**State Grants for Assistive Technology Program**

# [South Dakota]

# State Plan for Assistive Technology

# Federal Fiscal Years 2018-2020

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*Expiration Date: March 31, 2021*

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## Identification and Description of Lead Agency and Implementing Entity; Change in Lead Agency or Implementing Entity

Section 4(d)(2) of the AT Act requires that the State Plan contain information identifying and describing the Lead Agency and Implementing Entity (if applicable) designated by the state’s governor. A state either has a Lead Agency alone or has both a Lead Agency and an Implementing Entity. The Implementing Entity is a subcontractor separate from the Lead Agency who is responsible for implementing the State AT Program activities. The Lead Agency does not also name itself or a unit within the agency as the Implementing Entity.

If there is an Implementing Entity, section 4(d)(4)(B) requires that the State Plan include a description of the mechanisms established to ensure coordination of activities and collaboration between the Implementing Entity and the Lead Agency. If the governor chooses to re-designate the Lead Agency or Implementing Entity, section 4(c)(1)(C) requires that good cause for this change be shown in the State Plan, including why that previously designated agency or entity no longer should serve. If the Lead Agency or Implementing Entity is changing, the information provided in this State Plan should pertain to how the new agency or entity will conduct the Statewide AT Program. The following items are intended to satisfy the requirements just described.

### Identification & Description of Lead Agency and Implementing Entity

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Statewide AT Program (Information to be listed in national State AT Program Directory)** | |
| 1. State Program Title: DakotaLink | |
| 2. State AT Program URL: <http://dakotalink.net> | |
| 3. Mailing address : P.O. Box 218 | 5. State: South Dakota |
| 4. City: Sturgis | 6. Zip code: 57785 |
| 7. Main email address [atinfo@dakotalink.net](mailto:atinfo@dakotalink.net) | |
| 8. Main phone number: 1-605-394-6742 | |
| 9. Separate TTY number (for general public to use to contact State AT Program) | |
| **Lead Agency** | |
| 10. Agency name: South Dakota Department of Human Services  Division of Rehabilitation Services | |
| 11. Mailing address: E. Hwy. 34, Hillsview Plaza c/o 500 E. Capital | 13. State: South Dakota |
| 12. City: Pierre | 14. Zip code: 57501 |
| 15. Lead Agency URL: <https://dhs.sd.gov/rehabservices/> | |
| **Implementing Entity** | |
| 16.Does your Lead Agency contract with an Implementing Entity to carry out the Statewide AT Program on its behalf? Yes  No  *If yes, complete Items 17–22.* | |
| 17. Name of Implementing Entity: Black Hills Special Services Cooperative  DakotaLink | |
| 18. Mailing address: P.O. Box 218 | 20. State: South Dakota |
| 19. City: Sturgis | 21. Zip code: 57785 |
| 22. Implementing Entity URL: [www.dakotalink.net](http://www.dakotalink.net) | |
| **Program director and other contacts** | |
| 23. Program Director for State AT Program (last, first): Hudson, Page | |
| 24. Title: Director | |
| 25. Phone: (605) 977-1779 | |
| 26. E-mail: [phudson@dakotalink.net](mailto:phudson@dakotalink.net) | |
| 27. Primary Contact at the Lead Agency (last, first): Weiss, Eric | |
| 28. Title: Program Director, Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services | |
| 29. Phone: 605-773-4644 | |
| 30. E-mail: [eric.weiss@state.sd.us](mailto:eric.weiss@state.sd.us) | |
| 31. Primary Contact at Implementing Entity (last, first) – Hudson, Page | |
| 32. Title: Director | |
| 33. Phone: 605-977-1779 | |
| 34. E-mail: [phudson@dakotalink.net](mailto:phudson@dakotalink.net) | |
| **Person Responsible for completing this form if other than State AT Program Director** | |
| 34. Name (last, first | |
| 35. Title: | |
| 36. Phone | |
| 37. E-mail: | |
| **Certifying Representative** | |
| 38. Name (last, first): Rechtenbaugh, Shawnie | |
| 39. Title: Secretary, South Dakota Department of Human Services | |
| 40. Phone: 605-773-5990 | |
| 41. E-mail: [Shawnie.rechtenbaugh@state.sd.us](mailto:Shawnie.rechtenbaugh@state.sd.us) | |

### Change in Lead Agency or Implementing Entity

* + 1. **Describe the mechanisms established to ensure coordination of activities and collaboration between the Implementing Entity and the state if you have a designated Implementing Entity identified above.**

**The Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Human Services has directed the Division of Rehabilitation Services to oversee the activities conducted by the Implementing Entity in meeting the requirements of the Assistive Technology Act of 2004. To ensure coordination of activities and collaboration between the Implementing Entity and the State, the Division of Rehabilitation Services prepares an annual grant agreement that specifically identifies the responsibilities of both the Lead Agency and the Implementing Agency. The implementing agency in coordination with the State prepares an annual budget specific to this grant agreement and the requirements of the Assistive Technology Act of 2004. This contract and budget are monitored by the Director of the Division of Rehabilitation Services, who acts as the primary liaison for the Lead Agency with the Implementing Agency. The Implementing Entity submits a request for release of funds on a monthly basis which is monitored and reviewed by the Division Liaison. The State is represented by the Director of the Division of Rehabilitation Services, Director of the Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired and the Director of the office of Special Education on the Advisory Council for the South Dakota Technology Related Services Project, DakotaLink.**

* + 1. **Is the Lead Agency named in this State Plan a new or different Lead Agency from the one designated by the Governor in your previous State Plan?**

No

**If you answered no to this question, and you do not use an Implementing Entity, you may skip ahead to the next section. Otherwise, you must answer the following questions.**

* + 1. **Explain why the Lead Agency previously designated by the Governor should not serve as the Lead Agency. Answer only if Question 2 above is yes.**

Instructions: Describe all factors that led the state to consider changing from the previous Lead Agency or Implementing Entity, such as concerns about performance, state policies that require periodic competition for contracts, or restructuring of state government.

* + 1. **Explain why the Lead Agency newly designated by the Governor should serve as the Lead Agency. Answer only if Question 2 above is yes.**

Instructions: Describe how and why the new Lead Agency was chosen to implement the Statewide AT Program and justify the appropriateness of the choice.

* + 1. **Is the Implementing Entity named in this State Plan a new or different Implementing Entity from the one designated by the Governor in the previous State Plan?**

No

**If you answered no to this question, you may skip ahead to the next section. Otherwise, you must respond to Items 6 and 7 below.**

* + 1. **Explain why the Implementing Entity previously designated by the Governor should not serve as the Implementing Entity. Answer only if Question 5 above is yes.**
    2. **Explain why the Implementing Entity newly designated by the Governor should serve as the Implementing Entity. Answer only if Question 5 above is yes.**

Assistive Technology State Grant Program

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## Advisory Council, Budget Allocations and Actual Expenditures, and Identification of Activities Conducted

Section 4(c)(2) of the AT Act requires the Statewide AT Program to establish a consumer-majority advisory council that provides consumer-responsive, consumer-driven advice to the state for planning of, implementation of, and evaluation of the activities carried out through the grant, including setting measurable goals*.* Exceptions to these requirements are allowed under section 4(c)(2)(E) if the requirements will affect existing state statutes, rules, or official policies relating to advisory bodies or require changes to existing governing bodies of incorporated agencies. The following items provide assurances related to and identify compliance with the requirements of section 4(c)(2).

### Advisory Council

* + 1. **In accordance with section 4(c)(2) of the AT Act of 1998, as amended our state has a consumer-majority advisory council that provides consumer-responsive, consumer-driven advice to the state for planning of, implementation of, and evaluation of the activities carried out through the grant, including setting measurable goals. This advisory council is geographically representative of the State and reflects the diversity of the State with respect to race, ethnicity, and types of disabilities across the age span, and users of types of services that an individual with a disability may receive. Answer yes or no.**

Yes

* + 1. **The advisory council includes a representative of the designated State agency, as defined in section 7 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 705). Answer yes/no/NA.**

Yes

* + 1. **The advisory council includes a representative of the State agency for individuals who are blind (within the meaning of section 101 of that Act (29 U.S.C. 721)). Answer yes/no/NA.**

Yes

* + 1. **The advisory council includes a representative of a State center for independent living described in part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.). Answer yes/no/NA.**

Yes

* + 1. **The advisory council includes a representative of the State workforce development board established under section 101 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act). Answer yes/no/NA.**

### Yes

* + 1. **The advisory council includes a representative of the State educational agency, as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as reauthorized. Answer yes/no/NA.**

Yes

* + 1. **The advisory council includes other representatives (list below).**

Tim Neyhart – Director of Disability Rights South Dakota

* + 1. **The advisory council includes a majority of individuals with disabilities that use assistive technology or their family members or guardians:**

A. Enter the number of individuals with disabilities that use AT or their family members or guardians on the advisory council - 7

B. Enter the total number of individuals on the advisory council - 12

C. Calculate the percentage (divide A/B) – 58%

*If the ratio is less than 51% you must provide explanation of why advisory council does not include a consumer majority in Item 9 below.*

* + 1. **If the Statewide AT Program does not have the composition and representation required under section 4(c)(2)(B), explain here.**

N/A

### Actual Expenditures and Budgeted Allocations

* + 1. **Actual Expenditures Carryover Year Close-out (annual update required-table reset)**

In the following table provide the actual expenditure data for the closed-out carryover fiscal year AT grant award (liquidated the previous December 31). Please note, this data is for a specific year AT Act grant award amount, NOT any specific 12- month period of time as funds from a grant award can be obligated over a 24-month period. (For a State Plan submitted in the spring of 2018, the most recent closed-out carryover year grant award will be the FY16 grant award that began 10/1/2015 with the first year ending on 9/30/2016 and the second carryover year ending on 9/30/2017 with 3-month liquidation period ending 12/31/2017).

| **Actual Expenditures for Closed-out Carryover Year Award** | **Final Expenditures** | **Percentage** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **A. All State Level Activities** | **$262,779.60** | **60%** |
| **B. All State Leadership Activities** | **$166,798.44** | **40%** |
| **C. Transition Training & Technical Assistance** | **$8,387.96** | **5%** |
| **D. Total Expenditures** | **$437,966.00** | **100%** |
| **E. Total Award** | **$437,966.00** | **100%** |
| **F. Lapsed Amount** | **$0** | **0%** |

Note: The final expenditure amount on line D must equal the amount drawn down in the ACL Payment Management System.

* + 1. **Actual YTD Expenditures and Budgeted Allocations for Immediately Preceding Year Award (annual update required-table reset)**

In the following table provide year-to-date (YTD) obligated and liquidated expenditure data for the immediately preceding fiscal year AT grant award along with planned budget allocations for the unobligated remainder of that award. Please note, this data is for a specific year AT Act grant award amount, NOT any specific 12-month period of time as funds from a grant award can be obligated over a 24-month period. (For a State Plan submitted in the spring of 2018, the immediately preceding fiscal year award will be the FY17 grant award that began 10/1/2016 with the first year ending 9/30/2017 and the second carryover year ending 9/30/18).

| **Actual & Planned Immediately Preceding Year Award Expenditures** | **YTD Obligated not Liquidated Expenditures** | **YTD Liquidated Expenditures** | **Planned not yet Obligated Expenditures** | **Total** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **All State Level Activities** | **$193,505.47** | **$68,597.33** | **$0** | **$262,102.80** |
| **All State Leadership Activities** | **$134,036.94** | **$32,310.30** | **$0** | **$166,347.24** |
| **Transition Training & Technical Assistance** | **$4,452.61** | **$3,935.35** | **$0** | **$8,387.96** |
| **Total** | **$331,995.02** | **$104,842.98** | **$0** | $436,838 |

### Activities Conducted

* + 1. **State Level Activities Conducted and Program Structure**

Using the table below, identify all types of state level activities that will be conducted by the Statewide AT Program, who is conducting the activity, from where it is conducted and if a fee is charged. Please remember that annual progress report data is required for any activity identified as conducted in this State Plan.

| **AT Act State Level Activities** | **Activity Conducted?** | **Who conducts? State** | **Who conducts? Other** | **Who conducts? Both** | **Where conducted? Central** | **Where conducted? Regional** | **Where conducted? Both** | **Fee Charged** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **State Financing-Financial Loan** | Yes | **State Wide AT Program** |  |  |  |  | **A combination of a central location and regional** | **no** |
| **State Financing-Other that Directly Provides AT** | Yes | **State Wide AT Program** |  |  |  |  | **A combination of a central location and regional** | **Based on Income** |
| **State Financing-Other that Creates Savings for AT** | No |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Reuse-Device Exchange** | Yes | **MERR** |  |  |  |  | **One Central Location** | **Based on Income** |
| **Reuse-Device Open Ended Loan or Reassign** | Yes | **State Wide AT Program** |  |  |  |  | **A combination of a central location and regional** | **no** |
| **Device short-term loan** | Yes | **State Wide AT Program** |  |  |  |  | **A combination of a central location and regional** | **no** |
| **Device demonstra-tion** | Yes | **State Wide AT Program** |  |  |  |  | **A combination of a central location and regional** | **no** |

For each activity conducted, select the one option that best describes who conducts each state level activity from the choices of:

* *The Statewide AT Program (State AT)*
* *Other entities e.g. contractors (Others)*
* *Both the Statewide AT Program and other entities/contractors (Both)*

Use the following guidance to select the choice that best or most closely describes who conducts each activity.

Lead Agencies/Implementing Entities implement their activities in many ways. Some implement their activities directly using their own staff and resources, others use subcontractors, and others use combinations of both. Remember, the Implementing Entity is considered the Statewide AT Program, not an “other entity.” Indicate how your program conducts this activity using the following rules:

Answer “yes” for “The Statewide AT Program” and do not select “Other entities” if this activity is carried out exclusively by employees of the Lead Agency/Implementing Entity working directly with consumers using Lead Agency/Implementing Entity facilities and resources. Regional sites that are staffed by employees of the Lead Agency/Implementing Entity are considered part of the Statewide AT Program.

Answer “yes” for BOTH “The Statewide AT Program” and “Other entities” if the Lead Agency/Implementing Entity carries out the activity using its employees and facilities to work directly with consumers and ALSO uses some subcontracts or other agreements with external organizations whose own employees, facilities, and resources are used to work directly with consumers.

Answer ONLY “Other entities” if the Lead Agency/Implementing Entity does not work directly with consumers using Lead Agency/Implementing Entity facilities and resources and instead uses external organizations only.

For each activity conducted, select the one option that best describes from where each activity is conducted from the choices of:

* *One central location (Central)*
* *Regional sites (Regional)*
* *A combination of a central location and regional sites (Combination)*

Use the following guidance to select the choice that best or most closely describe the location from which each activity is conducted.

*One central location* – Answer “yes” if the Statewide AT Program conducts this activity from a single site that houses all employees and resources engaged in the activity. It may be the case that employees or resources travel from this site to other places, but they are based at a single site, and the other places are not established/permanent sites. Sites that simply serve as referral sources or provide minimal assistance to a central location are not considered regional sites. Remember that this is tied to the activity itself, so two different activities could take place at two different central locations. Also, if in previous items it was indicated that subcontractors are used, it does not automatically mean that regional sites are used. For example, your Statewide AT Program may have a building on a university campus that houses the staff and devices for a device loan program. The university campus is the central location for that program. The Statewide AT Program also may contract with a CBO in another part of the state to operate an AFP as your state financing activity. If the employees and resources for operating the AFP are housed at the CBO, the CBO is considered the central location for state financing and not a regional site.

*Regional sites* – Answer “yes” only if the activity is conducted from at least two sites that operate relatively independently without any of them being considered the main site or headquarters (if one of them is considered the headquarters, choose a combination of central location and regional sites instead). Regional sites can be directly managed by the Lead Agency/Implementing Entity or can be subcontractors. For example, the Lead Agency may employ three part-time staff people at three different one-stop centers in the state. Those one-stop centers have their own small inventory of devices purchased by the Lead Agency and the part-time staff uses those devices to provide device demonstrations on a regular basis. These could be considered regional sites. Sites that simply serve as referral sources or provide minimal assistance to a central location are not considered regional sites. For example, if all of the devices for the Statewide AT Program loan program are located at a central site along with those responsible for operating the program, but independent living centers provide referrals and the Statewide AT Program sends devices to those centers for pick-up by consumers, the independent living centers are not considered regional sites.

*A combination of central location and regional sites* – Answer “yes” only if you have a site that is considered the main site or headquarters that houses the majority of employees and resources and regional sites that also have their own employees and resources. For example, if the majority of the devices for your loan program are located in a central inventory along with those responsible for operating the loan program, but independent living centers under subcontract house their own, smaller inventories and have staff assigned to do loans, you would have both a central location and regional sites.

For each activity you conduct, identify if a fee is charged. Many programs support their activities by charging some kind of fee. Fees can be a set amount for participation in the activity, a prescribed amount charged for each service, set amount charged for services provided within a set time period like an annual fee, or fees can be variable based on a number of factors such as a participant/recipient’s ability to pay, the type of participant/recipient (individual with a disability, professional, or organization) or by the complexity of the devices/services provided. If any type of fee is charged answer “yes” and in the description of that activity in later sections describe the fee structure used in the simplest terms possible.

* + 1. **Comparability and Flexibility**

For any of the four State Level Activities that are not conducted, the Statewide AT Program must claim comparability or flexibility in the table below. The table below repeats the yes/no from the previous table identifying the activities the state is conducting and requires identification of flexibility or comparability for those activities the Statewide AT Program is not conducting.

| **Comparability & Flexibility** | **Yes/No** | **State Level Activities** | **Not Performed Claiming --** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Financial Loan** | Yes | State Financing |  |
| **Other State Financing that Directly Provides AT** | Yes | State Financing |  |
| **Other State Financing that Creates Savings for AT** | No | State Financing |  |
| **Device Exchange** | Yes | Reuse |  |
| **Device Reassignment or Open-Ended Loan** | Yes | Reuse |  |
| **Device short-term loan** | Yes | Short-term Loan |  |
| **Device demonstration** | Yes | Demonstration |  |

*Flexibility* - Section 4(e)(6) of the AT Act allows a state to carry out any two or more of the required state-level activities, meaning a state can choose not to conduct up to two activities. If the state claims flexibility in a given fiscal year, do not report data for that activity during that fiscal year and the grant award for that fiscal year will be subject to a maximum 30% of total expenditures for state leadership activities.

*Comparability* - Section 4 (e)(1)(B) of the AT Act provides that a state shall not be required to carry out a required state-level activity if the amount of financial support provided from the state or other nonfederal resources or entities for that activity is comparable or greater than the amount that the state would have expended for the activity. When a Statewide AT Program claims comparability; the state will not report data for any state-level activities for which the state claimed comparability.

For any activity for which the Statewide AT Program is claiming comparability, describe the comparable activity and comparable financial support. In the text box, explain in the simplest terms possible what the comparable activity is, who conducts the activity, who supports the activity, and what makes it comparable both in terms of resources supporting the activity and how the activity is related to the purposes of the AT Act.

**Multiple Activity Item Instructions**

Section 4(d)(5) of the AT Act requires that the State Plan include a description of how the Statewide AT Program will implement its State-level and State Leadership activities. For the purposes of the following portions of the State Plan, there is no distinction between a Lead Agency or Implementing Entity in terms of implementation. If an Implementing Entity is used, the State Plan reports on how that entity is implementing the Act.

Section 4(d)(4) requires that the State Plan describe how various public and private entities will be involved in the implementation of those activities, including a description of the nature and extent of resources that will be committed by public and private collaborators. Section 4(d)(7) also requires that the State Plan include a description of the State-level and State Leadership Activities the state will support with state funds. Section 4(e)(3)(B)(iii) requires that states coordinate and collaborate their State-level and State Leadership activities among public and private entities.

Sections C-G of this State Plan contains items intended to meet these requirements for each AT Act authorized activity. While Sections do request unique information about specific activities, each begins with the same request for information regarding collaboration. Use the instructions below as a reference for this question throughout the State Plan, as the instructions will not be repeated in each section.

**If this activity is conducted through a formal written agreement, by providing financial support to other entities or by receiving financial support from other entities please identify that coordination and collaboration in the table below.**

| **Collaborating organizations conducting this activity** | **Have written agreement with this entity** | **Provide financial support to this entity** | **Receive financial support from this entity** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Banks/financial institution** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Independent Living Center** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Easter Seals** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Disability/AT Organizations** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Federal Entities/Agencies** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **State Entities/Agencies** | **Yes** | **No** | **Yes** |
| **Local/Community Entities** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Private Entities** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Other** *(describe)* | **No** | **No** | **No** |

**Assistive Technology State Grant Program**

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## State Financing Activities

The AT Act describes state financing activities as activities that increase:

“access to, and funding for, assistive technology devices and assistive technology services (which shall not include direct payment for such a device or service for an individual with a disability but may include support and administration of a program to provide such payment), including development of systems to provide and pay for such devices and services, for targeted individuals and entities described in section 3(16)(A), including—

1. support for the development of systems for the purchase, lease, or other acquisition of, or payment for, assistive technology devices and assistive technology services; or
2. support for the development of State-financed or privately financed alternative financing systems of subsidies (which may include conducting an initial 1-year feasibility study of, improving, administering, operating, providing capital for, or collaborating with an entity with respect to, such a system) for the provision of assistive technology devices, such as—
3. a low-interest loan fund;
4. an interest buy-down program;
5. a revolving loan fund;
6. a loan guarantee or insurance program;
7. a program providing for the purchase, lease, or other acquisition of assistive technology devices or assistive technology services; or
8. another mechanism that is approved by the Secretary.”

For the purposes of this State Plan, state financing activities include financial loan programs, programs that directly provide AT such as home modification programs, telecommunications distribution programs, and last resort funds, and programs that create savings for AT acquisition such as cooperative buying programs and AT leasing programs. Each of these activities is defined in the corresponding section of this State Plan.

Section 4(d)(5) of the AT Act requires that the State Plan include a description of how the Statewide AT Program will implement its State-level and State Leadership activities. Further, section 4(d)(4) requires that the State Plan describe how various public and private entities will be involved in the implementation of those activities, including a description of the nature and extent of resources that will be committed by public and private collaborators. Section 4(d)(7) also requires that the State Plan include a description of the State-level and State Leadership Activities the state will support with state funds. Section 4(e)(3)(B)(iii) requires that states coordinate and collaborate their State-level and State Leadership activities among public and private entities. The following items are intended to meet these requirements for State Financing Activities. Respond only to the items that correspond with the State Financing Activities selected in Section B of this Plan.

### Financial Loan Program -

A financial loan program provides financial loans for purchase of AT devices and services. A financial loan program may make loans directly (revolving loans) or may make partnership loans using dollars from another source, usually a financial institution.

* + 1. **If you conduct this activity through a formal written agreement, by providing financial support to other entities or by receiving financial support from other entities please identify that coordination and collaboration in the table below.**

| **Collaborating organizations conducting this activity** | **Have written agreement with this entity** | **Provide financial support to this entity** | **Receive financial support from this entity** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Banks/financial institution** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Independent Living Center** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Easter Seals** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Disability/AT Organizations** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Federal Entities/Agencies** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **State Entities/Agencies** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Local/Community Entities** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Private Entities** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Other** *(describe)* | **No** | **No** | **No** |

* + 1. **This activity offers the following types of assistance (identify all that apply).**

**X Revolving loans**

* **Loan guarantees**
* **Interest buy-downs**
* **Combined loan guarantee and interest buy-down**
  + 1. **The lowest interest amount for loans as established by the policies of the activity (leave blank if NA). Provide a percentage in XX.XX% form. 05.00%**
    2. **The highest interest amount for loans as established by the policies of the activity (leave blank if NA). Provide a percentage in XX.XX% form. 05.00%**
    3. **The lowest loan amount provided as established by the policies of the activity (leave blank if N/A). $500.**
    4. **The highest loan amount provided as established by the policies of the activity (leave blank if N/A). $20,000.**
    5. **Describe the activity.**

**The DakotaLink AT Loan Fund will review the application making sure the applicant intends to use the loan to purchase assistive technology for a South Dakota resident with a disability and has the ability to repay the loan.**

**The DakotaLink AT Loan Fund will use the information on this application form only to determine your need for and ability to repay this loan. Borrowers must demonstrate the ability to repay the loan. At the end of this application in PART 6 is a complete list of required attachments that must accompany the application in order to begin the application process. You can call the office staff if you have any questions before applying.**

**The DakotaLink AT Loan Fund manager with the advice of a loan review committee will decide if you meet the standard criteria for a loan and notify you of a decision in writing.**

* + 1. **The online page for this specific activity can be found at:** [**https://www.dakotalink.net/at-funding**](https://www.dakotalink.net/at-funding)

### Other State Financing Activities Directly Provide AT

* + 1. **If other state financing activities that directly provide AT are conducted through a formal written agreement, by providing financial support to other entities or by receiving financial support from other entities please identify that coordination and collaboration in the table below.**

| **Collaborating organizations conducting this activity** | **Have written agreement with this entity** | **Provide financial support to this entity** | **Receive financial support from this entity** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Banks/financial institution** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Independent Living Center** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Easter Seals** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Disability/AT Organizations** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Federal Entities/Agencies** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **State Entities/Agencies** | **Yes** | **No** | **Yes** |
| **Local/Community Entities** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Private Entities** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Other** *(describe)* | **No** | **No** | **No** |

* + 1. **The following activities are conducted**

| **Activities** | **Check if Conducted** |
| --- | --- |
| **Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (EDP)-State** | **X** |
| **Deaf/Blind Telecommunications EDP-Federal** | **X** |
| **Last Resort Fund** |  |
| **Home Modification Program** |  |
| **Other** *(describe)* |  |

* + 1. **Describe the activity or activities.**

**The Telecommunications Equipment Distribution program is to provide accessible telephone services for individuals who are deaf, deaf-blind, have severe hearing loss or are speech-impaired. This is accomplished through a combination of both the Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) and the Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (TED). Special equipment is available based on income eligibility to enhance telephone communication. The Program provides telecommunication devices such as amplified phones, loud ringers with or without flashing lights, captioned phones, TTY's and other equipment including iPhone & iPads which may be need to communication through the phone system. Application Rapid City Area, Application Pierre Area, Application Aberdeen Area, Application Sioux Falls Area.**

**The Telephone Adaptive Device (TAD) program is for people with disabilities other than deafness, deaf/blind, hard of hearing and in some cases speech impairment) Special equipment is available based on income eligibility to enhance telephone communication. The Program provides telecommunication devices such as fully voice activated phones, picture dialing phones, large button phones and other equipment including iPhone & iPads which may be need to communication through the phone system.**

**Deaf Blind Program. The iCanConnectSD is a program established by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to distribute a wide array of assistive technology to people who are deaf-blind and require special equipment to make a phone call, send an email or access the Internet.**

* + 1. **The online page (or pages) for this specific activity can be found at:** [**https://www.dakotalink.net/at-partners/sd-partners**](https://www.dakotalink.net/at-partners/sd-partners)

### Other State Financing Activities Create AT Savings

* + 1. **If other state financing activities that create AT savings are conducted through a formal written agreement, by providing financial support to other entities and/or by receiving financial support from other entities please identify that coordination and collaboration in the table below.**

| **Collaborating organizations conducting this activity** | **Have written agreement with this entity** | **Provide financial support to this entity** | **Receive financial support from this entity** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Banks/financial institution** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Independent Living Center** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Easter Seals** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Disability/AT Organizations** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Federal Entities/Agencies** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **State Entities/Agencies** | **Yes** | **No** | **Yes** |
| **Local/Community Entities** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Private Entities** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Other** *(describe)* | **No** | **No** | **No** |

* + 1. **The following activities are conducted**

| **Activities** | **Check if Conducted** |
| --- | --- |
| **Cooperative Buying Program** |  |
| **AT Lease Program** | **X** |
| **AT Fabrication Program** |  |
| **Other** *(describe)* |  |

* + 1. **Describe the activity.**

**DakotaLink administers a long-term income-based lease program for individuals who are visually impaired. This activity was initially established with funds from the South Dakota Division of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired. As additional funds for expansion are identified and acquired, additional forms of AT will be made available within the leasing program. These expanded services will be for individuals who are unable to obtain needed AT through any other source and considered a fund of last resort.**

* + 1. **The online page (or pages) for this specific activity can be found at:** [**https://dhs.sd.gov/servicetotheblind/default.aspx**](https://dhs.sd.gov/servicetotheblind/default.aspx)

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## Device Reutilization Activities

The AT Act describes the State-level activity of device reutilization as follows:

“DEVICE REUTILIZATION PROGRAMS. —The State shall directly, or in collaboration with public or private entities, carry out assistive technology device reutilization programs that provide for the exchange, repair, recycling, or other reutilization of assistive technology devices, which may include redistribution through device sales, loans, rentals, or donations.”

For the purposes of this State Plan, device reutilization activities are categorized as either device exchange activities, device refurbish and reassign activities or open-ended loan activities. Device exchange activities are those in which the Statewide AT Program facilitates the transfer of a device from a consumer who does not need the device to a consumer who could use the device without the organization taking possession of the device at any time. Devices are listed in a “want ad” or other type of posting and consumers can contact and arrange to obtain the device (either by purchasing it or obtaining it for free) from the current owner. Exchange activities do not involve warehousing inventory and do not include repair, sanitization or refurbishing of used devices. In some cases, a Statewide AT Program serves as an intermediary directly involved in making this exchange; in others the consumer and current owner make this exchange without the involvement of the Statewide AT Program.

Section 4(d)(5) of the AT Act requires the State Plan include a description of how the Statewide AT Program will implement State-level and State Leadership activities. Further, section 4(d)(4) requires that the State Plan describe how various public and private entities will be involved in the implementation of those activities, including a description of the nature and extent of resources that will be committed by public and private collaborators. Section 4(d)(7) requires that the State Plan include a description of the State-level and State Leadership Activities the state will support with state funds. Section 4(e)(3)(B)(iii) requires that states coordinate and collaborate their State-level and State Leadership activities among public and private entities.

### Device Exchange

* + 1. **If device exchange activities are conducted through a formal written agreement, by providing financial support to other entities and/or by receiving financial support from other entities please identify that coordination and collaboration in the table below.**

| **Collaborating organizations conducting this activity** | **Have written agreement with this entity** | **Provide financial support to this entity** | **Receive financial support from this entity** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Banks/financial institution** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Independent Living Center** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Easter Seals** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Disability/AT Organizations** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Federal Entities/Agencies** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **State Entities/Agencies** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Local/Community Entities** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Private Entities** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Other** *(describe)* | **No** | **No** | **No** |

* + 1. **Select the option that best describes what happens when a device is exchanged. Identify only one.**

**X The transaction is direct consumer-to-consumer**

* **The Statewide AT Program is involved in the transaction**

*The transaction is direct consumer-to-consumer -* The exchange is set up so that the person who wants the device directly contacts the person who has the device and the two of them work out the details of the exchange without the involvement of the Statewide AT Program. Occasionally, an individual may not want to post contact information on the exchange and requests that the Statewide AT Program be the contact. In these cases, the Statewide AT Program’s only responsibility is providing the contact information to those who ask.

*The Statewide AT Program is involved in the transaction* - A consumer who wants a device **must** go through the Statewide AT Program to connect with the person who has the device. The role of the Statewide AT Program may vary once this connection has been made, but the Statewide AT Program undertakes some level of control over the exchanges made through its program.

* + 1. **Describe the activity.**

**DakotaLink provides the citizens of South Dakota a web-based device exchange system called SDAT4ALL. This exchange service provides a platform to purchase, sell, or donate Assistive Technology devices. Individuals may also borrow devices listed as available for loan to try an item before committing to making a purchase. Individuals may also request a demonstration of a wide variety of Assistive Technology devices to assist in making informed decisions.**

**Developed by the State of Nebraska this exchange system is shared collaboratively with participating states through a Memorandum of Understanding that outlines the responsibilities and rights of all participating states including cost shares for administering and upgrading the central server site. This Memorandum of Understanding is reviewed annually, and changes made upon majority vote of the participating member States.**

* + 1. **The online page for this specific activity can be found at:** [**https://www.sd.at4all.com/**](https://www.sd.at4all.com/)

### Device Refurbish and Reassignment and/or Open-ended Loan

* + 1. **If device refurbish and reassignment and/or open-ended loan activities are conducted through a formal written agreement, by providing financial support to other entities and/or by receiving financial support from other entities please identify that coordination and collaboration in the table below.**

| **Collaborating organizations conducting this activity** | **Have written agreement with this entity** | **Provide financial support to this entity** | **Receive financial support from this entity** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Banks/financial institution** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Independent Living Center** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Easter Seals** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Disability/AT Organizations** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Federal Entities/Agencies** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **State Entities/Agencies** | **Yes** | **No** | **Yes** |
| **Local/Community Entities** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Private Entities** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Other** *(describe)* | **No** | **No** | **No** |

* + 1. **Select the option(s) that describe how a reutilized device is provided to a recipient. Identify as many as apply.**

**X Device ownership is transferred to the recipient**

* **Device is loaned for as long as the recipient needs it with no ownership transfer.**

*Device ownership is transferred to the recipient –* After the device is reassigned it is not tracked or in any way controlled by the State AT Program or its supportive agencies.

*Device is on open-ended loan -* A recipient has possession of the device as long as they need it but the State AT Program or its partner agencies retain ownership of the device.

* + 1. **Describe the activity.**

**South Dakota Department of Social Services, Division of Medical Services has established a program for the reuse of durable medical equipment commonly purchased for individuals eligible for Medicaid. The intent of this program is to use Medicaid funding in a more efficient and effective manner by recycling and reusing equipment that is no longer needed by the original recipient.**

**Individuals may identify items no longer in use and donate them to Medical Equipment Reuse and Recycle (MERR). MERR then cleans and restores devices to manufacturers specifications. Equipment is listed in the MERR inventory online. https://www.sd.at4all.com.**

**Equipment is then redistributed to individuals in need. Priority is given to South Dakota Medicaid recipients, but anyone may be eligible to receive donated medical equipment. A fee for refurbishment costs is charged to non-Medicaid recipients to support program costs.**

* + 1. **The online page (or pages) for this specific activity can be found at:** [**https://www.sd.at4all.com/items/ItemSearch.aspx?Search=&Sortby=DateDesc&State=SD&TransactionTypeID=1&IncludeExpired=0**](https://www.sd.at4all.com/items/ItemSearch.aspx?Search=&Sortby=DateDesc&State=SD&TransactionTypeID=1&IncludeExpired=0)

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## Device Short-term Loan Activity

The AT Act indicates that Statewide AT Programs are to “directly or in collaboration with public or private entities, carry out device loan programs that provide short-term loans of assistive technology devices to individuals, employers, public agencies, or others seeking to meet the needs of targeted individuals and entities, including others seeking to comply with IDEA, ADA and Section 504.” The purpose of a device loan may be -- (1) to assist in decision making, (2) to serve as a loaner while the consumer is waiting for device repair or funding, (3) to provide an accommodation on a short-term basis for a time limited event or situation or (4) to conduct training, self-education or other professional development activity.

Section 4(d)(5) of the AT Act requires that the State Plan include a description of how the Statewide AT Program will implement its State-level and State Leadership activities. Further, section 4(d)(4) requires that the State Plan describe how various public and private entities will be involved in the implementation of those activities, including a description of the nature and extent of resources that will be committed by public and private collaborators. Section 4(d)(7) also requires that the State Plan include a description of the State-level and State Leadership Activities the state will support with state funds. Section 4(e)(3)(B)(iii) requires that states coordinate and collaborate their State-level and State Leadership activities among public and private entities. The following items are items intended to meet these requirements for device loan activities.

### Short-term Device Loan

* + 1. **If short-term device loan activities are conducted through a formal written agreement, by providing financial support to other entities and/or by receiving financial support from other entities please identify that coordination and collaboration in the table below.**

| **Collaborating organizations conducting this activity** | **Have written agreement with this entity** | **Provide financial support to this entity** | **Receive financial support from this entity** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Banks/financial institution** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Independent Living Center** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Easter Seals** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Disability/AT Organizations** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Federal Entities/Agencies** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **State Entities/Agencies** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Local/Community Entities** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Private Entities** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Other (***describe)* | **No** | **No** | **No** |

* + 1. **Select the option that describes how the majority of devices loaned are delivered to and returned from a borrower. Identify only one.**

**X The majority of devices are shipped via mail or other delivery service.**

* **The majority of devices are delivered or picked up in-person.**

Statewide AT Programs use one of two methods for getting devices to borrowers using their short-term loan program. Choose the option that is used for the majority of the device loans issued.

* + 1. **Describe the activity.**

**Most Assistive Technology device loan requests come from disability service professionals seeking devices for individuals they are working with who have specific needs. Individuals requesting device loans are encouraged to involve professionals working with them in the loan process and utilize the knowledge of those professionals to assist in the proper use and evaluation of the AT device. DakotaLink staff use a pre-loan screening process to ensure that the device being sought for loan is appropriate and familiar to the consumer. Individuals are encouraged to come to one of the regional centers to receive a device demonstration if they are unfamiliar with the device they wish to borrow.**

**DakotaLink uses several methods to ensure consumers get the device they request and need. Devices may be sent by mail or shipped by common carrier. By policy, DakotaLink pays the cost of shipping or mailing to the individual and the individual is required to pay the costs to return the device back to the program. Individuals may also pick up a device at one of the four demonstration centers or the device may be delivered to a consumer by a staff member should circumstances warrant.**

* + 1. **The online page for this specific activity can be found at:** [**https://www.sd.at4all.com/Items/LoanList.aspx**](https://www.sd.at4all.com/Items/LoanList.aspx)

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## Device Demonstration Activity

The AT Act describes device demonstrations as activities to “directly, or in collaboration with public and private entities, such as one-stop partners, as defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801), demonstrate a variety of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services (including assisting individuals in making informed choices regarding, and providing experiences with, the devices and services), using personnel who are familiar with such devices and services and their applications.” Section 4(e)(2)(D)

Device demonstrations compare the features and benefits of AT devices to enable informed decision-making. In a device demonstration, guided experience with the device(s) is provided to the participant with the assistance of someone who has technical expertise related to the device(s). This expert may be in the same location as the participant or may assist the participant through Internet or distance learning mechanism that provides real-time, effective communication to deliver the necessary device exploration.

A demonstration is characterized by its interactive nature whereby the participant can interact with the device and an expert to increase their knowledge and understanding about the details and functions of a device; the participant drives the demonstration and has the ability to interact and have their individual questions about the device addressed. If the demonstration is conducted via the internet or distance learning mechanism it must be a real-time, interactive demonstration that provides one-on-one assistance to the participant. A web-based demonstration that is archived or is a static presentation without interaction is considered an awareness activity, not a demonstration.

Section 4(d)(5) of the AT Act requires that the State Plan include a description of how the Statewide AT Program will implement its State-level and State Leadership activities. Further, section 4(d)(4) requires that the State Plan describe how various public and private entities will be involved in the implementation of those activities, including a description of the nature and extent of resources that will be committed by public and private collaborators. Section 4(d)(7) also requires that the State Plan include a description of the State-level and State Leadership Activities the state will support with state funds. Section 4(e)(3)(B)(iii) requires that states coordinate and collaborate their State-level and State Leadership activities among public and private entities. The following items are items intended to meet these requirements for device demonstration activities.

### Device Demonstration

* + 1. **If device demonstration activities are conducted through a formal written agreement, by providing financial support to other entities and/or by receiving financial support from other entities please identify that coordination and collaboration in the table below.**

| **Collaborating organizations conducting this activity** | **Have written agreement with this entity** | **Provide financial support to this entity** | **Receive financial support from this entity** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Banks/financial institution** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Independent Living Center** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Easter Seals** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Disability/AT Organizations** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Federal Entities/Agencies** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **State Entities/Agencies** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Local/Community Entities** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Private Entities** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Other** *(describe)* | **No** | **No** | **No** |

* + 1. **Describe the activity.**

**Demonstrations are available by appointment at any of DakotaLink’s four regional demonstration centers. Demonstrations may also be conducted through prior arrangement at any site agreed to by a consumer, family member, or professional requesting a device demonstration.**

**3. The online page for this specific activity can be found at:** [**https://www.sd.at4all.com/Items/DemonstrationList.aspx**](https://www.sd.at4all.com/Items/DemonstrationList.aspx)

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## State Leadership Activities

Training Activities

The AT Act describes training as follows:

“(i) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. —

(I) IN GENERAL. —The State shall directly, or provide support to public or private entities with demonstrated expertise in collaborating with public or private agencies that serve individuals with disabilities, to develop and disseminate training materials, conduct training, and provide technical assistance, for individuals from local settings statewide, including representatives of State and local educational agencies, other State and local agencies, early intervention programs, adult service programs, hospitals and other health care facilities, institutions of higher education, and businesses.

(II) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES. —In carrying out activities under sub clause (I), the State shall carry out activities that enhance the knowledge, skills, and competencies of individuals from local settings described in sub clause (I), which may include—

(aa) general awareness training on the benefits of assistive technology and the Federal, State, and private funding sources available to assist targeted individuals and entities in acquiring assistive technology;

(bb) skills-development training in assessing the need for assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;

(cc) training to ensure the appropriate application and use of assistive technology devices, assistive technology services, and accessible technology for e-government functions;

(dd) training in the importance of multiple approaches to assessment and implementation necessary to meet the individualized needs of individuals with disabilities; and

(ee) technical training on integrating assistive technology into the development and implementation of service plans, including any education, health, discharge, Olmstead, employment, or other plan required under Federal or State law.”

Training activities are instructional events, usually planned in advance for a specific purpose or audience, and are designed to increase participants’ knowledge, skills, and competencies regarding AT. Such events can be delivered to large or small groups, in-person, or via telecommunications or other distance education mechanisms. In general, participants in training can be individually identified and could complete an evaluation of the training. Examples of training include classes, workshops, and presentations that have a goal of increasing skills, knowledge, and competency, as opposed to training intended only to increase general awareness of AT. Training activities have more depth and breadth than public awareness activities and are focused on skill building and competency development.

Section 4(d)(5) of the AT Act requires that the State Plan include a description of how the Statewide AT Program will implement its State-level and State Leadership activities. Further, section 4(d)(4) requires that the State Plan describe how various public and private entities will be involved in the implementation of those activities, including a description of the nature and extent of resources that will be committed by public and private collaborators. Section 4(d)(7) also requires that the State Plan include a description of the State-level and State Leadership Activities the state will support with state funds. Section 4(e)(3)(B)(iii) requires that states coordinate and collaborate their State-level and State Leadership activities among public and private entities. The following items are items intended to meet these requirements for training activities.

### Training

* + 1. **If training activities are conducted through a formal written agreement, by providing financial support to other entities and/or by receiving financial support from other entities please identify that coordination and collaboration in the table below.**

| **Collaborating organizations conducting this activity** | **Have written agreement with this entity** | **Provide financial support to this entity** | **Receive financial support from this entity** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Banks/financial institution** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Independent Living Center** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Easter Seals** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Disability/AT Organizations** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Federal Entities/Agencies** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **State Entities/Agencies** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Local/Community Entities** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Private Entities** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Other** *(describe)* | **No** | **No** | **No** |

* + 1. **Provide a short description of at least one and no more than three planned training activities. One of the activities described must be planned Information and Communication Technology (ICT) accessibility training that will provide the required ICT Training performance measures. If the Statewide AT Program is meeting the transition requirements of the AT Act through training, please describe that planned activity. If the Statewide AT Program sponsors or co-sponsors a statewide conference please include that event as one you describe.**

**Planned ICT Accessibility Training (required)**

**I plan to coordinate and collaborate with the AT3 Center to provide ICT training on Accessible Documentation. I will provide connections to the archived training sessions (webinars) so they can access them at their convenience. Performance measures will be collected at the end of each session.**

**Planned Transition Training or Other Training Activity (optional)**

**In March, 2020 DakotaLink will provide training for what is called “CATCH THE WAVE” This is a one-day conference designed specifically for high school students who have a disability and are considering post-secondary education at a college or technical institute.**

**This event is for students, parents, special educators, school counselor, and any other interested parties.**

**Planned Statewide Conference or Other Training Activity (optional)**

**DakotaLink always participates in the Fall Conference. Serving the Vocational Rehabilitation needs of people with mental and physical impairments throughout South Dakota, The South Dakota RehabACTion Network is an organization composed of community professionals, private professionals, educators, families, persons with disabilities, as well as friends and businesses in the area, working in a combined effort to make a positive impact in the public VOC Rehab program. We are a network of individuals in the community that showcases results of contributions made by employment specialists, vocational rehabilitation counselors, evaluators, teachers, rehab technicians, therapists, adjustment specialists, secretaries, trainers, and many other selfless, hard-working individuals who have committed their time, effort and expertise to helping persons with disabilities gain back independence through quality vocational rehabilitation services.**

* + 1. **The online page for this specific activity can be found at:** [**https://www.sd.at4all.com/Training/TrainingList.aspx**](https://www.sd.at4all.com/Training/TrainingList.aspx)

Technical Assistance Activities

The AT Act describes training as follows:

“(i) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. —

(I) IN GENERAL. —The State shall directly, or provide support to public or private entities with demonstrated expertise in collaborating with public or private agencies that serve individuals with disabilities, to develop and disseminate training materials, conduct training, and provide technical assistance, for individuals from local settings statewide, including representatives of State and local educational agencies, other State and local agencies, early intervention programs, adult service programs, hospitals and other health care facilities, institutions of higher education, and businesses.

(II) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES. —In carrying out activities under sub clause (I), the State shall carry out activities that enhance the knowledge, skills, and competencies of individuals from local settings described in sub clause (I), which may include—

(aa) general awareness training on the benefits of assistive technology and the Federal, State, and private funding sources available to assist targeted individuals and entities in acquiring assistive technology;

(bb) skills-development training in assessing the need for assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;

(cc) training to ensure the appropriate application and use of assistive technology devices, assistive technology services, and accessible technology for e-government functions;

(dd) training in the importance of multiple approaches to assessment and implementation necessary to meet the individualized needs of individuals with disabilities; and

(ee) technical training on integrating assistive technology into the development and implementation of service plans, including any education, health, discharge, Olmstead, employment, or other plan required under Federal or State law.”

Technical Assistance (TA) is direct problem-solving services provided by Statewide AT Program staff to assist programs and agencies in improving their services, management, policies and/or outcomes. TA may be provided in person, by electronic media such as telephone, video or e-mail and by other means. The following are examples of technical assistance: needs assessment, program planning or development, curriculum or materials development, administrative or management consultation, program evaluation and site reviews of external organizations, and policy development.

Section 4(d)(5) of the AT Act requires that the State Plan include a description of how the Statewide AT Program will implement its State-level and State Leadership activities. Further, section 4(d)(4) requires that the State Plan describe how various public and private entities will be involved in the implementation of those activities, including a description of the nature and extent of resources that will be committed by public and private collaborators. Section 4(d)(7) also requires that the State Plan include a description of the State-level and State Leadership Activities the state will support with state funds. Section 4(e)(3)(B)(iii) requires that states coordinate and collaborate their State-level and State Leadership activities among public and private entities. The following items are items intended to meet these requirements for technical assistance activities.

### Technical Assistance

* + 1. **If technical assistance activities are conducted through a formal written agreement, by providing financial support to other entities and/or by receiving financial support from other entities please identify that coordination and collaboration in the table below.**

| **Collaborating organizations conducting this activity** | **Have written agreement with this entity** | **Provide financial support to this entity** | **Receive financial support from this entity** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Banks/financial institution** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Independent Living Center** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Easter Seals** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Disability/AT Organizations** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Federal Entities/Agencies** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **State Entities/Agencies** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Local/Community Entities** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Private Entities** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Other** *(describe)* | **No** | **No** | **No** |

* + 1. **Provide a short description of at least one and no more than two planned technical assistance activities. If the Statewide AT Program is meeting the transition requirements of the AT Act through technical assistance, please describe that planned activity.**

**Planned Transition Technical Assistance or Other Technical Assistance Activity (required)**

**DakotaLink will consult with the Department of Human Services (DRS) to provide technical assistance in support of the Telecommunications Adaptive Device (TAD) program. Our efforts are to improve and better serve the intended recipients of the service.**

**Under DRS the Telecommunications Adaptive Device Program provides adaptive telephones to those with physical and sensory disabilities. DakotaLink will expand our support to iPads and iPhones with apps related to their disability. DakotaLink consults with this program on a weekly basis. Going forward, individuals with disabilities will gain improved access to their telecommunications needs as a result of our combined efforts. As a direct result of this program these individuals will also gain better access to the internet and their direct communication needs as well.**

**Planned Other Technical Assistance Activity (optional)**

**DakotaLink will attend at least 8 transition events called Catch the Wave. During these events DakotaLink technicians consult with Transition Liaisons to improve how these individuals can benefit from Assistive Technology. We then provide the process to acquire this technology usually through the State Vocational Rehabilitation Program. Hundreds of transitioning students attend these events. DakotaLink also attends the Youth Leadership Forum annually in Aberdeen South Dakota. Many transitioning students work on their self-advocacy and leadership skills during this event.**

**DakotaLink technicians will provide technical assistance to the Transition Services Liaison Project of South Dakota. There will be about 20 of these events we will assist with this year.**

Public Awareness Activities

The AT Act says the following about Public Awareness:

“The State shall conduct public-awareness activities designed to provide information to targeted individuals and entities relating to the availability, benefits, appropriateness, and costs of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services, including—

(aa) the development of procedures for providing direct communication between providers of assistive technology and targeted individuals and entities, which may include partnerships with entities in the statewide and local workforce investment systems established under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.), State vocational rehabilitation centers, public and private employers, or elementary and secondary public schools;

(bb) the development and dissemination, to targeted individuals and entities, of information about State efforts related to assistive technology; and

(cc) the distribution of materials to appropriate public and private agencies that provide social, medical, educational, employment, and transportation services to individuals with disabilities.”

Public awareness activities are designed to reach large numbers of people, including activities such as public service announcements, radio talk shows and news reports, newspaper stories and columns, newsletters, brochures, and public forums.

Section 4(d)(5) of the AT Act requires that the State Plan include a description of how the Statewide AT Program will implement its State-level and State Leadership activities. Further, section 4(d)(4) requires that the State Plan describe how various public and private entities will be involved in the implementation of those activities, including a description of the nature and extent of resources that will be committed by public and private collaborators. Section 4(d)(7) also requires that the State Plan include a description of the State-level and State Leadership Activities the state will support with state funds. Section 4(e)(3)(B)(iii) requires that states coordinate and collaborate their State-level and State Leadership activities among public and private entities. The following items are items intended to meet these requirements for public awareness activities.

### Public Awareness

* + 1. **If public awareness activities are conducted through a formal written agreement, by providing financial support to other entities and/or by receiving financial support from other entities please identify that coordination and collaboration in the table below.**

| **Collaborating organizations conducting this activity** | **Have written agreement with this entity** | **Provide financial support to this entity** | **Receive financial support from this entity** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Banks/financial institution** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Independent Living Center** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Easter Seals** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Disability/AT Organizations** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Federal Entities/Agencies** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **State Entities/Agencies** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Local/Community Entities** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Private Entities** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Other** *(describe)* | **No** | **No** | **No** |

* + 1. **Provide a short description of at least one and no more than two planned major public awareness activities**. **If the Statewide AT Program conducts a major ongoing public awareness activity such as an annual AT awareness day with a Governor’s Proclamation, please include that activity.**

**Major Annual Planned or Other Public Awareness Activity (required)**

**DakotaLink will provide over 500 newsletters, poste on 1000 listsrvs/blogs/social media. Provide presentations expos and conferences to reach as many people possible. For Recycle and Reuse, we will have 3 Printed materials, 125 Internet information and 50 Presentation/Expo and Conferences.**

**Planned Other Public Awareness Activity (optional)**

Information and Assistance Activities

The AT Act says the following about information and referral activities, which for the purpose of this State Plan are called information and assistance activities:

“(aa) IN GENERAL. — The State shall directly, or in collaboration with public or private (such as nonprofit) entities, provide for the continuation and enhancement of a statewide information and referral system designed to meet the needs of targeted individuals and entities.

(bb) CONTENT. — The system shall deliver information on assistive technology devices, assistive technology services (with specific data regarding provider availability within the State), and the availability of resources, including funding through public and private sources, to obtain assistive technology devices and assistive technology services. The system shall also deliver information on the benefits of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services with respect to enhancing the capacity of individuals with disabilities of all ages to perform activities of daily living.”

Section 4(d)(5) of the AT Act requires that the State Plan include a description of how the Statewide AT Program will implement its State-level and State Leadership activities. Further, section 4(d)(4) requires that the State Plan describe how various public and private entities will be involved in the implementation of those activities, including a description of the nature and extent of resources that will be committed by public and private collaborators. Section 4(d)(7) also requires that the State Plan include a description of the State-level and State Leadership Activities the state will support with state funds. Section 4(e)(3)(B)(iii) requires that states coordinate and collaborate their State-level and State Leadership activities among public and private entities. The following items are items intended to meet these requirements for information and assistance activities.

### Information & Assistance

* + 1. **If information and assistance activities are conducted through a formal written agreement, by providing financial support to other entities and/or by receiving financial support from other entities please identify that coordination and collaboration in the table below.**

| **Collaborating organizations conducting this activity** | **Have written agreement with this entity** | **Provide financial support to this entity** | **Receive financial support from this entity** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Banks/financial institution** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Independent Living Center** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Easter Seals** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Disability/AT Organizations** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Federal Entities/Agencies** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **State Entities/Agencies** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Local/Community Entities** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Private Entities** | **No** | **No** | **No** |
| **Other** *(describe)* | **No** | **No** | **No** |

* + 1. **Describe the activity.**

**DakotaLink maintains a statewide toll-free telephone line, website and four demonstration centers to provide information and assistance to individuals in need of Assistive Technology devices and services. DakotaLink’s demonstration centers are strategically located in communities within a hundred miles radius of 85% of the state’s population in order to maximize access for the majority of South Dakota citizens. Informational articles are submitted for publication in disability support group newsletters and item specific updates for a variety of listserv web connections sponsored by education, employment, and community living agencies in South Dakota.**

Assistive Technology State Grant Program

State Plan for FY 2018-2020

## Assurances & Measurable Goals

Section 4(d) of the AT Act prescribes the duties of the Lead Agency receiving a grant under section 4 of the AT Act and requires the State to provide a number of assurances in its application for funds. 34 CFR part 76 also requires that any State Plan include certain assurances. The Statewide AT Program certifying representative will attest to these assurances and other requirements below and by submitting the State Plan, will affirm that to the best of his or her knowledge and belief all information provided in the State Plan is true and correct and the State Plan fully discloses all known weaknesses concerning the accuracy, reliability, and completeness of the information.

### Assurances

* + 1. **As the Certifying Representative of the Lead Agency for the State of South Dakota, I hereby assure the following: Yes**
    2. **The Lead Agency prepared and submitted this State Plan on behalf of the State of DakotaLink.**
    3. **The Lead Agency submitting this plan is the State agency that is eligible to submit this plan and if an Implementing Entity is identified it is designated to implement the required AT Act activities. Yes**
    4. **The State agency has authority under State law to perform the functions of the State under this program. Yes**
    5. **The State legally may carry out each provision of this plan. Yes**
    6. **All provisions of this plan are consistent with State law. Yes**
    7. **A State officer, specified by title in this certification, has authority under State law to receive, hold, and disburse Federal funds made available under the plan. Yes**
    8. **The State officer who submits this plan, specified by title in this certification, has authority to submit this plan. Yes**
    9. **The agency that submits this plan has adopted or otherwise formally approved this plan. Yes**
    10. **The plan is the basis for State operation and administration of the program. Yes**
    11. **The Lead Agency will maintain and evaluate the program under this State Plan. Yes**
    12. **The State will annually collect data related to the required activities implemented by the State under this section in order to prepare the progress reports required under subsection 4(f) of the Act. Yes**
    13. **The Lead Agency will submit the annual progress report on behalf of the State. Yes**
    14. **The State will prepare reports to the Secretary in such form and containing such information as the Secretary may require to carry out the Secretary's functions under this Act and keep such records and allow access to such records as the Secretary may require to ensure the correctness and verification of information provided to the Secretary. Yes**
    15. **The Lead Agency will control and administer the funds received through the grant. Yes**
    16. **The Lead Agency will make programmatic and resource allocation decisions necessary to implement the State Plan. Yes**
    17. **Funds received through the grant will be expended in accordance with Section 4 of the Act, and will be used to supplement, and not supplant, funds available from other sources for technology-related assistance, including the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services. Yes**
    18. **The Lead Agency will ensure conformance with all applicable Federal and State accounting requirements. Yes**
    19. **The State will adopt such fiscal control and accounting procedures as may be necessary to ensure proper disbursement of and accounting for the funds received through the grant. Yes**
    20. **Funds made available through a grant to a State under this Act will not be used for direct payment for an assistive technology device for an individual with a disability. Yes**
    21. **A public agency or an individual with a disability holds title to any property purchased with funds received under the grant and administers that property. Yes**
    22. **The physical facility of the Lead Agency and Implementing Entity, if any, meets the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) regarding accessibility for individuals with disabilities. Section 4(d)(6)(E) Yes**
    23. **Activities carried out in the State that are authorized under this Act, and supported by Federal funds received under this Act, will comply with the standards established by the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (20 U.S.C. 794d). Section 4(d)(6)(G) Yes**
    24. **The Lead Agency will coordinate the activities of the State Plan among public and private entities, including coordinating efforts related to entering into interagency agreements. Yes**
    25. **The Lead Agency will coordinate efforts related to the active, timely, and meaningful participation by individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives, and other appropriate individuals, with respect to activities carried out through the grant. Yes**

General Description of Measurable Goals:

Section 4(d)(3) of the AT Act requires that the State include information on the measurable goals, and a timeline for meeting those goals, that the State, with the advice of the Advisory Council required in section 4(c)(2), has set for addressing the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities in the State related to education, employment, community living, and telecommunications and information technology ).

* Section 4(d)(3)(A)(i) of the AT Act states that education goals include goals involving the provision of assistive technology to individuals who receive services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.). This includes infants and toddlers receiving early intervention services under Part C.
* Education also includes the provision of assistive technology to individuals who receive services under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.) and individuals in institutions of higher education and vocational education, including community colleges.
* Section 4(d)(3)(A)(ii) of the AT Act states that employment goals include goals involving the State vocational rehabilitation program carried out under title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.).

ACL has established three types of measurable goals for Section 4 grantees:

* *Access to AT Goals* relate to the activities of device loan for a decision-making purpose and device demonstration. The State will show that it has improved access to AT by reaching or exceeding the ACL set target percentage of individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service as a result of the assistance they received. The Access Goal performance measure data is found in the Annual Progress Report (APR) for State Assistive Technology Programs.
* *Acquisition of AT Goals* relate to the activities of state financing, device reutilization, and device loan for purposes other than decision-making. The State will show that it has improved acquisition by reaching or exceeding the ACL set target percentage of individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs who would not have obtained that AT device or service. The Acquisition Goal performance measure data is found in the APR for State Assistive Technology Programs.
* *Information and Communication (ICT) Accessibility Goal* is focused on obtaining an outcome/result from information and communication technology accessibility training including improvement of policies procedures or practices in the areas of website and software development and procurement. The State will show that is has improved ICT training results by reaching or exceeding the ACL set target percentage of participants reporting a targeted outcome. The ICT Training performance measure data is found in the APR for State Assistive Technology Programs.