



National Assistive Technology Act Data System

State Plan - Full Report

North Dakota 2021

General Information

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

State AT Program Title	ND Assistive
State AT Program URL	www.ndassistive.org
Mailing Address	3240 15th St. S., Suite B
City	Fargo
State	ND
Zip Code	58104
Program Email	info@ndassistive.org
Phone	800-895-4728
TTY	800-895-4728

Lead Agency

Agency Name	Department of Human Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Mailing Address	1000 E Divide Avenue
City	Bismarck
State	ND
Zip Code	58501
Program URL	https://www.nd.gov/dhs/dvr

Implementing Entity

Does your Lead Agency contract with an Implementing Entity to carry out the Statewide AT Program on its behalf? Yes	
Name of Implementing Agency	ND Assistive
Mailing Address	3240 15th St S, Suite B

City	Fargo
State	ND
Zip Code	58104
Program URL	https://ndassistive.org/

General Information (Continued...)

Program Director and Other Contacts

Program Director for State AT Program (last, first)	Krull, Jeannie
Title	Assistant Executive Director
Phone	800-895-4728
E-mail	jmkruell@ndassistive.org
Program Director at Lead Agency (last, first)	Damian Shlinger
Title	Vocational Rehabilitation Director
Phone	701-328-8926
E-mail	daschlinger@nd.gov
Primary Contact at Implementing Agency (last, first) - If applicable	Jeannie Krull
Title	Assistant Executive Director
Phone	800-895-4728
E-mail	jmkruell@ndassistive.org

Person Responsible for completing this form if other than Program Director

Name (last, first)	
Title	
Phone	
E-mail	

Certifying Representative

Name (last, first)	Damian Schlinger
Title	Vocational Rehabilitation Director
Phone	701-328-8926
E-mail	daschlinger@nd.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)? Yes

1. Describe the mechanisms established to ensure coordination of activities and collaboration between the Implementing Entity and the state.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) will control and administer the funds made available through the grant awarded to the State by contracting with the Governor designated implementing entity, ND Assistive, to carry out its responsibilities. As Lead Agency, DHS enters into a subcontract with ND Assistive, the Implementing Entity. After the contract is signed, each monthly reimbursement request is reviewed to ensure the claim is appropriate and accurate. Programmatic oversight is through verbal and written communication as well as site visits. ND Assistive also shares program-specific information with DHS-DVR relative to outcomes, accomplishments, etc. DHS will submit the application described in subsection (d) of the AT Act of 1998, as amended on behalf of the State, to ensure conformance with Federal and State accounting requirements.

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)? | 0 |
| 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? | 2 |
| <p>6.1 Description of additional representatives of other agencies and/or organizations are members of the advisory council.
Protection and Advocacy, ND Deaf-Blind Project</p> | |
| 7. How many individuals with disabilities who use assistive technology or their family members or guardians are members of the advisory council? | 8 |

Advisory Council Calculation

Description	Number
Individuals with disabilities that use AT or their family members or guardians on the advisory council	8
Total number of individuals on the advisory council	14
Percentage	57.14%

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. Yes

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	\$233,400.00	60.04%	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	\$155,330.00	39.96%	
c. Total Expenditures	\$388,730.00		
d. Total Award	\$388,730.00		
e. Lapsed Amount	\$0.00	0.00%	
f. Transition Training & Technical Assistance Set Aside	\$7,800.00	5.02%	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 **\$399,052.00**

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	\$240,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$240,000.00
All State Leadership Activities	\$159,052.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$159,052.00
Total	\$399,052.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$399,052.00
Transition Training & Technical Assistance	\$7,960.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,960.00

Module D: State Level Activity Summary

1. Which State Financing Activities do you conduct?

- Financial Loan
- Other State Financing that directly provides AT (telecommunications programs, etc.)

2. Which Reutilization Activities do you conduct?

- Device Exchange
- 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.

Regional sites (Regional)

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)

- Have written agreement with this entity

State Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

- Have written agreement with this entity

Module E: Financial Loan (Continued...)

Local/Community Entities (select any/all)

Private Entities (select any/all)

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.

- Revolving loans
- Loan guarantees

6. The lowest interest percentage for loans as established by the policies of the activity. 2.0000%

7. The highest interest percentage for loans as established by the policies of the activity. 2.0000%

8. The lowest loan amount (in dollars) provided as established by the policies of the activity. \$100.00

9. The highest loan amount (in dollars) provided as established by the policies of the activity. \$50000.00

10. Describe the activity.

ND Assistive will offer a low, 2% fixed interest rate for direct, guaranteed loans up to \$50,000 for the purchase of assistive technology with flexible terms when needed. There will be individual consideration if a potential recipient has a poor credit history. In addition, ND Assistive will operate as a revolving loan program. Loans will be granted to eligible applicants who can demonstrate their ability to repay the loan. The end-user of the financed equipment must be a North Dakota resident with a disability. The loan applicant can be the end-user, a family member, or an approved representative of a person with a disability. The person applying for the loan on behalf of the end-user may live anywhere in the United States.

11. The online page for this specific activity can be found at: <https://ndassistive.org/funding/at-financial-loan->

Module F: Other State Financing Activities that Directly Provides AT

1. Which of the following activity/activities are conducted? (select all that apply)

Identify all types of other state financing programs that directly provide AT that are conducted.

- Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (EDP)-State
- Deaf/Blind Telecommunications EDP-Federal
- Last Resort Fund
- Other (Describe)

Provide a description of the other activity/activities conducted.

Assistive Safety Device Distribution Program

2. Select the one option that best describes who conducts this activity/activities.

The Statewide AT Program (State AT)

3. Select the one option that best describes from where this activity/activities is conducted.

Regional sites (Regional)

4. Do you charge a fee for this activity/activities? (select one)

No

5. Identify the types of collaborations you have in place to conduct this activity/activities.

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)

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

State Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

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

Module F: Other State Financing Activities that Directly Provides AT (Continued...)

Local/Community Entities (select any/all)

Private Entities (select any/all)

Other (select any/all)

6. Describe the activity/activities.

ND iCanConnect Through the iCanConnect program, ND Assistive can distribute communications technology to those with a combined vision and hearing loss to prevent isolation and provide ways of retaining a connection between individuals with deaf-blindness and their friends and family. In order to receive technology via this program, the individual must have: visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the best-corrected eye, or a field loss of 20 degrees or less OR a progressive loss with a prognosis leading to one or both of these conditions; a hearing impairment so severe that most speech cannot be understood without optimum amplification OR a progressive loss with a prognosis leading to this condition; and an income that does not exceed 400 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. ND Assistive contracts with the Federal Communications Commission to provide this service. ND Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Service The Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Services (TEDS), also known as the Specialized Phone program, is designed to provide specialized telecommunications equipment to meet the needs of individuals who have communication difficulties and who might be otherwise disadvantaged in their ability to obtain equipment easily and independently use a standard phone. Eligible applicants have difficulty using the telephone because of a severe hearing, speech, or physical (including vision and cognitive) impairment; have or are in the process of obtaining landline or cellular phone service, and meet income criteria. ND Assistive contracts with the ND Department of Human Services, Aging Services Division, to implement the Specialized Phone program. The funds for equipment, client services, and administration for the Specialized Phone program are provided through a telephone access line surcharge. Possibilities Grant Fund North Dakota Assistive supports a Last Resort Fund known as the Possibilities Grant Fund. This Fund is actualized through various fundraising events and donations for the sole purpose to purchase assistive technology (AT) devices and services for eligible individuals who apply to the Fund. The funds can be accessed by any ND or Moorhead, MN resident of any age with any disability based on financial eligibility. However, only individuals with disabilities with a clear established functional need can receive AT paid for through the Fund. In addition, this is a last resort Fund thus recipients must not be able to either purchase the AT themselves or be able to obtain it through other systems such as Medicaid, Vocational Rehabilitation, Special Education, etc. Accessible applications for the program can be obtained on the ND Assistive website or by contacting the offices by email or phone. Once an application is received, the application is reviewed for completeness and the individual is contacted if there is missing information. Suggestions are made at that time if the requested equipment can be obtained from other funding sources. The requested equipment may be reviewed by a ND Assistive AT Consultant to verify that it is an equipment match for that individual. This verification may include phone calls, emails, home visits, equipment demonstrations, short-term equipment loans, etc. The applications are reviewed on a rolling basis by the Possibilities Committee made up of individuals with disabilities from the ND Assistive Consumer Advisory Committee. The Possibilities disbursement committee may purchase new or used equipment depending on availability. Coordination with other funding programs may also occur when the amount requested exceeds the \$2000 cap. Once the AT has been selected, ND Assistive works with the vendor of that AT, and the funds are paid directly to that vendor, who then provides the device to the individual. While no AT Act funds are used to purchase the AT devices and services, the Statewide AT Program incurs the costs of administering the Fund. Staff time is dedicated to reviewing applications, working with the vendors who provide the AT, processing all the funds, organizing fundraisers, and following up with the recipient once a device or services are obtained. Additional resources are used to make and disseminate promotional materials specific to the Possibilities Grant. Assistive Safety Devices Equipment Distribution Program The Assistive Safety Device Distribution Service program, also known as the Senior Safety program, is designed to assist those with aging-related disabilities to remain safe in their homes through the use of assistive safety devices. Eligible North Dakota residents can receive assistive safety devices (up to \$400 worth) that will help increase safety and independence. If needed, equipment installation may also be provided. Any North Dakota resident, age 60 or over, who is not living in a skilled nursing facility is eligible for this program. This project is run under the Older Americans Act and is supported by funding from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Community Living, Administration on Aging, and granted through the North Dakota Department of Human Services, Aging Services Division.

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

<https://ndassistive.org/icanconnect/>
<https://ndassistive.org/teds/>
<https://ndassistive.org/funding/possibilities-grant/> <https://ndassistive.org/asdds/>

Module H: Device Exchange

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.

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)

Disability/Assistive Technology Organizations (select any/all)

- Have written agreement with this entity

Federal Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

State Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

- Have written agreement with this entity

Module H: Device Exchange (Continued...)

Local/Community Entities (select any/all)

- Have written agreement with this entity

Private Entities (select any/all)

- Have written agreement with this entity

Other (select any/all)

- Have written agreement with this entity

Provide a description of the other collaborations.

Schools

5. Select the option that best describes what happens when a device is exchanged. (select all that apply)

- The transaction is direct consumer-to-consumer

6. Describe the activity.

ND Assistive directly administers the North Dakota AT4All website, a free, statewide service that allows individuals to buy, sell, exchange, or give away used AT equipment through the site. The ND AT4all website is a cloud-based database made available to state AT programs by Information Data Exchange Solutions and Nebraska Assistive Technology Partners. North Dakota Stakeholders (Independent Living Centers, Department of Human Services- Aging Services, Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Public Instruction, State Developmental Center, and Private Vendors) worked together to choose the AT4All model and implement it as the tool for AT reuse in the state, for both individuals and organizations. Individuals that have AT equipment for sale, exchange, or donation, can go to the website www.nd.at4all.com and independently list items, or they can contact ND Assistive and ask for assistance with the listing. North Dakota-based schools, non-profits, and state agencies can request a listing site for their own programs, located within the ND AT4All website. These sites can be internal, external to the public, or both and offer equipment for sale, exchange, loan, or donation. At present, there are several entities with listings outside of ND Assistive. The North Dakota AT4all listing is courtesy of ND Assistive for individuals, schools, and non-profit entities. ND Assistive makes no representation, either expressed or implied, as to the suitability or quality of the items posted. North Dakota AT4All items are not guaranteed by ND Assistive. Used AT devices are listed on the website by category, including; device name, condition, and asking price. In addition, the city and first name of the seller will be listed along with the preferred contact information. Anyone who has access to the internet can access the ND AT4All database to find used equipment for sale, donation, loan, or giveaway. This includes individuals residing outside of the state. For individuals with no access to the internet or who need help with website navigation, ND Assistive can search the website for them to see if specific items are available and connect them to the equipment owner. ND Assistive will not be responsible for the pricing, sale, or condition of the item; nor will they be involved in or responsible for any negotiations to acquire items. The North Dakota AT4All service increases the number of individuals with disabilities who can acquire AT devices. This is due to the affordability of used equipment, the lack of eligibility criteria to access the service, the ease of locating needed devices online or with ND Assistive assistance, and the one-on-one negotiations between buyer and seller. ND Assistive coordinates the marketing of the equipment exchange service to increase statewide awareness of the program and promotes the program through all of its public awareness avenues mentioned below including website, blog, exhibiting at conferences, statewide presentations, and brochures.

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

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

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)

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
- Receive financial support from this entity

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

Local/Community Entities (select any/all)

Private Entities (select any/all)

Other (select any/all)

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

Provide a description of the other collaborations.

MN Star

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.

ND Assistive receives used assistive technology from past recipients of the ND Telecommunications Equipment Distribution program and the Assistive Safety Device Distribution program, as well as, from individuals and their families throughout the state. These devices are recycled by swapping out broken parts and cleaning/sanitizing thoroughly. All working telephone equipment and accessories are entered into the ND AT4All database. The recycled equipment is available to North Dakota state residents at no charge with the exception of shipping where applicable. In addition, assistive technology from the ND Assistive Equipment Loan Library that is no longer made or has been replaced by an upgraded device is entered into the database for open-ended loan purposes. Thanks to a contract with the Minnesota State Assistive Technology Act Program, MN Star, this equipment is also available to residents of MN with disabilities. All of the above equipment is provided as-is and at no cost (with the exception of shipping fees where applicable). This equipment is not maintained by ND Assistive. To obtain open-ended or recycled equipment, the consumer contacts ND Assistive via the Toll-Free phone number, through email, or through the ND AT4All website. Before the equipment is shipped or picked up, the consumer is required to sign a loan form, complete outcomes/satisfaction surveys, and pay for shipping where applicable.

7. The online page for this specific activity can be found at: <https://nd.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.

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)

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
- Receive financial support from this entity

Module J: Device Loan (Continued...)

Local/Community Entities (select any/all)

Private Entities (select any/all)

Other (select any/all)

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

Provide a description of the other collaborations.

MN Star

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.

ND Assistive operates a statewide short-term AT equipment loan program known as the Short-Term Equipment Trial Program (STETP). STETP is administered and directly operated by ND Assistive staff, and the ND AT4All database (as described earlier) is utilized for the STETP equipment inventory. The STETP is available to ND residents of all ages with disabilities and/or those family members and professionals that work with them. Thanks to a contract with the MN State Assistive Technology Act Program, MN Star, the STETP is also available to Minnesota residents with disabilities of all ages. ND Assistive no longer charges fees to rent assistive technology through our Short-Term Equipment Rental Program. These six-week equipment trials are now FREE. Arrangements may be made for devices to be picked up from ND Assistive's offices or shipped to the borrower's home. The borrower is responsible for returning the devices to ND Assistive's offices or paying the shipping fee to have the devices returned via a tracked shipping option (USPS, UPS, FedEx). For MN residents, the fees and shipping costs to the consumer are subsidized through a contract with MN STAR; however, the borrower is responsible for return shipping. The STETP loans a wide range of devices (i.e. augmentative communication, telecommunication, computer access, educational accommodations, vision aids, and environmental control) covering the majority of the 10 federal assistive technology categories. If an inquiry is made about a device not in the STETP inventory, the individual making the inquiry will be referred to an appropriate vendor or another resource. To obtain a loan from STETP, the consumer contacts ND Assistive via the Toll-Free phone number, through email, or through the AT4All website. Before the equipment is shipped or picked up, the consumer is required to sign a loan form and pay for fees and shipping where applicable. The device loan period is set at six weeks from the date of shipping or pick-up to the date of return. That loan period may be extended based on individual circumstances or if they are waiting for funding or repair of their device. When a request has been made by a consumer for a device that is out on loan, the request is put on a waiting list. Once the device has been returned to ND Assistive and is ready to be rented, the consumer is contacted to make sure the device is still needed and to arrange the loan. Prior to the time a loan recipient receives a device(s), the device(s) are checked to ensure they are fully operational and have suitable manual/user instructions. Depending on the complexity of the equipment and the borrower's knowledge level, the loan recipient is given a brief overview of the operation of the device and given contact information should further, additional support be needed. This support may be provided on-site, via telephone, or by video conference. All returned equipment is cleaned, sanitized, and checked to make sure it is in working order. It is tagged indicating the date cleaned and entered into the NDAT4All database to be loaned again.

7. The online page for this specific activity can be found at: <https://ndassistive.org/short-term-equipment-trial-program/>

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.

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)

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
- Receive financial support from this entity

Module K: Device Demonstration (Continued...)

Local/Community Entities (select any/all)

Private Entities (select any/all)

Other (select any/all)

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

Provide a description of the other collaborations.

Mn Star

5. Describe the activity.

ND Assistive has two Demonstration Centers in Fargo (established 2002) and Mandan (established 2005), which are currently simulated homes with AT located throughout each room (i.e. kitchen, dining room, bathroom, bedroom, living room, and den). These homes have a variety of AT in every category, including a large influx of smart home technology. These Centers are used to conduct demonstrations and assessments in person and virtually via video conferencing. Anyone in ND or MN can schedule a demonstration at no cost to them by contacting ND Assistive via email or by phone.

6. The online page for this specific activity can be found at: <https://ndassistive.org/equipment-demonstration/>

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
- Receive financial support from 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)

ND Assistive will collaborate with a representative from the North Dakota Information Technology Department to plan future training for state employees on website and document accessibility. ND Assistive continues to provide Information and Communication training (ICT) modules on our website in cooperation with the Minnesota State AT Act program, MN STAR, as well as, links to other sites to learn more about ICT. ND Assistive presents on ICT accessibility to various entities throughout the state every year. These entities learn why they would want to provide accessible documents as well as using accessibility in every social media post and within every email. This training results in facilities seeking further training in this area as well as potential policy changes in the area of web, document, and communications accessibility.

Planned Transition Training or Other Training Activity (optional)

ND Assistive will be providing training to various schools such as Lisbon Public Schools. Each training will cover assistive technology in the area of transition. ND Assistive will also conduct two training for the entire statewide, ND Aging Service Staff, Department of Human Services over a two-year period. Topics will include assistive technology for transition back to community living.

Planned Statewide Conference or Other Training Activity (optional)

ND Assistive will train students on assistive technology throughout the year at the following Universities/Departments: University of North Dakota/Occupational Therapy Department; University of Mary-Bismarck/Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Special Education Departments; University of Mary-Fargo-Occupational Therapy Department; Minnesota State University-Moorhead/Speech Pathology Department; North Dakota State University/Human Development Class; Northland Technical College/Occupational Therapy Assistant Program; and North Dakota State College of Science/Occupational Therapy Assistant Program. The training events will consist of general assistive technology devices, services, and applications. They will be conducted to provide information and resources on assistive technology for use after graduation. ND Assistive will develop and implement an Assistive technology Training Specialist position with the Public Health Workforce grants to AT Act Programs. This person in this position will:

- Organize and implement training for professionals, individuals, and volunteers across the state, providing special attention to rural areas.
- Develop and maintain webinar series for professionals and providers
- Build and maintain a library of "how-to" videos
- Consult and train ND Assistive team on emerging technologies
- Design and administer a web-database of tutorials for the public
- Conduct training

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

<https://ndassistive.org/services-for-professionals/web-and-document-accessibility-training/>
<https://ndassistive.org/services-for-professionals/training/>

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)

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
- Receive financial support from this entity

Module M: Technical Assistance (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 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)

ND Assistive will continue to participate in the Department of Justice Settlement Agreement Stakeholder meetings. “The State of North Dakota and the U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ) reached a settlement agreement in [December 2020] that outlines actions the state will take to expand access to home and community-based care services and enable individuals with physical disabilities to live in the least restrictive setting possible.” More on this agreement can be found at <https://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/doj-settlement.html> ND Assistive provided technical assistance regarding the benefits of assistive technology for home and community-based care. These meetings and input will continue next year and will hopefully lead to state improvements in the area of assistive technology within North Dakota’s Home and Community Based Services.

Planned Other Technical Assistance Activity (optional)

ND Assistive worked with the ND Department of Human Services, Aging Services, Money Follows the Person (MFP) Department to include Assistive Technology in the MFP Supplemental Funding-Capacity Building Program. ND Assistive staff participated and provided input at full stakeholder meetings, smaller committee planning meetings, as well as, meetings with the MFP Administrator. As a result, Assistive Technology capacity building was included in the state’s \$5 million grant proposal to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. The grant was approved in August of 2021, and \$300,000 of the \$5 million grant dollars were approved for capacity building in the area of Assistive Technology for Institutional Diversions and Transitions over a three-year period starting in November 2021.

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)

Disability/Assistive Technology Organizations (select any/all)

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

Federal Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

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

State Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

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

Module N: Public Awareness (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 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)

• New Marketing Director Addition-Through leveraged funding, ND Assistive has been able to recently hire a Marketing Director full-time. One of the major duties of this position will be to build assistive technology awareness throughout the state, with the main concentration in rural areas and the Native Nations. Prior to this hire and the pandemic, ND Assistive frequently presented and exhibited on a very consistent basis. With the addition of this position, it is expected that the number of these events will increase significantly. This position will also be responsible for social media, blogging, and print media. • Conferences and Expos – ND Assistive will have a booth at several conferences/expos every year. The conference attendees will be individuals with disabilities and professionals representing aging, education, transition, employment, health care, and other assistive technology service sectors. The booth will feature information about ND Assistive programs and general information about AT. The types of devices/information displayed will be customized to meet the needs of each audience. • Presentations-ND Assistive will conduct presentations every year at places such as schools, senior centers, businesses, service groups, conferences, and our Centers. • Blog-ND Assistive staff develop and publish blog posts to the ND Assistive website on a weekly basis. ND Assistive marketing director spearheads this effort. The posts are also used to bring attention to upcoming events or other breaking news that would be of interest to AT consumers. <https://ndassistive.org/blog/> • Social Media – ND Assistive will employ various social media avenues to increase awareness of existing programs and provide assistive technology expertise on a regular, interactive basis. Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn are the current platforms. <https://www.facebook.com/NDAssistive/> <https://www.linkedin.com/company/nd-assistive> • Website - The ND Assistive website will feature information about all of the AT Act programs as well as other contracts. It will also provide a portal for communication with the agency. <https://ndassistive.org> • Home First Demonstration Centers-These Centers, as described earlier, are also used for Public Awareness tours on-site and virtually for any individual and/or group such as schools, businesses, Protection and Advocacy programs, State agencies, clubs, etc. • AT Annual Awareness Day at the capital ND Assistive will work with the State of ND to establish a date in the Spring of each year as ND AT Awareness Day. They will also take steps to bring other disability entities and persons with disabilities to celebrate with the ND governor at the ND Capital.

Planned Other Public Awareness Activity (optional)

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)

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
- Receive financial support from this entity

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

Local/Community Entities (select any/all)

Private Entities (select any/all)

Other (select any/all)

2. Describe the activity

ND Assistive has two regional sites, all of which have a toll-free number. A consumer can call either of the sites and speak to a staff member or leave a voice mail. If the staff member receiving the call is not able to answer the request, they will transfer the call or refer the individual to the appropriate person on staff, regardless of the region. Both regional offices work closely together. E-mail requests can be sent to a specific staff member or go to a general account. Those in the general account are routed to the staff member with the appropriate expertise. ND Assistive staff provide information specific to AT such as benefits, appropriateness, costs, resources, devices, services, and funding. Information is provided via the phone, email, video, in-person, or sent via mail to the caller.

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 ND.
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.