



National Assistive Technology Act Data System

State Plan - Full Report

Washington 2021

General Information

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

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| State AT Program Title | Washington Assistive Technology Act Program |
| State AT Program URL | https://watap.org |
| Mailing Address | UW Box 357920 |
| City | Seattle |
| State | WA |
| Zip Code | 98195 |
| Program Email | watap@uw.edu |
| Phone | 800-214-8731 |
| TTY | 866-866-0162 |

Lead Agency

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Agency Name | University of Washington Center for Technology and Disability Studies |
| Mailing Address | University of Washington, UW Box 357920 |
| City | Seattle |
| State | WA |
| Zip Code | 98195 |
| Program URL | https://uwctds.washington.edu |

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) | Knue, Alan |
| Title | Director |
| Phone | 2066856836 |
| E-mail | aknue@uw.edu |
| Program Director at Lead Agency (last, first) | Knue, Alan |
| Title | Director |
| Phone | 2066856836 |
| E-mail | aknue@uw.edu |
| 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) | Rhodes, Carol |
| Title | Director, Office of Sponsored Programs |
| Phone | 2065434043 |
| E-mail | osp@uw.edu |

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)? | <u>No</u> |
| 2. Is the Lead Agency named in this State Plan a new or different Lead Agency from the one designated by the Governor in your previous State Plan? | No |
| 3. Is the Implementing Entity named in this State Plan a new or different Implementing Entity from the one designated by the Governor in the previous State Plan? | No |

Module B: Advisory Council

1. How many representatives of the designated State agency for Vocational Rehabilitation are members of the advisory council? 1
2. How many representatives of the designated State agency for Vocational Rehabilitation for individuals who are blind are members of the advisory council (when there is such a separate VR agency for individuals who are blind)? 1
3. How many representatives of a state Center for Independent Living are members of the advisory council?. 1
4. How many representatives of the State workforce development board established under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act are members of the advisory council? 1
5. How many representatives of the State educational agency are members of the advisory council? 1
6. How many additional representatives of other agencies and/or organizations are members of the advisory council? 0
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 | \$376,493.58 | 72.24% | 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 | \$144,690.42 | 27.76% | |
| c. Total Expenditures | \$521,184.00 | | |
| d. Total Award | \$521,184.00 | | |
| e. Lapsed Amount | \$0.00 | 0.00% | |
| f. Transition Training & Technical Assistance Set Aside | \$29,245.23 | 20.21% | 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 **\$542,482.00**

| 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 | \$391,551.45 | \$0.00 | \$391,551.45 |
| All State Leadership Activities | \$0.00 | \$150,930.55 | \$0.00 | \$150,930.55 |
| Total | \$0.00 | \$542,482.00 | \$0.00 | \$542,482.00 |
| Transition Training & Technical Assistance | \$0.00 | \$27,884.79 | \$0.00 | \$27,884.79 |

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.

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? (This fee is separate from and addition to the financial loan made.)

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)

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

Federal Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

State Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

Module E: Financial Loan (Continued...)

Local/Community Entities (select any/all)

Private Entities (select any/all)

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

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 6. The lowest interest percentage for loans as established by the policies of the activity. | 0.0000% |
| 7. The highest interest percentage for loans as established by the policies of the activity. | 5.0000% |
| 8. The lowest loan amount (in dollars) provided as established by the policies of the activity. | \$250.00 |
| 9. The highest loan amount (in dollars) provided as established by the policies of the activity. | \$40000.00 |

10. Describe the activity.

WATAP provides financial support to the Northwest Access Fund for the purposes of the management, operation, and other appropriate needs of its Assistive Technology Financial Loan program. This program provides loans up to \$25,000 (requests for higher amounts can be considered by the Board of Directors) with up to a 5-year term for assistive technology loans, up to \$40,000 with up to a 10-year term for home modification and adapted vehicle loans. A 10% down payment is required for adapted vehicle loans. Loan interest rate is 5.0% (0% for Washington Council of the Blind (WCB) members in good standing). Washington residents of all ages with disabilities of all types, including seniors with age-related functional limitations, are eligible for participating in this loan program.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 11. The online page for this specific activity can be found at: | http://www.nwaccessfund.org |
|---|---|

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.

- Deaf/Blind Telecommunications EDP-Federal
- Other (Describe)

Provide a description of the other activity/activities conducted.

IDA-Matched Savings Program

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

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

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

One central location (Central)

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

Yes

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)

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

Federal Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

State Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

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.

Through partnership with the Perkins School for the Blind, WATAP administers the iCanConnect WA (iCC), the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP) in Washington state. Funded through the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), iCC has a goal to provide distance communications technology and training for people with combined hearing and vision disabilities, and to increase opportunities for independence for this underserved population to stay connected with family, friends, service providers, and their communities. To be eligible for the program, a Washington resident must complete an application that documents that s/he: (1) Has combined vision and hearing loss to be considered "deaf-blind" which is defined as any individual with a combination of vision and hearing disabilities and for whom it is extremely difficult to attain independence in daily life activities, achieve psychosocial adjustment, or obtain a vocation. A practicing professional who has direct knowledge of the applicant's vision and hearing loss must verify that they meet the definition of deaf-blind. And (2) Has a household income that does not exceed 400 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG). Applicants who are enrolled in federal subsidy programs with income thresholds lower than 400 percent of the FPG are automatically deemed income eligible for the program. Applicants who are not enrolled in a qualifying federal low-income program must be deemed eligible by review of documentation of their income. Key tasks performed by WATAP staff and/or consultants and sub-contractors include: 1. Establishing and maintaining sub-contractor agreements for the purposes of conducting in-depth evaluation of client needs to match appropriate technologies and/or training on technologies to clients. 2. Conducting in-take and initial assessment of client's current skills and experience with technology including device usage history. 3. Conducting in-depth client evaluation, or refer when appropriate to qualified sub-contractor, to assess skills and to match and make recommendations for technology and equipment for the purposes of telecommunication access. 4. Providing a short-term loan of appropriate technologies and equipment to clients to make an informed decision as to whether the device will work for them to meet their telecommunication access goals and to ensure the equipment is a good fit before the equipment is purchased. WATAP will arrange for, insure, and ship all devices as necessary. Devices will also be maintained and updated as necessary. 5. Providing or make referral to appropriate sub-contractor for training on the equipment to ensure that client's telecommunication access goals will be met. 6. Collecting and report data to Perkins for reporting to the FCC according to established policies and procedures. 7. Conducting follow-up assessment/evaluation and client satisfaction surveys to ensure equipment is effectively being used by the client and to improve program procedures and service delivery. WATAP provides financial support to the Northwest Access Fund to support its Assistive Technology Individual Development Account (IDA) Program, a matched savings program. IDAs have been used to purchase all types of assistive technology, which is broadly defined to include any program or device that maintains or enhances the functional capabilities and/or quality of life of an individual with a disability. This program is closing down and is no longer accepting new participants. WATAP will continue to support the program through its close out which is expected in 2023.

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

<https://watap.org/icanconnect-faq-application>

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.

One central location (Central)

3. Do you charge a fee for this activity?

No

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

Banks/Financial Institution (select any/all)

Independent Living Center (select any/all)

Easter Seals (select any/all)

Disability/Assistive Technology Organizations (select any/all)

Federal Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

State Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

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

6. Describe the activity.

WATAP uses NATADS—Assistive Technology Classifieds, an online database for the exchange, sale, and donation of assistive technology devices, for device exchange. The purpose of this electronic marketplace is to link a person or an agency that has an assistive technology device that they no longer need with someone who can use it to increase their independence, quality of life or level of participation in work, school, or community living. Although it is difficult to collect the data associated with this activity, this activity fills a community need and WATAP offers the service regardless.

7. The online page for this specific activity can be found at: <https://myatprogram.org/home/53>

Module I: Device Refurbish and Reassignment and/or Open-ended 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
- Provide financial support to this entity

Federal Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

State Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

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

Local/Community Entities (select any/all)

Private Entities (select any/all)

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.

WATAP has a negotiated contract with one organization to increase the capacity of an existing device reuse program which already accept donated AT devices for refurbishment, reassignment, and/or redistribution to children and adults with disabilities in Washington State. WATAP contracts to Bridge Disability Ministries - Meyer Medical Equipment Center to increase its capacity and contribute to the sustainability of their durable medical equipment (DME) reuse program. The Center has been serving Washington for over 30 years and provides reused mobility and durable medical equipment and daily living aids at no cost to those of low income or without sufficient resources to meet their equipment needs. The Center originally had just one location in Bellevue. To address an increase in donations and need from the community, Bridge opened an additional location in Tukwila in 2020 and now operates out of 2 locations in western WA. The Meyer Medical Equipment Center has the appropriate means and procedures in place to evaluate the need of consumers. The minimal requirements the consumer must meet are: (1) reside in Washington state; (2) have a demonstrated need for the AT, as prescribed by a professional, or other qualified person describing the applicant's need and qualification for the device; (3) need AT in order to participate in employment, education or community living; and (4) have access to resources and supports for setup and training with the technology. The Center also has the means for evaluating and matching individuals with devices to ensure that appropriate devices are provided that address and meet consumer's needs. Specifically, Bridge works with qualified medical professionals who recommend the equipment needed and are available for consultation to help match and fit an individual's needs. WATAP formerly contracted with the Hearing, Speech, and Deaf Center (HSDC) to support Access Sound, HSDC's hearing aid reuse program. The Access Sound program shut down in early 2021. WATAP is exploring with HSDC the possibility of establishing an open-ended loan program of hearing assistance devices to support individuals with changing hearing loss. Lastly, WATAP coordinates the Evergreen Reuse Coalition, a Washington State reuse network, which seeks to make a positive impact to the environment, quality of life of consumers, and cost savings to consumers through effective reuse of assistive devices.

7. The online page for this specific activity can be found at: <https://watap.org/device-reuse>

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?

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)

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

Module J: Device Loan (Continued...)

Local/Community Entities (select any/all)

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

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.

Through device lending, persons who face challenges related to disability and aging, family members, and professionals are provided with the opportunity to try AT in their employment, education, or community living setting to identify effective AT solutions to maintain or increase independence and inclusion and enhance quality of life. WATAP will also allow devices to be borrowed as a short-term accommodation if a person's device is being repaired or if they are waiting for the arrival of a newly purchased device. Professionals, educators, and others may also borrow devices from our inventory for professional development, training, academic, classroom, and other needs. WATAP's Demonstration and Lending Library of AT has been in operation for over 15 years with a centralized maintained inventory at our Seattle location. WATAP accepts requests for AT device loans from a person with a disability, family members, advocates, or service providers (e.g. therapist, teacher, rehabilitation counselor). WATAP will not deny a loan based on the age, race, type of disability, income, or location in the state of the borrower. However if the borrower does not have sufficient knowledge or resources to support the device, a loan request may be denied. WATAP staff will ship any device available in its inventory to any location within the state using commercial shipping companies. If the device is currently checked out, the borrower will be put on a wait list. If an individual requests a device that WATAP does not have in its inventory, the individual will be referred to appropriate resources if available. WATAP charges a sliding scale lending fee which is based on the initial cost of the device. The fees not only help cover shipping as well as maintenance and insurance costs for the device but help sustain the device lending program and provide some funds to update the inventory as needed. Through interagency agreements and memorandums of understanding, WATAP collaborates with several partners around the state around device lending activities. WATAP partners with regional and local libraries on an Aids for Better Living program which enables library patrons to checkout and try devices directly from their local library branch. WATAP and the Timberland Regional Library System partner to offer library patrons in 5 counties (Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, and Thurston) in southwest Washington with the opportunity to try AT from a small collection of assistive devices to help with a variety of daily tasks. These devices are organized into categories of dressing, kitchen tasks, household management, reading and writing, leisure, communication, and computer access and are available to check out at the library branches and using the online Timberland Regional Library System Catalog. Devices are delivered to a local library branch for pick up. The purpose of this small collection is to offer the consumer a selection of devices that are available to stimulate decision making, but is not meant to be comprehensive. The program reaches individuals who commonly do not commonly self identify as having a disability. This relatively low cost activity has the great potential to reach very rural portions in Washington State as well as underserved populations especially aging consumers. However, significant challenges remain in collecting performance data from this activity, which hinders further expansion of this program. WATAP has established a new process to increase data survey response returns requiring Timberland library staff to directly check in the devices and to make sure the data cards are filled out and returned. If this new process has good success, WATAP will explore further partnerships with other regional library systems. WATAP also has a small collection of devices with the San Juan Island Library with similar scope and purpose as the partnership with TRL. WATAP supports K-12 students statewide through a partnership with the Special Education Technology Center (SETC) by supplementing their inventory to provide short-term loans of assistive technology to professionals in the school districts. SETC reimburses WATAP all loan fee for school districts referred from that program. WATAP supplements AT services within the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), Department of Services for the Blind (DSB), and others with device lending. These agencies provide funds to reimburse the device loan fees for device loans by agency counselors and providers, as well as, clients. DVR additionally provides funds to supplement WATAP's library inventory for devices that have direct benefits for its clients. WATAP often initiates a device loan through a device demonstration; in these cases, WATAP staff ensures that the consumer has appropriate supports for setting up and maintaining the device during the loan. If the device requires technical support, this can be provided by WATAP staff or by an appropriate local service provider. Some devices available for loan may require specialized support for their use, therefore, the person requesting the loan will be asked to identify who recommended the device and who will provide support during the loan period. Support persons may include centers for independent living staff, vocational rehabilitation counselors, teachers, OTs, PTs, Home Health staff, caregivers, etc. Devices are added or removed from inventory based on community needs and to ensure the inventory provides a robust range of available AT options to help consumers make informed decisions. WATAP maintains a "wish list" of AT that are: (1) frequently requested items we do not currently have in our inventory; (2) new upgrade or model makes frequently borrowed device obsolete; (3) device increases inventory for a target market (focus/goal area, such as supporting persons with paralysis, individuals receiving vocational rehabilitation services, seniors, etc.); and

(4) device will fill in gap in inventory for a particular AT category.

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

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)

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)

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

Private Entities (select any/all)

Other (select any/all)

5. Describe the activity.

WATAP provides AT device demonstrations in person at our central location in Seattle, virtually using video conferencing, and through hands-on opportunities at conferences, exhibits, trainings, and other targeted outreach events. All of the devices available in WATAP's Demonstration and Lending Library of AT are available for hands-on demonstration with one of WATAP's assistive technology specialists. Through a device demonstration, guidance and consultation is offered to individuals with disabilities and seniors aging with functional limitations, family members, and professionals to provide meaningful information and expertise to support independence and inclusion in employment, education, and community living and enhance quality of life. Individuals can make an appointment during weekdays to visit our Seattle office or to schedule a time to have a demonstration via video conferencing. Time for individualized consultation and guided exploration of the devices is also provided at our trainings, targeted community events, conferences, and in other settings. Whenever possible, these consultations will be conducted in collaboration with local service providers who can assist in meeting the on-going AT needs of the consumer. Regardless of the method for delivering, an AT device demonstration is designed to offer the opportunity to experience a variety of appropriate devices while being guided by experts allowing them to compare and contrast different devices will help them to make an informed decision about what device to purchase or whether to purchase a device at all. WATAP's specialists also discuss how to go about selecting and using the various options and will identify possible next steps in the process in order for the individual to obtain those devices and services. WATAP staff will provide appropriate referrals to service providers, vendors, and possible funding sources for the AT devices they have chosen, including referral to NW Access Fund to learn about the Assistive Technology Loan and other state financing programs. Additionally, WATAP manages and assigns a small collection of devices to each of the 3 regional DVR Assistive Technology Assessment Practitioners (ATAPs) for use in demonstrations in employment and transition services provided through DVR. The ATAPs report the required demonstration data to WATAP quarterly. Many individuals who receive a device demonstration will also borrow devices for further exploration and to try the devices in the setting where the AT would be used. In these cases, WATAP staff ensures that the consumer has appropriate supports for setting up and maintaining the device during the loan. If the device requires technical support, this can be provided by WATAP staff or by an appropriate local service provider. Some devices available for loan may require specialized support for their use, therefore, the person requesting the loan will be asked to identify who recommended the device and who will provide support during the loan period. Support persons may include centers for independent living staff, vocational rehabilitation counselors, teachers, OTs, PTs, Home Health staff, caregivers, etc.

6. The online page for this specific activity can be found at: <https://watap.org/device-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)

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

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)

WATAP offers by request training designed to affect policy, practice, and procurement around accessible information and communication technology throughout the state. We continue to respond to requests from state, county and city agencies and entities to deliver training around the principles of accessible design, accessible document creation, and accessible content creation on various social media platforms.

Planned Transition Training or Other Training Activity (optional)

As part of a series of training modules designed to support AT devices and service delivery for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, we offer every 2-3 years a module that addresses AT and Transition. The objectives for participants taking part in this module are to: improve understanding of process to identifying appropriate AT in the transition process; identify assistive technology solutions that can benefit client's function in school, transition to work, post-secondary education and community living; and improve understanding on how to access AT services to support decision making. As part of a partnership with King County, WATAP delivers curricula around AT to support aging in place and foster independent living to professionals, seniors, and unpaid caregivers working and living in rural portions of the county. WATAP provides a minimum of 2 in-depth trainings on AT per year and current modules include: (1) AT for self-care and independent living; (2) How to select and set up your smart home systems; (3) AT to support vision and hearing loss; (4) Did I Take My Pill? Assistive Technology for Medication Management; (5) AT to prevent social isolation and support good mental health; (6) Adaptive Gardening Solutions: How to Continue Gardening through Aging, Disability and Illness; and (7) There I Fixed It" - Low Tech Solutions to Independent Living. We are also adding additional modules around (1) Home safety and emergency preparedness; (2) AT for communication; and (3) AT for remote care and monitoring.

Planned Statewide Conference or Other Training Activity (optional)

WATAP is a major partner in the Washington AgrAbility Project, funded by a grant through the US Department of Agriculture to support assistive technology services and resources to farmers and agricultural workers across the state. The other key partners on this project are the WSU Skagit County Extension, the NW Access Fund, WA DVR, and WA Department of Labor and Industries. WATAP provides expertise for the development of and delivery of 6 trainings throughout the state each year. The curriculum of these trainings focuses on matching functional need with the selection of appropriate technologies, the utilization of everyday off-the-shelf materials to customize and improvise low-cost solutions, and providing appropriate examples of various assistive technologies and available resources and services.

3. The online page for this specific activity can be found at: https://watap.org/training_for_service_providers

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)

Expanding on the previous “Washington AT Aging Concerns, Challenges and Everyday Solution Strategies (ACCESS) Project,” a collaborative project between WATAP, Washington Department of Social and Health Service/ Aging and Long-Term Support Administration, and the Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation Georgia Institute of Technology, WATAP again has partnered in a new collaborative project funded by NIDILRR with Georgia Tech called “Accommodation Expert Support System for Aging Well.” This project, called Aging Well for short, is developing an online tool to assist in the process of accommodating older individuals aging into or with a disability to promote aging in place and independence. WATAP project staff are supporting the development and testing of the tool, as well as, supporting the project’s knowledge translation and dissemination work.

Planned Other Technical Assistance Activity (optional)

WATAP provides technical assistance and consultation on AT related programs and service design, and information and communications technology (ICT) accessibility, as a fee for service to government agencies, institutes of higher education, industry, and other entities mostly by request. WATAP supports and administers the Evergreen Reuse Coalition, which is comprised of community reuse organizations and other interested parties whose goal is to increase the capacity within Washington State to provide reuse services statewide. The Coalition continues to tackle issues around forming a network of collection and distribution centers, transportation of equipment between member organizations, coordination and leveraging of resources, and implementation of best practices. WATAP also supports the Assistive Technology Provider Network (ATPN) to connect service providers across WA from multiple disciplines who are isolated geographically and/or in the scope of their work. Meetings are held quarterly, and providers are able to share their knowledge and assist their peers with problem solving difficult cases. Providers also have the opportunity to learn about and experience AT products and services to help broaden their knowledge of the field and provide more comprehensive services to their clients.

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)

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

Module N: Public Awareness (Continued...)

Local/Community Entities (select any/all)

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

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)

WATAP continues work on the 5-year project funded by King County Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy providing assistive technology services and resources to low-income seniors and unpaid caregivers in rural and tribal communities in King County. Among other beneficial impacts, a major goal of this project is to provide greater access to assistive technology to help sustain seniors' ability to age in place and remain in their communities of choice by supporting greater self-determination and increased possibilities for adaption to different home environments. We work with community partners to deliver trainings and public presentations, and to distribute printed and electronic information. We have been working closely with several rural senior centers but continue to identify specific areas, communities, and organizations to target for outreach including tribal governments, local libraries, adult day centers, retirement homes, 4H clubs, local Granges, the County Fair, and Master gardening clubs. We utilize these venues to connect with the community to promote a healthy independent living, and as a means for us to showcase assistive technology and talk about the potential impact in the daily lives of seniors.

Planned Other Public Awareness Activity (optional)

As part of the WA AgrAbility Project, WATAP takes part in community outreach events to promote and provide resources around assistive technology to support farmers and agricultural workers across the state. The goal of outreach is to contribute to the sustainability of the AgrAbility Project in cultivating and supporting a community of practice and expertise throughout WA and to provide ongoing service and support to the agricultural community. Outreach for the project has included taking part in the Farm Food Expo and NW Ag Expo, which both take place annually in Spokane in eastern WA, and in the annual Skagit Farm Expo in western WA.

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)

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

WATAP and its partners and collaborators offer information and referral both as a first step in the continuum of services, as well as, a critical component in the other services offered. People of all ages with all disabilities, as well as, family members, service providers and the general public can access information on the availability, benefits, appropriateness and cost of AT devices and services through WATAP's toll free number and email address which are answered by knowledgeable program staff. WATAP has active communities on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter which help link experts and consumers statewide to timely and pertinent information, referral, and technical assistance. The WATAP web site highlights alternative financing, device reuse, device demonstration, and short-term device lending programs, and includes additional information on WATAP's other programs, services, and resources.

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 WA.
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.