

**STATE OF NEVADA  
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION**

**SERVICE SPECIFICATIONS  
NEVADA ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY COLLABORATIVE (NATC)**

**Any exceptions to these Service Specifications must be requested in writing and approved by the Deputy Administrator of the Aging and Disability Services Division.**

**PURPOSE:** To improve the provision of Assistive Technology (AT) to individuals with disabilities through a comprehensive statewide continuum of integrated activities, for individuals with disabilities of all ages, that are designed to:

- increase the availability of, funding for, access to, provision of, and training about AT devices and AT services;
- increase the ability of individuals with disabilities of all ages to secure and maintain possession of AT devices as such individuals make the transition between services offered by educational or human service agencies or between settings of daily living (for example, between home and work);
- increase the capacity of public agencies and private entities to provide and pay for AT devices and AT services on a statewide basis for individuals with disabilities of all ages;
- increase the involvement of individuals with disabilities and, if appropriate, their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives, in decisions related to the provision of AT devices and AT services;
- increase and promote coordination among State agencies, between State and local agencies, among local agencies, and between State and local agencies and private entities;
- increase the awareness and facilitate the change of laws, regulations, policies, practices, procedures, and organizational structures, that facilitate the availability or provision of AT devices and AT services; and
- increase awareness and knowledge of the benefits of AT devices and AT services among individuals with disabilities and their families, older individuals and their families, and the general population.

**PHILOSOPHY:** Disability is a natural part of the human experience and in no way diminishes the right of individuals to live independently, enjoy self-determination, make choices, contribute to society and experience full integration and inclusion in American society; and programs must assure that people with disabilities, and their families, have access to culturally competent services.

**AUTHORITY, LAW and STATE PLAN:**

Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) has the authority under NRS 427A.040 to develop and administer programs and services as described under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, As Amended under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) P.L. 113-128. Under WIOA the AT Act was moved under the Administration for Community Living. This grant award is issued under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, As Amended (AT Act), P.L. 108-364.

Nevada's Assistive Technology Act program is the Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative (NATC). ADSD is described as both the Lead Agency and Implementing Agency in the states Assistive Technology State Plan.

The Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative is responsible to submit Nevada's Assistive Technology State Plan every three years to the Administration for Community Living. The plan must be reviewed and updated annually or as required.

**The service specifications that each subrecipient must follow consist of SERVICE CATEGORIES AND REQUIREMENTS, and the GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.**

**SERVICE CATEGORIES AND REQUIREMENTS:**

Under the Act, and the required state plan, the NATC is required to provide both State Level Activities and State Leadership Activities that are the services that support the Acts defined purpose. The NATC strives to support all the Activities under the AT Act. It is our intent that by contacting the NATC and community partners you will be able to make more informed decisions on the AT that you need as well as the resources and options available to you to obtain the AT. Agencies and Organizations can receive information and supports to improve services. Collectively identifying barriers that exist in our state and supporting state improvement outcomes.

**State Level Activities:**

- State finance systems
  - Financial lending
  - Last resort, state funded AT purchasing.
- Device reutilization
- Device demonstration programs
- Device loan programs

**State Leadership Activities:**

- Information and Assistance
- Training
- Technical assistance
- Training and Technical Assistance specific to Transition.
- Public awareness

**NATC Programs and Services** have been established to support all possible services within the AT Act as well as provide the consumer with the most appropriate services in one location, whenever possible. The model of these services are established as 1. Assistive Technology Resource Centers, 2. Reutilization and Open-Ended Lending Centers, and 3. State Financing services.

### **1. Assistive Technology Resource Centers (ATRCs)**

An ATRC is a place where anyone should be able to make contact if their need is related to Assistive Technology or Assistive Technology Services. The ATRC must have staff both knowledgeable and capable of assisting consumers or connect the consumer with someone who is better suited. The ATRC staff must be able to highlight and articulate the importance of the consumers next possible, and appropriate steps. This is applicable rather is it consumer using Assistive Technology, a person supporting a person with a disability, an organization or agency. ATRC's strive to empower the consumer to be informed decision makers. ATRCs strive to improve Assistive Technology Services wherever they exist. Regardless of what an initial request is for, other ATRC services will very likely benefit the consumer and make a positive impact. Our goal is simple, to improve Assistive Technology Services. An ATRC will be the model that other services should follow, where Assistive Technology consumers are supported and challenged to be experts of their own needs and have vast input about the services that will best meet their needs.

**Information and assistance (I&A) activities** are responses to requests for information about Assistive Technology or Assistive Technology Services. May result in one-on-one assistance or referral to another agency, organization or company. For the purpose and to provide the person with needed information on AT products, devices, services, and/or funding sources, or providing intensive assistance to individuals about AT products, devices, services, and/or funding sources. This information may be provided in person, over the telephone, via email, or by some other means. It is our intent that by contacting the NATC and community partners you will be able to make more informed decisions on the AT that you need as well as the resources and options available to you to obtain the AT.

**Assistive Technology Device Demonstrations** compare the features and benefits of a particular AT device or category of devices for an individual or small group of individuals. The purpose of a device demonstration is to enable an individual to make an informed choice. Whenever possible, the participant should be shown a variety of devices. Device demonstrations can be for an individual or groups to compare the features and benefits of AT device(s), hands-on, with knowledgeable AT specialists. Individuals with disabilities, family members and service providers can visit the centers or plan for off-site demonstrations.

**Assistive Technology Device Loans:** The primary purpose of a device loans is to assist a person with informed decision making. Our program offers short-term device loans statewide and has a wide variety of AT available from low tech to high tech. The AT is loaned at no charge and the length of short-term device loans is 2 weeks although multiple loans can be made if the device is not needed for another person that is waiting. We can also loan devices to serve as a short-term accommodation. If a consumer is waiting for device repair or funding, it may be possible to use the devices on a short-term basis. Devices can also be loaned to

other entities for time-limited events such as self-education training or other personnel development activities.

**Training activities** are instructional events planned in advance for a specific purpose or audience. Designed to increase participants' knowledge, skills, and competencies regarding AT. Such events can be delivered to large or small groups, in-person, or via telecommunications or other distance education mechanisms. Examples of training include classes, workshops, and presentations that have a goal of increasing skills, knowledge, and competency, as opposed to training intended only to increase general awareness of AT.

**Technical Assistance (TA)** is a direct problem-solving service to assist programs and agencies in improving their services, management, policies and/or outcomes. TA may be provided in person, by electronic media such as telephone, video or e-mail and by other means. The following are examples of technical assistance: needs assessment, program planning or development, curriculum or materials development, administrative or management consultation, program evaluation and site reviews of external organizations, and policy development.

**Public Awareness** activities are designed to reach large numbers of people, including activities such as public service announcements, radio talk shows and news reports, newspaper stories and columns, newsletters, brochures, public forums and social media.

## 2. Reutilization and Open-Ended Lending Centers

Provide alternatives of obtaining Assistive Technology while also eliminating waste by reusing gently used equipment.

**Device Reutilization and open-ended lending** is where gently used equipment or new equipment is accepted (usually by donation). The equipment is sanitized, and refurbished as needed, and then reassigned to a new owner via an open-ended loan. Meaning as long as the person needs the use of it. The program would make it available for consumers if the AT is appropriate for their needs. A program could also provide AT that has been purchased if the community partner has a funding source outside of the AT Act and NATC to obtain the AT.

## 3. Assistive Technology for Independent Living Program

### 4. (State Financing Activity)

Providing a combination of services that support informed decision-making and addressing every day and essential daily living tasks that are necessary for a person with a disability to living in their home and community.

**State Financing Activities** The Assistive Technology for Independent Living Program (AT/IL) has specific service specifications, refer to those specifications if responding *to a competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity*. The AT/IL Program is a statewide program that supports an individual's choice to live in their community. Providing services to support individuals with disabilities to live in their community by addressing physical barriers to their essential daily

living needs. The program provides assistance to individuals to identify their Independent Living goals, assistance identifying appropriate Assistive Technology (AT), identifying resources available for the AT, assisting with the coordination with vendors or contractors, and authorizing resources when no other resources are available.

(Nevada also has a self-funded Alternative Financing Program where financial lending is made available for the purchase of Assistive Technology (AT). Statewide financial loan program through the CARE Loan Fund Program which is the states alternative finance program. CARE Loan exists as a resource for people with disabilities to purchase AT. The loans are offered at lower interest rates and often for more years than a typical bank loan, thus making the loans more affordable. *The CARE Loan Fund Program operates through CARE Chest of Sierra Nevada and is not funded competitively with funds from the NATC or ADSD for the financial lending program.*

## **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:**

Prospective NATC partners must have and maintain the expertise and structure necessary to provide NATC Program services. The NATC must have community partners that are committed to providing high quality AT services and capable of promoting AT and AT services as a collaborative partner with other organizations and agencies. Program policies and procedures are available for review from ADSD.

- Community partners must share the NATC's Purpose and Philosophy as collaborative partners in the provision of the program services.
- Inclusion of personnel who are knowledgeable and experienced in the following areas:
  - Device Demonstration, Device Loan, Training, Technical Assistance, and Information and Assistance services: Lead staff must have a minimum of 5 years of Assistive Technology experience identifying barriers, AT solutions, demonstrating AT (includes coordinating demonstrations by others), and supporting informed consumer decision making.
  - Inclusion of personnel who are knowledgeable in community resources and specifically resources to obtain Assistive Technology (minimum 5 years).
  - Reutilization: Inclusion of personnel who are knowledgeable about Assistive Technology Reuse including sanitization of the AT.
  - Provide an NATC Community Partner Staff Experience & Qualifications for all staff working on NATC services.
- Follow the Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative Programs Policy for the provision of services.

## Service Specifications

### Assistive Technology for Independent Living (AT/IL)

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- Ensure the Goals and Objectives established with ADSD are monitored and responses updated as defined with ADSD.
- Establish and maintain a data collection system for all coordinated services. Including surveying and collection of Performance Measure data as required throughout the reporting.
- Collect and maintain validated reporting data.
- Coordinate and collaborate with other agencies and organizations.
- Availability, to the maximum extent feasible, of personnel able to communicate (1) with individuals with significant disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication.