

National Assistive Technology Act Data System State Plan - Full Report

Wyoming 2024

General Information

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

State AT Program Title	Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources			
State AT Program URL	http://www.uwyo.edu/wind/watr/			
Mailing Address	1000 E. University Avenue, Dept. 4298			
City	Laramie			
State	Wyoming			
Zip Code	82071			
Program Email	watr@uwyo.edu			
Phone	888-989-9463			
ТТҮ	800-908-7011			

Lead Agency

Agency Name	Wyoming Institute for Disabilities			
Mailing Address	1000 E. University Avenue, Dept. 4298			
City	Laramie			
State	Wyoming			
Zip Code	82071			
Program URL	https://www.uwyo.edu/wind/			

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)	Jarman, Michelle
Title	Interim Executive Director
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Program Director at Lead Agency (last, first)	Wofford, Teresa
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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)	Wofford, Teresa				
Title	Manager				
Phone	307-766-2932				
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Certifying Representative

Name (last, first)	Rapp, Farrell			
Title	Director, Research Services, VP for Research & Eco			
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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 agen council?	ncy for Vocational Rehabilitation a	re members of the advisory	1
2. How many representatives of the designated State ager members of the advisory council (when there is such a sep			0
3. How many representatives of a state Center for Independent Living are members of the advisory council?.			1
4. How many representatives of the State workforce deve Opportunity Act are members of the advisory council?	lopment board established under t	he Workforce Innovation and	1
 5. How many representatives of the State educational age 6. Do you have an alternative financing program (AFP) for the State AT Program and is operated by a non-profit em 6.1. If yes, how many representatives of an alt council? 	or assistive technology in your state tity?	e/territory that is separate from	4 Yes 2
7. How many representatives of the following agencies an	d/or organizations are members of	the advisory council?	1
(At least one is required by the AT Act.) Medicaid state agency	0		
State agency administering Developmental Disabilities Act	0		
State agency administering or organization funded under Older Americans Act	0		
Organization representing veterans	0		
University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)	0		
State Protection and Advocacy System	1		
State Council on Developmental Disabilities	0		
8. How many additional representatives of other agencies Early Intervention/Child Services state agency	and/or organizations are members	s of the advisory council? 0	4
State Deaf/Hard of Hearing Commission/Office		0	
State Insurance agency		0	
State Library/Secretary of State/Talking Books agen	cy	0	
State ADA Office/Disability Commission/Advocacy (Office	0	
State Legislators		0	
State Parent Training Information Center (IDEA fu	nded)	0	
Other (description required in text box below)		4	
Describe Other Agency		Director of Access Success at a Comm College; Retired Educator/Advocate; I of Life Enrichment at a Nursing/Rehal Center; WY Dept of Health (Speech L Pathologist at WY Life Resource Cent	Director b .anguage

9. How many individuals with disabilities who use assistive technology or their family members or guardians are members of 14 the advisory council?

Advisory Council Calculation

Description	Number
Individuals with disabilities that use AT or their family members or guardians on the advisory council	14
Total number of individuals on the advisory council	28
Percentage	50%

10. 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.

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

The Advisory Council had additional professionals/agency representatives join and this reduced our consumer majority membership. Additionally, the requirement to report the members from the alternative financing program impacted the consumer majority numbers. The WATR program is actively recruiting for additional AT users, families/guardians to increase our consumer majority. We are sharing information about the Advisory Council at conferences (WY Developmental Disabilities Conference, Parent Information Center Conference, and the WY Native American Educational Conference), in our monthly Dispatch newsletter, and on our website.

11. Procedures are in place to ensure that the Advisory Council members are geographically representative of the State and reflects the diversity of the State with respect to race, ethnicity, age, and types of disabilities, and users of types of services that an individual with a disability may receive, including home and community-based services (as defined in section 9817 (a)(2) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (42 U.S.C. 1396d not)), vocational rehabilitation services (as defined in section 7 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 705)) and services through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.)

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 <u>closed-out carryover fiscal year AT grant award (liquidated the</u> <u>previous December 31)</u>. 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 2024, you will report the closed-out grant award for FY21. The grant began 10/1/2020 with the first year ending on 9/30/2021, the first carryover year ended on 9/30/2022 and the second carryover year ended on 9/30/2023 with the 3 month liquidation period ending 12/31/2023.

Actual Expenditures for Closed-out Carryover Year Award	Final Expenditures	Percentage	Requirements
a. All State Level Activities	\$237,798.25	60.29%	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	\$156,615.75	39.71%	
c. Total Expenditures	\$394,414.00		
d. Total Award	\$394,414.00		
e. Lapsed Amount	\$0.00	0.00%	
f. Transition Training & Technical Assistance Set Aside	\$9,160.60	5.85%	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 <u>preceding fiscal year AT grant</u> 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 2024, you will report year to date FY22 grant award expenditures. This grant began 10/1/2021 with the initial award year ending on 9/30/2022 and the carryover year ended on 9/30/2023. Many programs received a no cost extension which extended the obligation date to 9/30/2024

The total grant award for was \$404,396.00

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	\$255,256.94	\$0.00	\$255,256.94
All State Leadership Activities	\$0.00	\$149,139.06	\$0.00	\$149,139.06
Total	\$0.00	\$404,396.00	\$0.00	\$404,396.00
Transition Training & Technical Assistance	\$0.00	\$8,062.47	\$0.00	\$8,062.47

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.)
- Other State Financing that creates AT savings (cooperative buying 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 <u>one option</u> that best describes who conducts this activity. Other entities e.g. contractors (Others)

2. Select the <u>one option</u> 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.) $\rm No$

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

Banks/Financial Institution (select any/all)

• Have written agreement with this entity

Independent Living Center (select any/all)

• Have written agreement with this entity

Easter Seals (select any/all)

Disability/Assistive Technology Organizations (select any/all)

Federal 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.

· Interest buy-downs

6. The lowest interest percentage for loans as established by the policies of the activity.	N/A
7. The highest interest percentage for loans as established by the policies of the activity.	N/A
8. The lowest loan amount (in dollars) provided as established by the policies of the activity.	\$500.00
9. The highest loan amount (in dollars) provided as established by the policies of the activity.	\$25000.00

10. Describe the activity.

The Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND)/Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources (WATR) applied for and was awarded a grant to establish an assistive technology financial assistance program. The Wyoming Technology Access Program (WYTAP) was formed as a collaboration between WIND/WATR, Wyoming Independent Living (WIL), and First Interstate Bank of Laramie. The program's goal is to help families and people with disabilities finance assistive technology (AT) devices. The loan program helps consumers by paying down 2% less the prime interest rate and extending the loan payback period. Ultimately, this provides more manageable monthly payments. Loan funds must be used to purchase assistive technology (AT) devices. AT devices are defined as anything that will improve mobility, accessibility, or quality of life. AT devices may also be used to enhance recreational activities such as skiing or hunting. Current assets of the program exceed what could be provided by a percentage within State Level Activities from Wyoming's allocation of AT Act funding. Original Wyoming AT Advisory Council members advised WATR to claim comparability. A task force of the council was formed to secure sustainable funding for WYTAP. WIND/WATR provides support for WYTAP advisory committee meeting expenses as well as the production and printing of materials as a coordination and collaboration activity. The program is the first of its kind in the state of Wyoming.

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

https://www.uwyo.edu/wind/watr/wytap.html

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

2. Select the <u>one option</u> that best describes who conducts this activity/activities. The Statewide AT Program (State AT)

3. Select the <u>one option</u> 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) No

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

Banks/Financial Institution (select any/all)

Independent Living Center (select any/all)

Easter Seals (select any/all)

Disability/Assistive Technology Organizations (select any/all)

Federal Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

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

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.

Wyoming's AT Act Program implements the federally funded National Deaf Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP), also known as iCanConnect. Wyoming iCanConnect program provides a full range of distance communication assistive technology devices needed by individuals who are deaf/blind. All funding used to purchase assistive technology devices for qualifying individuals are provided by federal sources outside the AT Act. AT Act funds are used to support the administration of the program. There are no fees associated with this program for the consumer. However, consumers must meet financial and disability eligibility criteria to qualify for the iCanConnect program.

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

https://www.uwyo.edu/wind/wydeafblind/index.html

Module G: Other State Financing Activities that Create AT Savings

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

Identify all types of other state financing programs that create AT savings that are conducted.

• AT Fabrication Program

2. Select the <u>one option</u> that best describes who conducts this activity/activities. The Statewide AT Program (State AT)

3. Select the <u>one option</u> 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) No

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

Banks/Financial Institution (select any/all)

Independent Living Center (select any/all)

Easter Seals (select any/all)

Disability/Assistive Technology Organizations (select any/all)

Federal Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

Module G: Other State Financing Activities that Create AT Savings (Continued...)

Local/Community Entities (select any/all)

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

Private Entities (select any/all)

Other (select any/all)

6. Describe the activity/activities.

WIND/WATR collaborate with the University of Wyoming (UW) Makerspaces, UW Engineering students, and Casper College Occupational Therapy Assistant program students to fabricate AT which creates savings for consumers. WIND/WATR staff educate and coach UW and Casper College students in designing, fabricating, and modifying AT devices for real world challenges. WIND/WATR will assess consumer needs and develop a plan to meet their needs through AT fabrication. WIND/WATR provide consumer education on implementing the fabricated AT into their daily lives. WIND/WATR will monitor outcomes to determine if modifications are required for future fabrications. WIND/WATR will share open-sourced 3D print designs in order to make AT more readily available for others. AT Make and Take activities will continue to be provided for civic organizations/clubs (National Student Speech Language Hearing Association) and educators across the state. WIND/WATR provides the materials for participants to make simple low tech AT using common materials (political signage, food canisters, pool noodles) and shares information on free software resources (Chat Editor) to aid in production of low tech communication systems. Items produced to include: iPad stands, visual schedule systems, playing card holders, scanning document stands, and low-tech communication aids. Participants are guided in the making of AT items by WATR staff and then take the item for their use or to share with a family member or client.

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

N/A

Module H: Device Exchange

1. Select the <u>one option</u> that best describes who conducts this activity. Both the Statewide AT Program and other entities/contractors (Both)

2. Select the <u>one option</u> 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

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.

WATR uses an online platform, AT4ALL, which is accessible via the world wide web and used by other State AT Act Programs. The primary goal of the program has been to expand and enhance AT access and acquisition. AT4ALL provides an easy-to-use online tool that allows individuals the opportunity to learn about and locate AT for used in education, employment, and community living environments. The exchange is a free "classified ad" type resource, designed to help individuals find, buy, sell, or give away used AT equipment. In addition to consumers being able to post, devices that are no longer applicable for WATR device loans or demonstrations are also posted on the site and available at significant savings to consumers. WATR faculty/staff are available to provide information, assistance, device loans, and demonstrations to help consumers make informed decisions. WATR also collaborates with the Wyoming Life Resource Center: Anna Maria Weston Therapeutic Equipment Lending program to facilitate device exchanges between consumers.

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

https://wy.at4all.com/ https://www.uwyo.edu/wind/watr/reuse/index.html https://health.wyo.gov/behavioralhealth/wlrc/therapeutic-services-information/

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

1. Select the <u>one option</u> that best describes who conducts this activity. Both the Statewide AT Program and other entities/contractors (Both)

2. Select the <u>one option</u> 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

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.

WATR uses an online platform, AT4ALL, which is accessible via the world wide web and used by other State AT Act Programs. The primary goal of the program has been to expand and enhance AT access and acquisition. AT4ALL provides an easy-to-use online tool that allows individuals the opportunity to learn about and locate AT for used in education, employment, and community living environments. WATR posts devices on the website for reutilization by consumers and makes these items available at significant savings to consumers. Devices moved to the reutilization site are items that are no longer applicable for WATR device loans or demonstrations. WATR faculty/staff are available to provide information, assistance, device loans, and demonstrations to help consumers make informed decisions. Device ownership is transferred to the consumer when the device purchase or reassignment is made between WATR and the consumer. WATR also collaborates with the Wyoming Life Resource Center: Anna Maria Weston Therapeutic Equipment Lending program. The Wyoming Life Resource Center houses donations of from around the state so that others may have access to equipment without having to purchase it. The Wyoming Life Resource Center provides Wyoming consumers with the needed equipment for as long as the item is needed. Once the item is no longer needed by the individual, the center asks that the item be donated back to the center. When the item is received back, the center provides necessary sanitization and maintenance of the item in preparation for new consumer use.

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

https://wy.at4all.com/ https://health.wyo.gov/behavioralhealth/wlrc/therapeutic-servicesinformation/

Module J: Device Loan

1. Select the <u>one option</u> that best describes who conducts this activity. Both the Statewide AT Program and other entities/contractors (Both)

2. Select the <u>one option</u> 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

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 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 WATR program provides a short-term device loan program which is available to all Wyoming residents, agencies, entities, or school districts in the state. AT is available for loan that meets a wide variety of needs across the lifespan and all types of disabilities. Consumers must have an approved short-term loan agreement on file with the program assuring acceptance of specific responsibilities to be able to borrow devices. The program includes a wide range of equipment including switches and mounts, computer access devices, environmental control, recreational AT, hearing assistive devices, home modifications, vision devices, and augmentative and alternative communication. The entire inventory is viewable online using the AT4ALL database. Each loan period is up to six weeks and includes manufacturer's instruction and/or a "cheat sheet" developed by the WATR staff with basic instructions about setup and use. The goals of WATR's device loan program are: 1. to assist in decision making, 2. to serve as a loaner while the consumer is waiting for device repair or funding, 3. to provide an accommodation on a short-term basis for a time limited event or situation, or 4. to conduct trainings, self-education or other professional development activities. Items are shipped and returned by commercial delivery service except for a few exceptionally large/heavy items that must be delivered or picked up in person. All loans are tracked in a database with routine followup to ensure timely return of devices. All devices are sanitized and checked for functionality before being loaned out again. The device loan program inventory is updated as resources will allow, with priority given to purchasing devices to reduce waiting lists and provide current high demand items. No fees are charged to borrow devices. In addition to the short term AT device loans, WATR developed a short-term ramp loan program called WyRamp. The WyRamp project provides access to a person's home through the use of temporary ramps, increasing both safety and access. The WyRamp project is a collaboration between WATR, the Wyoming Life Resource Center, and Goshen County Senior Friendship Center. The WyRamp program serves Laramie, Lander, and Torrington. The program provides a 4-month, no cost loan period for the ramp, a WyRamp representative provides assessment, installation, and removal of the ramp. Education and guidance regarding acquiring a permanent ramp is also provided to the consumer.

7. The online page for this specific activity https://wy.at4all.com/ https://www.uwyo.edu/wind/watr/wyramp.html can be found at:

Module K: Device Demonstration

1. Select the <u>one option</u> that best describes who conducts this activity.

The Statewide AT Program (State AT)

2. Select the <u>one option</u> 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)

Module K: Device Demonstration (Continued...)

Local/Community Entities (select any/all)

Private Entities (select any/all)

Other (select any/all)

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

Provide a description of the other collaborations.

Casper College (public 2 year institution) contrac

5. Describe the activity.

WATR assistive technology professionals provide device demonstrations according to the consumer's particular needs/interests. Demonstrations are available in person in the WATR lab, by appointment. Device demonstrations are also available using Zoom videoconferencing technology, accessible from any internet connected device and location. The goals of device demonstrations are to: 1. increase understanding of the types of devices that can help with specific needs 2. Improve knowledge of a device's features, and how those features differ from other devices that perform similar functions, 3. Increase understanding of how device(s) can help at work, in school, at home or in the community. The WATR program also has an agreement with Casper College's Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Program to provide targeted demonstrations for the Casper region. WATR staff provide trainings and AT devices for use in the program and within the Casper College's OTA assistive technology (AT) lab. Regularly scheduled device demonstrations are available onsite at the Casper AT lab and scheduled at community public locations/events (senior center, public library) and supervised by Casper College OTA faculty. OTA students provide an overview of the basic devices and then provide one-on-one guided exploration for patrons matching AT to their specific needs. If devices are identified that will meet the individual needs, referrals, and resources are provided to support acquisition. No fees are charged for these services.

6. The online page for this specific activity https://www.uwyo.edu/wind/watr/device_demonstrations.html can be found at:

Module L: Training/Educational Activities

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)

 State Units on Aging (select any/all)

 Area Agencies on Aging (select any/all)

 State Departments of Education (select any/all)

 Local School Districts (select any/all)

 Institutions of Higher Education (select any/all)

 Hospitals and Health Care Systems (select any/all)

 Early Intervention Programs (select any/all)

Federal 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)

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

Provide a description of the other collaborations.

AT Educational Consultant (Gayl Bowser)

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)

WIND/WATR has formed an WIND Accessibility Committee with the goal of providing equitable services and resources for Wyoming. The WIND Accessibility Committee is actively seeking to increase accessibility of digital documents and presentations produced by WIND/WATR faculty and staff. Committee members work together to learn best practices related to creating accessible documents, presentations, spreadsheets, posters, PDF's, websites, and more. The committee has created accessible templates for departmental use. The committee will provide ongoing ICT trainings for WIND/WATR faculty/staff at weekly meetings, presentations to the Ellbogen Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of Wyoming (UW), presentations to UW Disability Studies Theory and Practice classes, presentations to UW College of Health Sciences faculty/staff, and presentation at a statewide conference (WY Governor's Council for Developmental Disabilities Conference). The committee plans to expand presentations, trainings to include additional state and county level organizations, private entities, and the area on aging in Wyoming.

Planned Transition Training or Other Training Activity (optional)

WIND/WATR will continue to lead the University of Wyoming (UW) ECHO in Assistive Technology (AT) network training sessions. The ECHO model provides a training and capacity building program intended to support inter-professional connection and best practice implementation across Wyoming. UW ECHO networks utilize social learning models to expand knowledge and skills. Each ECHO session includes presentations, live support for problems of practice, and collective, virtual resource sharing. UW ECHO in AT provides training and sharing of best practices for educators, service providers, AT users, families, to consider, implement, and evaluate the use of assistive technology to improve outcomes. Planning for successful AT transitions are topics included in the ECHO in AT network sessions. Network participants include assistive technology professionals, specialists and teams, school administrators, general and special education teachers, para-educators, case managers, school counselors, school psychologists, state agency staff, and therapeutic support providers including occupational therapists (OTs), speech language pathologists (SLPs), physical therapists (PTs), etc. WIND/WATR support a professional learning community (PLC) for Wyoming SLPs and connect monthly with these professionals using an email list serv. Information provided to the SLP list serv includes best practices related to AAC assessment, funding, devices, resources for implementation, and training opportunities. Professional development opportunities include a 9 week AAC assessment course and a 9 week AAC implementation course. Both courses provide 21 continuing educational units (CEUs) and utilize an asynchronous learning platform. Additional training opportunities include mini-webinars (one day sessions) on the team approach to assessment and implementation. Trainings include information on successful AAC transitions and funding options for WY residents.

Planned Statewide Conference or Other Training Activity (optional)

Additional AT training opportunities related to early intervention are in development and will include AT for fine/gross motor, AT for communication/literacy, AT for hearing/vision, and AT for play/social skills.

3. The online page for this specific activity https://www.uwyo.edu/wind/watr/training/index.html can be found at:

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)

State Agency on Aging (select any/all)

Area Agencies on Aging (select any/all)

State Departments of Education (select any/all)

Local School Districts (select any/all)

Hospitals and/or Health Systems (select any/all)

Federal 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)

WATR provides technical assistance to multidisciplinary teams (school educators, related therapeutic support professionals-speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, private clinical providers, AT users, families, transition coordinators, job coaches, etc.) seeking problem solving solutions in identifying assistive technology (AT) and/or augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices and services. This collaborative approach with WATR faculty/staff and the AT users' team is designed to improve best practices related to the teams' policies and procedures related to identifying, acquiring, and implementing the AT/AAC system and/or services. This approach enhances resources, services, and provides increased awareness of evidence-based practices. Teams may identify policy change needs within their organization during the technical assistance with the WATR professionals. WATR is also collaborating with the Wyoming State Parks to increase accessibility within the state park system for individuals with disabilities. The WATR team and members from the AT Advisory Council have participated in site assessment at several state parks to share input related to the needs of the disability community. This technical assistance activity is helping the state park staff identify policy changes and needs within the state park system. Additionally, the WATR team has also been asked to participate in a new project to identify accessibility needs at the Wyoming State Fair. The Fair for ALL project will be a multi-year project and look at policy/procedural changes needed to increase access for individuals with disabilities attending the fair.

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)

Entities in the statewide and local workforce development systems (select any/all)

State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies (select any/all)

Aging and Disability Resource Centers (select any/all)

Elementary and Secondary schools (select any/all)

Federal Entities/Agencies (select any/all)

• Have written agreement with this entity

Module N: Public Awareness (Continued...)

Local/Community Entities (select any/all)

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

Wyoming Assistive Technology (AT) Awareness Day is an ongoing annual event. Established in 2020 by WATR's AT Advisory Council, the event includes testimonies from AT users, families, and professionals and a proclamation signing by Wyoming's Governor. The event has been held in person and virtually via video conferencing technology and is recorded, shared with those who are unable to attend. The event is a huge success in creating public awareness and WIND/WATR look forward to continuing this event for years to come. Another AT Awareness event include activities related Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) awareness month held internationally in October. Events for AAC awareness month include open lab activities featuring AAC/speech generating devices, webinar and in-person trainings using communication apps, information on communication app sales, and give away items featuring AAC resources (books, etc). WATR has also created an AT Ambassador program utilizing part-time staff in various regions of the state (Fremont, Converse, and Park counties). These individuals completed training with WATR and will be attending events in their local communities to increase awareness and provide a local face/representative for the area. The aim of the AT Ambassador program is to increase outreach and knowledge of the benefits of AT and WATR resources. AT ambassadors develop local public awareness activities which may include presentations, vendor booths, device demonstrations, and media relations in their communities.

Planned Other Public Awareness Activity (optional)

WIND/WATR provides the following public-awareness materials/activities: 1. Distributes program brochures in English and Spanish languages. 2. Develops and distributes brochures targeting specific audiences and topics. 3. Creates and disseminates the WY Accessibility Center "DispATch", a monthly e-news bulletin. 4. Presents to clubs/organized groups. 5. Participates in vendor booths at conferences. 6. Maintains a WATR website. 7. Hosts Casper College Occupational Therapy Assistant Student Tech TIp Videos on YouTube channel. 8. Maintains a social media presence. 9. Developed and carries out a digital ad campaign. 10. Fall mass mailing to school district SPED directors and school principals (401 locations) featuring a welcome back to school kit which includes an AT Considerations Booklet and information resources about the WATR program and ECHO in Assistive Technology..

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)

State Agency on Aging (select any/all)

Area Agencies on Aging (select any/all)

State Aging and Disability Resource Center/No Wrong Door System (select any/all)

State Public Health Department (select any/all)

State Departments of Education (select any/all)

Elementary and Secondary School Systems (select any/all)

Institutions of Higher Education(select any/all)

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

Early Intervention Programs (select any/all)

Hospitals and/or Health Systems (select any/all)

Federal 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

Our statewide AT program has one dedicated site in Laramie and contracts with Casper College Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) program in Casper to provide information and assistance. Each site has multiple individuals devoted to providing information and assistance. WATR and Casper College OTA offer multiple means for consumers to connect, which include telecommunications, e-mails, in-person, and virtual videoconference. WATR staff and contract staff receive extensive and ongoing training. A consumer can contact any of the two sites and speak to staff or leave a message via voice mail. E-mail inquiries are handled similarly, except that they all go to a general email address and then are forwarded to the appropriate staff member. Our policy is to respond to all inquiries within one business day. When contacting a consumer, the staff has a list of questions to ask to ensure we have all of the information necessary in understanding the consumer's needs. The staff enters this information into a protected log in the event that other staff meeting to problem solve and provide appropriate resources. WIND/WATR has an on-demand interpreting and translation service to increase equity. The interpreting service is provided through various platforms, including a HIPAA compliant interpretation portal, Zoom, Google meets, telehealth platforms, and phone.

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 Wyoming.
- 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.
- 25. The Lead Agency or Implementing Entity will conduct outreach to and as appropriate, collaborate with other State agencies that receive Federal funding for assistive technology including
 - a. The State educational agency receiving assistance under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C.1400 et seq.);
 - b. The State vocational rehabilitation agency receiving assistance under title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.);
 - c. The agency responsible for administering the State Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.); The State agency receiving assistance under the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.); and
 - d. Any other agency in a State that funds assistive technology.