



National Assistive Technology Act Data System

State Plan - Full Report

Alabama 2021

General Information

Statewide AT Program (Information to be listed in national State AT Program Directory)

State AT Program Title	STAR-Alabama's Assistive Technology Resource
State AT Program URL	www.rehab.alabama.gov/services/vr/star
Mailing Address	602 S. Lawrence Street
City	Montgomery
State	Alabama
Zip Code	36104
Program Email	helen.baker@rehab.alabama.gov
Phone	(334) 293-7012
TTY	

Lead Agency

Agency Name	Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services
Mailing Address	602 S. Lawrence Street
City	Montgomery
State	Alabama
Zip Code	36104
Program URL	https://www.rehab.alabama.gov

Implementing Entity

Does your Lead Agency contract with an Implementing Entity to carry out the Statewide AT Program on its behalf? N/A	
Name of Implementing Agency	
Mailing Address	

City	
State	
Zip Code	
Program URL	

General Information (Continued...)

Program Director and Other Contacts

Program Director for State AT Program (last, first)	Baker, Helen
Title	Executive Director
Phone	(334) 293-7012
E-mail	helen.baker@rehab.alabama.gov
Program Director at Lead Agency (last, first)	Jenkins, Karen
Title	Assistant Commissioner
Phone	(334) 293-7108
E-mail	karen.jenkins@rehab.alabama.gov
Primary Contact at Implementing Agency (last, first) - If applicable	
Title	
Phone	
E-mail	

Person Responsible for completing this form if other than Program Director

Name (last, first)	
Title	
Phone	
E-mail	

Certifying Representative

Name (last, first)	Burdeshaw, Jane Elizabeth
Title	Commissioner
Phone	(334) 293-7200
E-mail	JE.Burdeshaw@rehab.alabama.gov

Module A: Change in Lead Agency or Implementing Entity

- Does your Lead Agency contract with an Implementing Entity to carry out the Statewide AT Program on its behalf (From General Information)?** No
- 2. 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
- 3. 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

Module B: Advisory Council

1. How many representatives of the designated State agency for Vocational Rehabilitation are members of the advisory council? 1
2. How many representatives of the designated State agency for Vocational Rehabilitation for individuals who are blind are members of the advisory council (when there is such a separate VR agency for individuals who are blind)? 1
3. How many representatives of a state Center for Independent Living are members of the advisory council?. 1
4. How many representatives of the State workforce development board established under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act are members of the advisory council? 1
5. How many representatives of the State educational agency are members of the advisory council? 1
6. How many additional representatives of other agencies and/or organizations are members of the advisory council? 5
 - 6.1 Description of additional representatives of other agencies and/or organizations are members of the advisory council.
Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (Early Intervention Services) (1) Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (Children Rehabilitation Services) (1) Alabama Department of Senior Services (1) Alabama Council of Developmental Disabilities (1) Alabama Department of Insurance (1)
7. How many individuals with disabilities who use assistive technology or their family members or guardians are members of the advisory council? 4

Advisory Council Calculation

Description	Number
Individuals with disabilities that use AT or their family members or guardians on the advisory council	4
Total number of individuals on the advisory council	14
Percentage	28.57%

8. 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. No

9. Explanation of why the Statewide AT Program does not have the composition and representation required under section 4(c)(2)(B).

Consumer majority has not been met due to deaths during the pandemic while others retired, relocated and/or decided not to continue their membership. Efforts are underway to recruit a minimum of six (6) more consumers with disabilities who use AT and/or their family members or guardians to meet the required majority. Some individuals have been recommended and will be contacted to determine if they will be willing to serve on the Council. It is anticipated that the consumer majority membership will be met within 30-60 days.

Module C: Actual Expenditures and Budgeted Allocations

1. Actual Expenditures Carryover Year Close-out

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 more than that initial 12 month period.

For the State Plan submitted in the spring of 2022, you will report the closed-out grant award for FY19. The grant began 10/1/2018 with the first year ending on 9/30/2019, the first carryover year ended on 9/30/2020 and the second carryover year ended on 9/30/2021 with the 3 month liquidation period ending 12/31/2021.

Actual Expenditures for Closed-out Carryover Year Award	Final Expenditures	Percentage	Requirements
a. All State Level Activities	\$345,736.47	72.60%	The AT Act required state level expenditures to be at least 60% of grant award. If flexibility is claimed, at least 70% is required.
b. All State Leadership Activities	\$130,516.53	27.40%	
c. Total Expenditures	\$476,253.00		
d. Total Award	\$476,253.00		
e. Lapsed Amount	\$0.00	0.00%	
f. Transition Training & Technical Assistance Set Aside	\$3,853.20	2.95%	The AT Act requires at least 5% of state leadership expenditures to be spent on transition activities.

Module C: Actual Expenditures and Budgeted Allocations (Continued...)

2. Actual YTD Expenditures and Budgeted Allocations for Preceding Year Award

In the following table provide year-to-date (YTD) obligated and liquidated expenditure data for the 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 the State Plan submitted in the spring of 2022, you will report the closed-out grant award for FY20. The grant began 10/1/2019 with the first year ending on 9/30/2020, the first carryover year ended on 9/30/2021 and the second carryover year ended on 9/30/2022 with the 3 month liquidation period ending 12/31/2022.

The total grant award for was **\$492,455.00**

Actual & Planned Immediate Preceding Year Award Expenditures	YTD Obligated not Liquidated Expenditures	YTD Liquidated Expenditures	Planned not yet Obligated Expenditures	Total
All State Level Activities	\$0.00	\$326,232.50	\$0.00	\$326,232.50
All State Leadership Activities	\$0.00	\$166,222.50	\$0.00	\$166,222.50
Total	\$0.00	\$492,455.00	\$0.00	\$492,455.00
Transition Training & Technical Assistance	\$0.00	\$46,346.15	\$0.00	\$46,346.15

Module D: State Level Activity Summary

1. Which State Financing Activities do you conduct?

- Financial Loan

2. Which Reutilization Activities do you conduct?

- Device Reassignment or Open Ended Loan

3. Do you conduct Short-term Device Loans?

Yes

4. Do you conduct Device Demonstrations?

Yes

Module E: Financial Loan

1. Select the **one option** that best describes who conducts this activity.

The Statewide AT Program (State AT)

2. Select the **one option** that best describes from where this activity is conducted.

One central location (Central)

3. Do you charge a fee for this activity? (This fee is separate from and addition to the financial loan made.)

No

4. Identify the types of collaborations you have in place to conduct this activity.

Banks/Financial Institution (select any/all)

- Have written agreement with this entity

Independent Living Center (select any/all)

Easter Seals (select any/all)

Disability/Assistive Technology Organizations (select any/all)

Federal Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

State Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

Module E: Financial Loan (Continued...)

Local/Community Entities (select any/all)

Private Entities (select any/all)

- Have written agreement with this entity
- Provide financial support to this entity
- Receive financial support from this entity

Other (select any/all)

5. This activity offers the following types of assistance. (select all that apply – at least one is required)

Identify all types of loans the Statewide AT Program offers, regardless of whether any loans of that type are currently outstanding.

- Loan guarantees

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 6. The lowest interest percentage for loans as established by the policies of the activity. | 0.0400% |
| 7. The highest interest percentage for loans as established by the policies of the activity. | 0.0600% |
| 8. The lowest loan amount (in dollars) provided as established by the policies of the activity. | N/A |
| 9. The highest loan amount (in dollars) provided as established by the policies of the activity. | \$45000.00 |

10. Describe the activity.

Alabama's Alternative Financing Program, Alabama's Ability Loan Program shall be administered by Southern Disability Foundation, Inc. (SDF). Alabama's Ability Loan Program was founded in collaboration with STAR the Statewide AT Act Program. Federal AT Act dollars are used in part to support and assist with the coordination of the loan application and data collection process of Alabama's Ability Loan Program. All Alabama residents with a disability or their family member, caregiver, personal representative, or guardian may on behalf of an individual with a disability apply for a loan regardless of race or disability. Items covered by the program include but are not limited to: telecommunication devices for the deaf, hard-of-hearing and speech-impaired (TTY), closed-circuit televisions (CCTV), computer adaptive access or output, Braille machines, environmental control units (ECU), augmentative or alternative communication (AAC) devices, wheelchair, adaptive driving controls, home modifications, adapted vehicles, power lifts, ramps, roll-in showers, and/or any other device, equipment or related service as defined under the Assistive Technology Act. The Statewide AT Program STAR employs an Alternative Financing Coordinator who assists the private entity, Southern Disability Foundation board of directors, to facilitate and implement procedural policies for loan processing and data collection. The Alternative Financing Coordinator serves as SDF's main loan intake point/reviewer and primary link between the loan applicant and SDF's loan approval and/or loan guarantee committee. Applicants will be provided guidance and assistance through the STAR Alternative Financing Coordinator throughout the application process including applicable and available options to obtaining a repayable loan (e.g. reutilization programs, ADRS services, educational services, and other non-profit service eligibility). The AFP Coordinator A) provides information, technical assistance, and loan application processing that support consumers seeking to borrow funds; B) Maintains and updates all necessary records associated with loan applicants and coordinate the loan approval, loan guarantee or denial process with Southern Disability Foundation, Inc. and AuburnBank; C) Facilitates Alabama's Ability Loan Program marketing strategies as needed to ensure effective statewide coverage; D) Maintains confidential, complete, and accurate records for data entry, records control, program accountability and internal and external records management; E) Assists loan applicants as needed in accordance with Alabama's Ability Loan Program policies for acquiring appropriate assistive technology; F) Ensures that all loan applicant calls are documented, and interactions are handled in a professional and timely manner; G) Compiles data or reports as needed/requested to communicate loan applicant activities and other information related to Alabama's Ability Loan Program as required

- 11. The online page for this specific activity can be found at:** <https://www.sdfalabama.com>

Module I: Device Refurbish and Reassignment and/or Open-ended Loan

1. Select the **one option** that best describes who conducts this activity.

Other entities e.g. contractors (Others)

2. Select the **one option** that best describes from where this activity is conducted.

Regional sites (Regional)

3. Do you charge a fee for this activity?

No

4. Identify the types of collaborations you have in place to conduct this activity.

Banks/Financial Institution (select any/all)

Independent Living Center (select any/all)

Easter Seals (select any/all)

- Have written agreement with this entity
- Provide financial support to this entity

Disability/Assistive Technology Organizations (select any/all)

Federal Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

State Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

Module I: Device Refurbish and Reassignment and/or Open-ended Loan (Continued...)

Local/Community Entities (select any/all)

Private Entities (select any/all)

- Have written agreement with this entity
- Provide financial support to this entity

Other (select any/all)

5. Select the option(s) that describe how a reutilized device is provided to a recipient. (select all that apply)

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

6. Describe the activity.

In an effort to ensure statewide coverage, STAR conducts AT reutilization activities via an MOA with five (5) regional subcontracts. The reuse programs are strategically and geographically located throughout the state (from north to south) which helps to increase access to and acquisition of AT devices and services to as many individuals with disabilities as possible. Four (4) subcontracts include partnerships with community-based programs that serve individuals with disabilities and one (1) faith-based program that is connected to a large conglomerate of churches, local hospitals, and facilities that provide services to seniors. Currently, all programs handle primarily durable medical equipment (DME), but on occasion, reuse other donations such as hearing and vision aids, bath and shower aids, respiratory aids, AAC devices, computers, ECUs, and, on rare occasions, adaptive vehicles. These programs similarly, but unique in design, collect, sanitizes, refurbishes, stores, and redistributes equipment and AT devices utilizing federal and state regulations and mandates. Utilizing the Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership AT4ALL database enables STAR and its reuse subcontractors to showcase their combined inventory and track all devices as they come in and out of the programs. STAR provides training to the regional sites staff on the reutilization process as well as imparts additional information gleaned from related workshops and conferences, both nationally and locally. Technical assistance is provided on an as needed basis to enhance activities and services and aid in trouble-shooting resolution. Equipment is loaned to consumers at no cost and for as long as needed. Consumers are asked to return the equipment when they no longer need it so that it can be redistributed to others in need. When a device is loaned to a consumer, basic instructions on the operation, safety and care is provided, as well as, a demonstration on the use of the device. Consumer satisfaction surveys are conducted and consumers are advised to report any problems and/or issues that are experienced with the device so that it can be returned for the needed repairs. STAR and its subcontracts utilize various mediums to disseminate information about the program and database to individuals with disabilities and their family members, rehabilitation counselors and other professionals, healthcare agencies, independent living centers staff, educational agencies and organizations, and other allied health and rehabilitation related agencies. Upon request and on an as needed basis, the information is also provided in an alternate format.

7. The online page for this specific activity can be found at: <https://www.al.at4all.com>

Module J: Device Loan

1. Select the one option that best describes who conducts this activity.

The Statewide AT Program (State AT)

2. Select the one option that best describes from where this activity is conducted.

One central location (Central)

3. Do you charge a fee for this activity?

No

4. Identify the types of collaborations you have in place to conduct this activity.

Banks/Financial Institution (select any/all)

Independent Living Center (select any/all)

Easter Seals (select any/all)

Disability/Assistive Technology Organizations (select any/all)

Federal Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

State Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

- Have written agreement with this entity
- Provide financial support to this entity

Module J: Device Loan (Continued...)

Local/Community Entities (select any/all)

Private Entities (select any/all)

Other (select any/all)

5. Select the option that describes how the majority of devices loaned are delivered to and returned from a borrower. (select one)

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

6. Describe the activity.

The device short-term loan program is implemented and conducted via the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services' (Lead Agency) Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology (RE&AT) program through the Accessing Potential Through Assistive Technology (APTAT) project. The library inventory consists of a variety of equipment available for loan that meets the needs of adults and children of all ages with all types of disabilities. The initial equipment inventory was purchased with a grant and received through item donations by a partnering disability group. Additions to the inventory moving forward will be made by applying for monetary grants, using Tech Act funds, partnering with entities who have surplus inventory, and networking with vendors who can provide equipment for loan. The AT4ALL web-based database system is utilized to track inventory and equipment loans. The database allows individuals to search our inventory and request a loan. The designated APTAT staff can then process a loan through the website and coordinate delivery of the item(s). The primary mode of delivery is in person pickup at an ADRS facility. Shipping to and from the borrower is also made available when in person pickup is not a feasible option. All devices are sanitized and checked to assure good working order and functionality before being loaned out again. All device loans include manufacturer's instructions and/or additional information to aid with set-up and use to support the borrower(s). The system sends reminders to the library managers and borrower when a loan is due back. The APTAT staff can then process the loan return and survey the borrower for the required loan information. Surveys are logged in AT4ALL and data can be pulled as a report for quarterly and federal reporting. The length of the assistive technology loan is based on need and availability of equipment (avg. 4 weeks). No fees are charged to borrow devices. To facilitate additional coordination, collaboration and expansion of the program throughout the state, APTAT will extend partnership opportunities for other organizations to use the AT4ALL web-based system to list assistive technology devices they have available to serve their consumers and others within the state. To increase in the acquisition of the devices, individuals are provided information and referred to appropriate funding sources including STAR alternative financing, school systems, community-based funding, and vocational rehabilitation, etc.

7. The online page for this specific activity can be found at: <https://al.at4all.com>

Module K: Device Demonstration

1. Select the **one option** that best describes who conducts this activity.

The Statewide AT Program (State AT)

2. Select the **one option** that best describes from where this activity is conducted.

One central location (Central)

3. Do you charge a fee for this activity?

No

4. Identify the types of collaborations you have in place to conduct this activity.

Banks/Financial Institution (select any/all)

Independent Living Center (select any/all)

Easter Seals (select any/all)

Disability/Assistive Technology Organizations (select any/all)

Federal Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

State Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

- Have written agreement with this entity
- Provide financial support to this entity

Module K: Device Demonstration (Continued...)

Local/Community Entities (select any/all)

Private Entities (select any/all)

Other (select any/all)

5. Describe the activity.

The device demonstration program is implemented and conducted via the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services Rehabilitation (Lead Agency) Engineering and Assistive Technology program through the Accessing Potential Through Assistive Technology (APTAT) project. Individuals can request a demonstration by contacting a representative of APTAT or the main STAR contact who will forward the request to APTAT. Demonstrations occur primarily at ADRS facilities but can be performed at various sites, including in homes, schools, worksites, etc. as funding allows. Monthly and quarterly reports are provided for data collection and reporting. Device demonstrations provide an opportunity for individuals with disabilities, their families, and professionals, the opportunity to experience different devices with the availability of expert assistance from a Technology Specialist, as desired. Information is provided about available vendors and their location, training, and financing for devices, if individuals request this as part of making an informed decision. In an effort to increase knowledge of and access to assistive technology devices and services, individuals are informed and encouraged to participate in other STAR (AT Act) programs such as APTAT trainings, device short-term loan, and reutilization programs. To increase in the acquisition of the devices, individuals are provided information and referred to appropriate funding sources including STAR alternative financing, school systems, and vocational rehabilitation, etc. All devices are sanitized and checked to assure good working order and functionality before demonstrating. Additional devices are added to the demonstration program inventory and updated as resources will allow.

6. The online page for this specific activity can be found at: <https://al.at4all.com>

Module L: Training

1. Identify the types of collaborations you have in place to conduct this activity.

Banks/Financial Institution (select any/all)

Independent Living Center (select any/all)

Easter Seals (select any/all)

Disability/Assistive Technology Organizations (select any/all)

Federal Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

State Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

- Have written agreement with this entity
- Provide financial support to this entity

Module L: Training (Continued...)

Local/Community Entities (select any/all)

Private Entities (select any/all)

Other (select any/all)

2. 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)

The designated RE&AT/APTAT staff will coordinate at least one ICT training yearly by collaborating with technical experts to provide a webinar as part of the APTAT webinar training series. APTAT hosted training webinars will also be recorded and available/archived via the APTAT YouTube for access at a later time. Additional ICT accessibility trainings may be performed at the request of another organization.

Planned Transition Training or Other Training Activity (optional)

A monthly webinar series will be coordinated by APTAT to increase knowledge of assistive technology devices, funding, and services. The topics will cover the range of AT categories. Priority will be given to specific requests made from the community. APTAT hosted training webinars will also be recorded and available/archived via the APTAT YouTube for access at a later time. The designated RE&AT/APTAT staff will coordinate at least two transition trainings (one for each required Transition topic) yearly by either 1) developing training content or collaborating with AT experts to provide webinars as part of the APTAT webinar training series or 2) fulfilling a training request of an organization that meets transition requirements. Additional trainings may be performed at the request of another organization. As such the potential platforms for training may include 1) remote trainings via video conferencing 2) in person meetings at schools, businesses, or other environments 3) conferences or symposiums.

Planned Statewide Conference or Other Training Activity (optional)

At this time there is no planned statewide conference. APTAT will provide AT training at statewide conferences upon request as resources allow for time and travel.

3. The online page for this specific activity can be found at: NA

Module M: Technical Assistance

1. Identify the types of collaborations you have in place to conduct this activity.

Banks/Financial Institution (select any/all)

Independent Living Center (select any/all)

Easter Seals (select any/all)

- Have written agreement with this entity
- Provide financial support to this entity

Disability/Assistive Technology Organizations (select any/all)

Federal Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

State Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

- Have written agreement with this entity
- Provide financial support to this entity

Module M: Technical Assistance (Continued...)

Local/Community Entities (select any/all)

Private Entities (select any/all)

- Have written agreement with this entity
- Provide financial support to this entity

Other (select any/all)

2. 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)

STAR will provide direct and coordinated technical assistance to organizations/individuals upon request. STAR technical assistance activities will focus on specific problem-solving to ensure the appropriate access to and acquisition of AT, the appropriate use and application of assistive technology devices, assistive technology services; and AT specific training to provide the tools an entity needs to improve AT services. Technical assistance will involve integrating assistive technology into the development and implementation of service plans, including any education, health, discharge, and employment, or other plan required under Federal or State law. 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. STAR, being housed within an under the auspices of ADRS (Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services) has the convenience and benefit of collaborating and coordinating technical assistance activities by utilizing staff expertise from ADRS' programs to address specific AT needs such as: Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology; Blind and Visually Impaired Rehabilitation Teachers, Orientation and Mobility Specialists; Deaf and Hard of Hearing staff who provides Interpreters, Deaf Support Specialists, and Technology Specialists for the deaf; Children Rehabilitation Services Speech Pathologists; Early Intervention System OT and PT staff; and, SAIL (State of Alabama Independent Living) program staff. STAR and ADRS have collaborative programs with AIDB (Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind) and utilize their staff expertise on an as needed basis

Planned Other Technical Assistance Activity (optional)

Module N: Public Awareness

1. Identify the types of collaborations you have in place to conduct this activity.

Banks/Financial Institution (select any/all)

Independent Living Center (select any/all)

Easter Seals (select any/all)

- Have written agreement with this entity
- Provide financial support to this entity

Disability/Assistive Technology Organizations (select any/all)

Federal Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

State Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

- Have written agreement with this entity
- Provide financial support to this entity

Module N: Public Awareness (Continued...)

Local/Community Entities (select any/all)

Private Entities (select any/all)

- Have written agreement with this entity
- Provide financial support to this entity

Other (select any/all)

2. 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)

I. Successful Aging Initiative (SAI), an annual event that join forces with other local organizations to deliver educational outreach to address issues relevant to the aging which include, but not limited to, healthcare, leisure time, family relationships, housing, societal and economic considerations. SAI is a FREE one-day event designed to address the needs and concerns of the older adults by providing information and resources to help them make informed decisions, maintain independence, play active roles in society, and to improve the quality of life for themselves, their families and caregivers. STAR has been invited to join the Advisory and Planning Committee in an effort to explore and identify future needs/issues and AT related to older adults. STAR, along with vendors and community partners, will provide information and resources to 600+ older adults, caregivers, practitioners, family members, and volunteers. STAR anticipates an increase in referrals for the reutilization and alternative finance programs. STAR also anticipates an increase in invitations to conduct presentations to various organizations across the state that serve the aging population. II. The Montgomery County Elder Abuse Task Force is a community-based team of organizations and individuals committed to: 1) Increasing public safety; 2) Providing public education and resources to prevent and respond to abuse, neglect, sexual assault and financial exploitation of elders 60 years of age and older. 3) Identify strategies to respond to possible elder abuse. Additionally, the task force meets once a month to plan and discuss upcoming events and to address other community concerns. The task force is comprised of members from various agencies, including but not limited to, the District Attorney's Office, Montgomery Police Department, AARP, Alabama Securities Commission, Alabama Aging Coalition, Montgomery Area Council On Aging, various churches, and civilian members of the community. STAR has been invited to attend the annual Lunch and Learn event which attracts 240+ attendees. Several vendors/sponsors will be in attendance to provide information and resources to the group. This is a new initiative for the county and STAR Executive Director suggested that this could be an event that is replicated across the state of Alabama. STAR Executive Director has been invited to join the Task Force and assist in the planning of the next event. The task force meets once per month and holds an annual Lunch and Learn that includes a quest speaker to impart information and resources regarding specific topics related to elder abuse and the aging. As a result of this event, STAR has established relationships with two (2) AARP groups and anticipates expanding/partnering with other groups across the state.

Planned Other Public Awareness Activity (optional)

The items forthcoming will identify the public awareness activities anticipated during this plan cycle. A) STAR and its subcontracts conduct public awareness activities at several major statewide conferences on an annual basis. General AT information is distributed as well as resource materials that create an awareness of the STAR programs and services. Some of our major conferences include: Alabama Early Intervention & Preschool Conference; Alabama Autism Conference; Alabama Transition Conference; Alabama Workforce Development Annual Conference; Alabama's Annual AT Symposium (for the Visually Impaired/Blind and Deaf/Heard of Hearing); AER (Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind & Visually Impaired; Alabama Association of Persons in Supported Employment. B) STAR Executive Director serves on several agencies' Advisory Boards and Planning Committees which creates an opportunity to conduct training activities and disseminate information to address their specific assistive technology needs. C) STAR is invited annually to conduct presentations to Special Education, PT and OT students at several of Alabama's statewide colleges and universities. These presentations are usually interactive and consist of general overview of Assistive Technology, STAR programs and services and how to access the services, and information regarding funding for AT. A resource and device display table is usually provided for participants to create an interactive and hands-on experience with some of the devices; D) Marketing is an ongoing activity for STAR and its subcontract programs. Public awareness is increased via the use of the media which includes television, radio, and newspapers. Brochures, flyers, promotional items have been very effective marketing tools for the programs as well as, websites, newsletters and STAR Facebook page and other social media platforms.

Module O: Information and Assistance

1. Identify the types of collaborations you have in place to conduct this activity.

Banks/Financial Institution (select any/all)

Independent Living Center (select any/all)

Easter Seals (select any/all)

- Have written agreement with this entity
- Provide financial support to this entity

Disability/Assistive Technology Organizations (select any/all)

Federal Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

State Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

- Have written agreement with this entity
- Provide financial support to this entity

Module O: Information and Assistance (Continued...)

Local/Community Entities (select any/all)

Private Entities (select any/all)

- Have written agreement with this entity
- Provide financial support to this entity

Other (select any/all)

2. Describe the activity

Since 1994, STAR staff have provided information and referral services (I & R) and/or information and assistance (I & A) regarding assistive technology products, services, resources, suppliers, and funding via a statewide toll free number. STAR utilizes an intake form to record information necessary to connect the caller with appropriate resources. STAR staff is primarily responsible for answering the 1-800 line to provide information to consumers and other individuals regarding AT devices and services. The staff is trained and aware of sensitivity relating to people with disabilities, knowledgeable of a variety of disabilities, and how to effectively communicate and interact with individuals with disabilities. A three-ring binder is used to obtain and store information from each caller. As needed, the caller is directed to the appropriate staff person for Reuse equipment, AT training and Technical Assistance, AT vendors, Alternative Financing, all ADRS programs and other resources. Various resource information, lists and contact information, along with cyber resources, are readily available to expedite the caller's request. Some information is provided electronically while other is handled in person or hand mailed. Consumers/callers who have access to computers are also guided and directed to the STAR website and other links (such as Alternative Financing, the AT3 Center, Pass It On Center, etc.) for information and resources. Additionally, information is provided via ADRS and subcontracts' websites. STAR's Facebook page and APTAT's Newsletters provide information regarding programs and services to a vast population of people throughout the state. Facebook and Newsletters are also used to disclose new and emerging Assistive Technology. Consumers with sensory impairments such as Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Visually impaired and Blind receive information in alternate formats as needed or upon requests. Being housed under the auspices and close proximity to ADRS, and if additional services are required beyond the STAR staff expertise, resource staff from the divisions of ADRS are utilized for consultations and services (for example, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Blind and Visually Impaired and Rehabilitation Technology Specialists). Most requests are handled the same day or within 24 hours.

Assurances and 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

As the Certifying Representative of the Lead Agency for the State of , I hereby assure the following:

1. The Lead Agency prepared and submitted this State Plan on behalf of the State of Alabama.
2. 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.
3. The State agency has authority under State law to perform the functions of the State under this program.
4. The State legally may carry out each provision of this plan.
5. All provisions of this plan are consistent with State law.
6. 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.
7. The State officer who submits this plan, specified by title in this certification, has authority to submit this plan.
8. The agency that submits this plan has adopted or otherwise formally approved this plan.
9. The plan is the basis for State operation and administration of the program.
10. The Lead Agency will maintain and evaluate the program under this State Plan.
11. 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.
12. The Lead Agency will submit the annual progress report on behalf of the State.
13. 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.
14. The Lead Agency will control and administer the funds received through the grant.
15. The Lead Agency will make programmatic and resource allocation decisions necessary to implement the State Plan.
16. 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.
17. The Lead Agency will ensure conformance with all applicable Federal and State accounting requirements.
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. 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.
21. 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)
22. 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)
23. 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.
24. 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.