

Nevada Assistive Technology Council Position Statement 2023

The Nevada Assistive Technology Council asserts that all persons with disabilities, regardless of age or life situation, must have access to life empowering assistive technology to participate and succeed in modern society. Acquiring appropriate assistive technology (AT) devices and services are a necessity for many people with disabilities who are striving to succeed in life's pursuits including education, employment, living independently, and recreation. AT makes the essential difference in a child receiving an appropriate education, a person obtaining and maintaining their employment, a veteran re-entering civilian life, the individual trying to regain some independence, or seniors wanting to remain active and engaged in the community.

Assistive technology (AT) is defined any item piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities. Assistive technology can be low tech, mid tech or high tech. Examples of Assistive Technology include magnifying glasses, talking computers, software, robotics, phones, and Braille-output for persons who are visually impaired; communication devices for people who are unable to speak; adapted switches, keyboards, and controls for persons who have trouble accessing standard keyboards and other input devices; voice input or speaking through a phone or computer for those unable to type or persons who have learning or intellectual disabilities; and home modifications, vehicle adaptations, mobility devices such as wheelchairs, scooters, and walkers. AT may also include processes and systems that make a home or workplace more accessible, such as modifying some parts of job descriptions or changing the way paper files are accessed.

Therefore, the Nevada Assistive Technology Council holds the following unyielding position.

Basic Principles:

1. Appropriate technology is critical to the success and quality of life of people with disabilities.
2. The State of Nevada has gaps in services, collaborations, and practices.
3. The Nevada Assistive Technology Council will operate as lead stakeholder.
4. Assistive Technology service requires an interdisciplinary team-based approach.

Priorities, practices, and goals:

1. Ongoing exploration of the latest assistive technology devices annually as well as ongoing acquisition to ensure that no citizen with a disability, needing to explore assistive technology devices, goes without.
2. Increase and promote collaboration among State agencies, between State and local agencies, among local agencies, and private entities (such as managed care providers), that are involved or are eligible to be involved in carrying out activities to improve service delivery.

3. Support the creation of an accessible web-based system to increase exposure to Assistive Technology education and training opportunities.
4. Provide Assistive Technology reutilization, device demonstrations, device loans, training, technical assistance, and public awareness throughout the state.
5. 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 assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.
6. Increase awareness and knowledge of the benefits of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services among targeted individuals and entities and the general population.
7. Increase the ability of individuals with disabilities of all ages to secure and maintain possession of assistive technology devices as such individuals in transition between services offered by educational or human service agencies or between settings of daily living.

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