

**The NYS Commission On Quality of Care and
Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities**

The TRAIID Program

Through a federal grant from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), the NYS Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities provides statewide coordination of assistive technology activities for people with disabilities, fosters development of state and federal policies and programs to enhance availability of assistive technology. TRAIID's goal is to increase the access and acquisition of assistive technology in the four domain areas of education, employment, community living and information technology/telecommunications.

There are 12 Regional TRAIID Centers (RTCs) that provide information, training, device demonstration and loan, technical assistance and advocacy on how to obtain and use assistive technology services and devices.

TRAIID also operates and maintains the TRAIID-IN Equipment Exchange program, which is a service for individuals who are looking to sell, donate or obtain used assistive devices for people with disabilities.

In a most recent collaboration, TRAIID has partnered with the Department of Health through the Money Follows the Person initiative to keep persons independent in their homes through the use of assistive technology.

With funds made available through the MFP Program, the RTC's have been able to purchase devices for loan and demonstration including items such as portable ramps and shower chairs. The device loan programs have also provided an opportunity for individuals of all ages and disabilities, and professionals to borrow assistive devices or to try them before they purchase.

The MFP Program has also helped meet the needs of individuals that may require a loaner device if their own device is being repaired or new device is on order. Many times when persons are in the process of transitioning from the nursing home to the community, they are not able to purchase devices through Medicaid and other insurance programs while still residing in the nursing home. The TRAIID centers have been able to fill this need by providing loans of devices and reduce the delay and hardship to both the consumer and caregiver. Since the inception of this initiative, 1241 new assistive devices have been purchased by the Regional TRAIID Centers.

**TRAIID Implementation of Money Follows the Person Federal Rebalancing Demonstration
Project (MFP)**

The TRAIID Director will work closely with the Department of Health's Regional Resource Center sites to get out the word about the TRAIID program and the demonstration project. Additional outreach efforts will be made through presentations, mailings, and meetings at Independent Living Centers, Senior Centers, and area Office's for the Aging, as well as at the already established regional TRAIID Centers.

While there is no additional funding for this project for 2010, TRAIID estimates a 5% increase in Devise Demonstrations (to 237) and Devise Loans (594).

For more information on the TRAIID program please visit the CQCAPD website at:
<http://www.cqcapd.state.ny.us/advocacy/assisttechtraid/asst-tech-traid.htm>