ringing; and a large-number keypad that makes reading and dialing numbers easier; a large-number amplified speaker phone is also available.
- **Emergency response telephones** with remote controls, which will automatically dial a series of preprogrammed telephone numbers and play a prerecorded message letting the person know that you need assistance. Press the button on the wireless pendant, which can be carried in your pocket or worn around your neck or wrist, and it will dial for help. This phone also features large-number buttons and amplification.
- **A photo button telephone**, for people who have difficulty dialing, remembering numbers, or have limited cognitive abilities. User can insert pictures to represent the number being dialed. The user just presses the picture button and the preprogrammed number is dialed automatically.
- **Large-number telephones with number announcer**, for people who are visually impaired or blind. It has a large keypad with Braille numbers for easier dialing and a digital voice feature that vocalizes each number when pressed. Knowledge of Braille is not required to operate this phone.
- **Hands-free phones** for people who have limited use of their hands or other mobility limitations. It comes with remote control or voice activation capabilities. It accepts a variety of assistive accessories such as an air switch, pillow switch, lapel microphone, or headset.
- **VCO (voice carry over) or HCO (hearing carry over) phone**, which combines voice and text, used by people who cannot hear well but wish to speak using their own voice, and by people who cannot speak but wish to hear others over the phone. Those who cannot hear, read what others are saying through a text display. Those who cannot speak, use the typewriter keyboard to respond to what they hear. These calls are placed through the Kansas Relay Center.
- **Captioned telephone, or CapTel**, also requires use of the Kansas Relay Center. It allows the user to read captions displayed on the phone in order to clarify any missed information. Users can listen to the caller and also read the written captions. Features include adjustable volume and tone settings, large buttons, and an adjustable loud ringer.
- **In-line voice dialer**, which connects to a telephone and is activated by voice recognition. After programming phone numbers, simply speak the name; the phone number is automatically dialed.
- **Personal emergency response system** that lets you talk directly to a 911 operator through the pendant with a simple push of a button. Preprogrammed to dial 911, the unit can operate anywhere in and around the home. Base station is plugged into a phone jack in the central part of your home.
- **Light flasher/visual signaler** notifies a person that the phone is ringing by flashing a bright light.
- **Loud bell ringer** increases the volume of the ring on the phone.