



National Assistive Technology Act Data System

State Plan - Full Report

Rhode Island 2021

General Information

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

State AT Program Title	Rhode Island Assistive Technnology Access Partnership
State AT Program URL	https://ors.ri.gov/programs/assistive-technology-access-partnership-atap
Mailing Address	40 Fountain Street
City	Providence
State	Rhode Island
Zip Code	02903
Program Email	melanie.sbardella@ors.ri.gov
Phone	401-332-9018
TTY	401-222-1328

Lead Agency

Agency Name	Office of Rehabilitation Services
Mailing Address	40 Fountain Street
City	Providence
State	Rhode island
Zip Code	02903
Program URL	https://ors.ri.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)	Melanie L. Sbardella
Title	ATAP Director/Assistant Administrator
Phone	401-332-9018
E-mail	melanie.sbardella@ors.ri.gov
Program Director at Lead Agency (last, first)	same as above
Title	
Phone	
E-mail	
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)	Sbardella, Melanie
Title	ATAP Director/Assistant Administrator
Phone	401-332-9018
E-mail	melanie.sbardella@ors.ri.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? 2
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? 1
 - 6.1 Description of additional representatives of other agencies and/or organizations are members of the advisory council.
Office of Healthy Aging Representative, State University Representative
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	15
Percentage	53.33%

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	\$258,432.00	66.60%	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	\$129,602.00	33.40%	
c. Total Expenditures	\$388,034.00		
d. Total Award	\$388,034.00		
e. Lapsed Amount	\$0.00	0.00%	
f. Transition Training & Technical Assistance Set Aside	\$6,480.00	5.00%	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 **\$398,690.00**

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	\$265,526.00	\$0.00	\$265,526.00
All State Leadership Activities	\$0.00	\$133,164.00	\$0.00	\$133,164.00
Total	\$0.00	\$398,690.00	\$0.00	\$398,690.00
Transition Training & Technical Assistance	\$0.00	\$6,658.20	\$0.00	\$6,658.20

Module D: State Level Activity Summary

1. Which State Financing Activities do you conduct?

- 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 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

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.

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

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)

- Have written agreement with this entity

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
- 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.

Receive State Funding through Office of Rehabilitation Services which is a state agency that is also the Vocational Rehabilitation agency. The State Funding is the Telecommunications Funds. Adaptive Telephone Equipment Loan Program is directly located at Office of Rehabilitation Services. ATAP Director oversees the ATEL Program.

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

<https://ors.ri.gov/programs/adaptive-telephone-equipment-loan-program-atel>

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.

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)

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

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 H: Device Exchange (Continued...)

Local/Community Entities (select any/all)

Private Entities (select any/all)

Other (select any/all)

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
- The Statewide AT Program is involved in the transaction

6. Describe the activity.

Device Exchange is consumer to consumer and the Independent Living Center (OSCIL) acts as the facilitator. Statewide AT Program also does have involvement in the transaction and it's case by case. They are part of the RI ATAP Partners.

7. The online page for this specific activity can be found at: <http://oscil.org/programs-services/technology-equipment-home-modifications/assistive-technology>

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.

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)

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

Easter Seals (select any/all)

Disability/Assistive Technology Organizations (select any/all)

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

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 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)

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

6. Describe the activity.

Device Reuse provides ownership to device to recipient. Device Reuse is specifically operated by our Independent Living Center since they have mechanism to professionally clean items for reuse. Open-ended Loans are provided by three of the RI ATAP Partners that provide longer term use (over 30 days). The individual that receives device signs that there is an expectation that if they are able to get the device by another means down the line they return the device. It should be noted that all other comparable benefits will be explored prior to open-ended loans.

7. The online page for this specific activity can be found at: <http://oscil.org/programs-services/technology-equipment-home-modifications/assistive-technology> <https://ors.ri.gov/programs/atap/atap-partners>

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.

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)

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

Easter Seals (select any/all)

Disability/Assistive Technology Organizations (select any/all)

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

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.

There are Four ATAP Partners that provide this service. They are provided ATAP funds. Each establishes goals and objectives of the Grant Period and what specific goals and services they will be providing. Each of the four ATAP Partners have a special skillset regarding AT devices. They work together if the loan is not at their location and at the other ATAP Partners location. During Pandemic they developed strict cleaning of loaned items as well as drop of of equipment protocol either with individual picking it up at ATAP Partner location or having the item dropped off at their location.

7. The online page for this specific activity can be found at: <https://ors.ri.gov/programs/atap/atap-partners>

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.

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)

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

Easter Seals (select any/all)

Disability/Assistive Technology Organizations (select any/all)

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

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.

Device Demonstration is provided by all 4 ATAP Partners. Device Demonstration goals and objectives are provided by RI ATAP Partners to ATAP Director for review. Due to pandemic they are also have done some virtual device demonstration but ultimately in person is the best. Device Demonstration is always explored by which ATAP Partner has the best skill set for the AT. The 4 ATAP Partners or agencies work very closely together to support an individual, consultant, or family with a device demonstration.

6. The online page for this specific activity can be found at: <https://ors.ri.gov/programs/atap/atap-partners>

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)

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

Easter Seals (select any/all)

Disability/Assistive Technology Organizations (select any/all)

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

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)

Work with Various State Agencies on accessibility of their documents, websites, and presentations. Have worked with the RI Department of Health, Age Friendly RI, and RI Department of Human Services in the past on those topics and offered support to have them change their approach. Continue to provide this service and branch out to other agencies that support individuals with having access.

Planned Transition Training or Other Training Activity (optional)

Work with Transition age students on training them on their technology to support the in their transition to adulthood. Continue to work with the Teacher's Assistant Training Program on working on their knowledge of devices to support Transition age students. Work with individuals on their technology as they transition from a nursing home or assistive setting to more of an independent living setting. Each ATAP Partner has a different skill set and strength and very frequently will work together or refer to support an individual or group with training.

Planned Statewide Conference or Other Training Activity (optional)

RI ATAP Partners work closely with the New England Assistive Technology Conference that is once a year in the Fall. All the ATAP Partners provide feedback, support, assistance, bring their knowledge, and work with the primary ATAP Partner (TechACCESS of RI) to put a well run and well needed conference.

3. The online page for this specific activity can be found at: <https://ors.ri.gov/programs/atap/atap-partners>

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)

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

Easter Seals (select any/all)

Disability/Assistive Technology Organizations (select any/all)

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

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)

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)

Training to transition related agencies such as Vocational Rehabilitation, Dept of Education, Behavioral Health, and RIPIN for training at various topics. Two presentations were provided last year to Vocational Rehab and another to a School Districts providers and families on accessibility features and Chromebooks, Androids, and Apple Products and their support with Executive Functioning.

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)

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

Easter Seals (select any/all)

Disability/Assistive Technology Organizations (select any/all)

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

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)

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)

On AT Awareness Day this year 2022 we had a large event with 4 ATAP Partners and some other AT minded state agencies that allowed individuals to walk around and talk as well as try AT. We received a Governor's Proclamation for the day and most of the ATAP Partners and other RICAT Members received Governor Citations. We plan on having this event yearly moving forward.

Planned Other Public Awareness Activity (optional)

All the ATAP Partners utilize social media and will post and support each other.

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)

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

Easter Seals (select any/all)

Disability/Assistive Technology Organizations (select any/all)

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

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)

Other (select any/all)

2. Describe the activity

Continue to provide information and assistance to anyone that needs it. We explore and provide a resource for an individual, family, or team that calls. The ATAP Partners also work as a team to support the information that we provide.

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 Rhode Island .
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.