

Potential information for a Nevada AT Council Brochure

From: Responsibilities of Members (created in Nevada)

- Commit to the term of service and attend meetings scheduled during the term. Absences will be excused with prior notice or on a case-by-case basis.
- Become familiar with Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative (NATC) services and partnerships.
- Communicate and advise state government officials regarding the benefits of Assistive Technology devices and services for people with disabilities.
- Become familiar with other programs and agencies that provide Assistive Technology or services.
- Assist in developing the goals and activities of the Advisory Council.
- Act as a communication link to people and organizations in the community.
- Make recommendations to staff regarding program activities including:
 - Assistive technology programs and services
 - Outreach strategies including use of social media
 - Program/partnership expansion
 - Effectiveness and comprehensiveness of program's statewide
- Encouraged to serve on active sub committees.

From AT3 Technical Assistance:

The AT Act describes the requirement to establish an advisory council: "to provide 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 the measurable goals described in subsection (d)(3)."

The primary functions of the advisory council are:

- To serve as ambassadors of the AT Act program
- To assist with the development of the three year State Plan for Assistive Technology (SPAT) submitted to the Administration on Community Living, US Department of Health and Human Services
- To assist the program with implementing and evaluating the activities identified in the SPAT and suggesting amendments, if needed, based on the Annual Progress Report (APR)
- To provide a stakeholder voice about issues related to access to and acquisition of assistive technology in the state the program serves
- To provide input to other agencies and or partners in order to improve AT services within the state

AT Act Services:

Nevada created or supports all of the services described in the Assistive Technology Act. The AT Act requires that majority of funding is utilized for direct consumer services.

Information and assistance (I&A) activities when an individual needs help with finding information about Assistive Technology (AT) and AT services. Either providing intensive assistance to individuals about AT products, devices, services, and/or funding sources. Or this may include connecting individuals with other agencies, organizations, or companies that can provide them with needed information on 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.

Assistive Technology Device Demonstrations: **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.

Assistive Technology Device Loans: **The purpose of a device loan** may be to assist in decision making, to serve as a loaner while the consumer is waiting for device repair or funding, to provide an accommodation on a short-term basis for a time-limited event, or for training self-education or other personnel development activities.

Reutilization: Refurbish, Repair and Reuse of Assistive Technology activities are those in which devices are accepted (usually by donation) into an inventory are sanitized and refurbished as needed, and then reassigned to a new owner (by sale or give away) or placed with a new user via open-ended loan.

State Financing Activities: Nevada has two programs that fall under State Financing Activities. First, Nevada offers a 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 borrow money for the 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. CARE Chest is also capable of making micro loans directly for lower cost AT. **Second,** the Assistive Technology for Independent Living program (AT/IL). The program provides supports for development of Independent Living goals and with state funding resources the program can provide AT to support a person's choice to live in a community setting. AT/IL assists with defining your goals and identifying the AT options and resources. Where resources do not exist resources can be used to obtain the appropriate durable medical equipment, home, and vehicle modifications needed in support of community living

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 direct problem-solving service provided by AT Program staff 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.