



National Assistive Technology Act Data System

State Plan - Full Report

New Jersey 2021

General Information

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

State AT Program Title	Richard West Assistive Technology Advocacy Center of DRNJ
State AT Program URL	at4nj.org
Mailing Address	210 South Broad St 3rd Floor
City	Trenton
State	NJ
Zip Code	08608
Program Email	mmarotta@disabilityrightsny.org
Phone	800-922-7233
TTY	609-633-7106

Lead Agency

Agency Name	New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Mailing Address	1 John Fitch Plaza, PO Box 110
City	Trenton
State	NJ
Zip Code	08625
Program URL	http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/

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	Richard West Assistive Technology Advocacy Center of DRNJ
Mailing Address	210 South Broad St 3rd Floor

City	Trenton
State	NJ
Zip Code	08608
Program URL	www.at4nj.org

General Information (Continued...)

Program Director and Other Contacts

Program Director for State AT Program (last, first)	Marotta, Michael
Title	Director
Phone	609-777-0961
E-mail	mmarotta@disabilityrightsny.org
Program Director at Lead Agency (last, first)	Carroll, Karen
Title	Director DVRS
Phone	609-292-4967
E-mail	Karen.Carroll@dol.nj.gov
Primary Contact at Implementing Agency (last, first) - If applicable	Marotta, Michael
Title	Director
Phone	609-777-0961
E-mail	mmarotta@disabilityrightsny.org

Person Responsible for completing this form if other than Program Director

Name (last, first)	
Title	
Phone	
E-mail	

Certifying Representative

Name (last, first)	Carroll, Karen
Title	Director DVRS
Phone	609-292-4967
E-mail	Karen.Carroll@dol.nj.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.

In 1992, the Governor designated the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) in the New Jersey Department of Labor as the lead agency for the Statewide Assistive Technology Act Project. The Department is now known as the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD). DVRS is the designated state agency dedicated to providing vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with physical or mental disabilities as provided under the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. The goal of DVRS is to prepare and place in employment eligible persons with disabilities who, because of the significance of their disabling conditions, would otherwise be unable to secure and/or maintain employment. An additional goal is to provide and promote comprehensive services for independent living designed to meet the current and future needs of individuals whose disabilities are so significant that they do not presently have potential for employment, but who may benefit from rehabilitation services that will enable them to live and function as independently as possible. DVRS also administers a program of vocational rehabilitation under state legislation for those consumers not yet ready for placement in competitive jobs. Disability Rights New Jersey (DRNJ) is the implementing agency of the Statewide Assistive Technology Act Program and has titled the effort the Richard West Assistive Technology Advocacy Center (ATAC). DRNJ was awarded the grant to manage the Statewide Assistive Technology Act Program by DVRS after a competitive bidding process in 2013. DRNJ is ideally situated to implement the program in a statewide, comprehensive manner. DRNJ is a private, non-profit organization designated as the protection and advocacy agency for people with disabilities in the State of New Jersey. DRNJ's mission is to advocate and advance the human, civil and legal rights of persons with disabilities. Its activities are grounded in its belief in the inherent value and worth of all individuals and their right to equality of opportunity and full participation in their communities. DRNJ has functioned as the implementing agency for the Statewide Assistive Technology Project since 1997, when the project was moved from the public to the private sector at the urging of consumers, the ATAC advisory council, and with support from DVRS with the goal of increased consumer-direction. The Richard West Assistive Technology Advocacy Center (ATAC) of DRNJ is an integral part of DRNJ. DRNJ and DVRS work collaboratively in drafting the budget for ATAC and developing priorities for funding. A DVRS representative also serves on the ATAC advisory board, and DRNJ makes regular reports to DVRS regarding the progress of the project. DVRS and DRNJ also plan to continue collaborative efforts to ensure that VR counselors have access to training and technical assistance on AT products and services through DRNJ. The Implementing Agency Director meets monthly with a Program Specialist from Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to review program activities, funding and staffing. Through these ongoing discussions, the Implementing Agency Director and Lead Agency Program Specialist work collaboratively to ensure that the AT Act is completing required activities, while always exploring opportunities to implement innovative programs to serve the residents of NJ.

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? 0
 - 4.1 Please provide the reason(s) the Advisory Council does not have this required agency representative member and describe the actions that will be taken to become in compliance for Question 4.
The Lead Agency is Division of Vocational Rehabilitation - which includes workforce development.
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? 1
 - 6.1 Description of additional representatives of other agencies and/or organizations are members of the advisory council.
Advisory council includes a member that represents New Jersey Department of Human Services Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
7. How many individuals with disabilities who use assistive technology or their family members or guardians are members of the advisory council? 6

Advisory Council Calculation

Description	Number
Individuals with disabilities that use AT or their family members or guardians on the advisory council	6
Total number of individuals on the advisory council	11
Percentage	54.55%

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	\$378,640.00	72.04%	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	\$98,583.00	18.76%	
c. Total Expenditures	\$477,223.00		
d. Total Award	\$525,605.00		
e. Lapsed Amount	\$48,382.00	9.21%	
f. Transition Training & Technical Assistance Set Aside	\$5,362.00	5.44%	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 **\$546,122.00**

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	\$546,122.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$546,122.00
All State Leadership Activities	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$546,122.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$546,122.00
Transition Training & Technical Assistance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Module D: State Level Activity Summary

1. Which State Financing Activities do you conduct?

None

Please indicate if flexibility or comparability is claimed for State Financing activities.

Flexibility

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 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.

One central location (Central)

3. Do you charge a fee for this activity?

Yes

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)

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

Local/Community Entities (select any/all)

- Have written agreement with this entity

Private Entities (select any/all)

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 ownership is transferred to the recipient

6. Describe the activity.

ATAC operates its program through a contract with Goodwill Home Medical Equipment (GHME), a division of Goodwill Industries of Southern New Jersey & Philadelphia, located in Bellmawr, New Jersey. GHME offers a practical solution by recirculating quality gently used DME to people in the community, by utilizing effective reuse and recycling strategies. Individuals may pick up the items at the Bellmawr center, and delivery is available for some items. The following describes how this mission was derived: * A significant amount of DME is issued to insured patients and used in healthcare settings. * Once these items are no longer needed or become outdated, there is no system to manage the excess equipment that has accumulated in homes, hospitals, and clinics. Much of it is thrown in the trash. * There are increasing numbers of individuals who need equipment, have no access to it and can benefit from the abundance of gently used equipment currently being stored or discarded. * Not having the necessary or proper piece of equipment can easily reduce an individual's physical level of functioning as well as their emotional well being.

7. The online page for this specific activity can be found at: <https://www.goodwillhomemedical.org/>

Module J: Device Loan

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

Both the Statewide AT Program and other entities/contractors (Both)

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

A combination of a central location and regional sites (Combination)

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)

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 shipped via mail or other delivery service

6. Describe the activity.

The Implementing Agency and its subcontractor, Advancing Opportunities, have a loan library that is free to the residents of NJ. The Implementing Agency has a small library of equipment that can be loaned out as supplemental inventory if Advancing Opportunities does not currently have the desired device in stock. The majority of our state short term loans are conducted through Advancing Opportunities. Devices are requested via the website or via phone. Equipment is packaged and shipped to the individual, along with a paid return label so there is no cost to the consumer. Loans are for a 3 week period, with the option to extend for an additional 3 weeks (if there is no waiting list for the item)

7. The online page for this specific activity can be found at: <https://www.assistivetechologycenter.org/lending-center/>

Module K: Device Demonstration

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

Both the Statewide AT Program and other entities/contractors (Both)

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

A combination of a central location and regional sites (Combination)

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)

Module K: Device Demonstration (Continued...)

Local/Community Entities (select any/all)

Private Entities (select any/all)

- Have written agreement with this entity

Other (select any/all)

5. Describe the activity.

The Implementing Agency, along with two subcontractors (Advancing Opportunities and Adam Krass Consulting), provide AT device demonstrations to residents of NJ for no charge. These Demonstrations are provided in the environment that is most appropriate for the individual (home, school, work, community) and can also include additional interested parties. Designed to enable the individual to make a decision about the appropriateness of a particular AT device, these demonstrations highlight the features of technology. These device features can then be compared to each other to facilitate an effective match between the person and the technology, thus reducing device abandonment.

6. The online page for this specific activity can be found at: <https://at4nj.org/device-demonstration/>; <https://www.assistivetechcenter.org/> ; <https://adamkrassconsulting.us/>

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)

- Have written agreement with this entity

Federal Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

State Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

Module L: Training (Continued...)

Local/Community Entities (select any/all)

Private Entities (select any/all)

- Have written agreement with this entity

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)

Implementing Agency has partnered with ATIA (The Assistive Technology Industry Association) to provide access to the Virtual Learning Center to all NJ residents. Training sessions available within the Learning Center include sessions on ICT that can be used to build capacity across NJ.

Planned Transition Training or Other Training Activity (optional)

Implementing Agency has partnered with ATIA (The Assistive Technology Industry Association) to provide access to the Virtual Learning Center to all NJ residents. Training sessions available within the Learning Center include sessions on Transition that can be used to build capacity across NJ.

Planned Statewide Conference or Other Training Activity (optional)

Starting in 2017, ATAC has coordinated a statewide Assistive Technology Summit. This full day conference is comprised of 20+ concurrent sessions, focused on all areas of assistive technology. In addition, a keynote address is delivered to highlight successes for people with disabilities through the use of assistive technology. This event is centrally located in New Jersey and free to all participants. ATAC partners provide many of the concurrent break out sessions and ATAC partners with the New Jersey Coalition for the Advancement of Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology (NJCART) to engage all interested parties throughout NJ. NJCART is a non-profit organization established in 1987 to promote the appropriate applications of technology for individuals with disabilities, assure access to resources and provide continuing education to its members and the community at large. ATAC contractors provide assistive technology demonstrations and device reuse activities throughout the event. During the pandemic (2020, 2021), this event transitioned to a virtual event delivered live via video conferencing. Returning in 2022, the AT Summit will return to a live, in person format.

3. The online page for this specific activity can be found at: <https://at4nj.org/conferences-webinars/>

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)

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)

ATAC continues to deliver technical assistance to the New Jersey Department of Education with regard to their implementation of Assistive Technology services across the k-12 spectrum (including transition and ICT support). ATAC has provided guidance to the Department on aspects of delivering AT services and work continues on future collaborations on more in depth technical assistance related to AT.

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)

Disability/Assistive Technology Organizations (select any/all)

Federal Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

State Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

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)

The Implementing Agency participates in the Abilities Expo (<https://www.abilities.com/>) each year to provide a range of services to the residents of NJ. Activities conducted during this 3-day live event include: information and referral, AT Device Demonstrations and AT Device Loans. This annual event is attended by thousands of individuals and is the largest of our public awareness activities we complete each year.

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)

- Receive financial support from this entity

Federal Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

State Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

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

The Implementing Agency is a department of Disability Rights New Jersey, a non-profit protection and advocacy agency. DRNJ has a dedicated team of staff that conduct I&R activities for the residents of NJ and this department also conducts AT focused I&R. Training has been provided by The Implementing Agency to the I&R staff in order for them to have a better understanding of AT devices and services.

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 NJ.
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.