

# The Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative (NATC)

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The **Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative (NATC)** is supported through the Administration on Community Living (ACL) grants under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 as amended. Current grants 2001NVATSG (2020) & 2101NVATSG (2021).

Under the Assistive Technology Act the NATC is required to provide both State Level Activities and State Leadership Activities defined within the Act. The NATC strives to support all the State Level Activities under the Act. It is our intent that by contacting the NATC and community partners you will be able to make more informed decisions on the Assistive Technology that you need as well as the resources and options available to you to obtain the Assistive Technology. Services are available for multiple purposes and provided through two longstanding collaborative partners. These include Assistive Technology Resource Centers, Reuse Centers, and State Financing options described below. Also described are the Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT) in Nevada.

## **Assistive Technology Resource Centers – Exploring, choice & control and systems change:**

**Information and assistance (I&A) activities** are extremely important and where engaging the consumer begins. I&A is defined as responding to requests for information on Assistive Technology products, devices, services, and/or funding sources. I&A can be extensive or simple. Could involve research, connecting individuals with other resources, problem solving, or providing the consumer with information to explore independently. We do not want the consumer to be reliant on us, but to be their own experts.

**Device demonstrations** compare the features and benefits of a particular Assistive Technology 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. It is important to understand that demonstration can be complexed. As the consumers start to see the potential, you will often see that they have more needs than what the initial goal was for. Sometimes exploring one barrier often reveals many more. A group demonstration can lead to a host of individual engagements.

**Device Loans:** The purpose of a device loan is to assist in decision making or to serve as a loaner while the consumer is waiting for device repair or funding, or to provide an accommodation on a short-term basis. Also can be loaned for self-education training or other personnel development activities for people with Assistive Technology users. The primary purpose is to put the Assistive Technology in the hands of individual's so they can make an informed choice.

**Training activities** are instructional events planned for a specific purpose or audience. Designed to increase participants' knowledge, skills, and competencies regarding Assistive Technology. Examples of training include classes, workshops, and presentations that have a goal of increasing skills, knowledge, and competency. Trainings are a system change tool to improve Assistive Technology services throughout the state.

**Technical Assistance (TA)** is direct problem-solving service to assist programs and agencies in improving their services, management, policies and/or outcomes. 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. TA is a system change tool to improve Assistive Technology services throughout the state.

**Public awareness activities** are activities 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.

**NATC's community partner is the Nevada Assistive Technology Resource Center (NATRC).** The NATRC is based at the University of Nevada Reno's Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities (NCED). The NATRC acts as the NATC's statewide Assistive Technology Resource Center. With decades of assistive technology and disability experience it is staffed mostly by individuals that are experienced assistive technology users.

#### **Nevada Assistive Technology Resource Center**

Program Contact: 775-682-9070

Toll Free (in Nevada only): 800-216-7988

[natrc@unr.edu](mailto:natrc@unr.edu)

[https://www.unr.edu/nced/projects/nced\\_natrc](https://www.unr.edu/nced/projects/nced_natrc)

Scott Youngs, Project Manager

Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities

University of Nevada Reno

### **Reutilization: Refurbish, Repair and Reuse of Assistive Technology**

**Device reuse and open-ended device loan activities** are those in which devices are accepted (usually by donation) into an inventory are sanitized and refurbished if necessary. Then it is reassigned to a new owner as open-ended loan or until it is no longer needed. Open-ended loans can include new equipment that has been purchased with funding outside of the Act funding.

NATC community partner CARE Chest of Sierra Nevada has maintained a robust equipment-reuse program for nearly 30 years. Gently used devices are inspected, perhaps minor repairs, and sanitized before being offered for reuse. The reuse programs provide access to wheelchairs, shower chairs, walkers, canes and much more. Equipment is sanitized using the best of equipment and care. What is available is only dependent on what has been donated and is capable of being used by someone else. CARE Chest also provides new equipment through extensive fund raising.

#### **CARE Chest Medical Equipment Program**

<http://carechest.org/site/programs-2/>

7910 N Virginia St.

Reno, NV 89506

Phone: (775) 829-2273

Fax: (775) 829-8745

<https://www.facebook.com/carechest>

## 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 purchase Assistive Technology. The financial 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 Assistive Technology.

### **CARE Loan Fund Program (Statewide)**

Eunice Hylin

CARE Chest of Sierra Nevada:

7910 N Virginia St.

Reno, NV 89506

Phone: (775) 829-2273

Email: [ehylin@carechest.com](mailto:ehylin@carechest.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/carechest>

<http://carechest.org/site/programs-2/>

**Second**, the Assistive Technology for Independent Living program (A T/IL) is a statewide program that supports an individual's choice to live in their community with the use of Assistive Technology (AT). The programs focus is on removing daily living barriers. The program can help individuals define their Independent Living goals and determine the appropriate Assistive Technology (AT) needed to care for themselves, or receive care, in their homes and their community. The program has resources to provide a variety of AT when no other resources are possible. Individuals that are currently in a care facility, or at high risk of placement in a facility, can be prioritized (if funding is available) for the services that are necessary for them to live independently in the community.

NATC community partner CARE Chest of Sierra Nevada provides statewide case coordination, information, assistance, and follow-along support directly with the AT/IL consumers until their goal/goals have been met. It is our intent to make sure each consumer is well informed. We want you to know how the program works and what you can expect. A major goal of ours is to promote the Independent Living Philosophy emphasizing consumer control where people with disabilities are the best experts on their own needs and how to live, work, and take part in their communities. Particularly about services that powerfully affect their day-to-day lives and access to independence.

### **Assistive Technology for Independent Living Programs (Statewide):**

#### **Northern Nevada; CARE Chest of Sierra Nevada:**

Main Office: (775) 829-2273 Ext 108

Toll Free: (866) 206-5242

Email: [bdonnelly@carechest.com](mailto:bdonnelly@carechest.com)

#### **Southern Nevada; CARE Chest of Sierra Nevada:**

5550 West Flamingo Road, Ste A3, Las Vegas, NV 89103

Main Office: (702) 335-4241; Toll Free: (866) 206-5242

Email: [ilprogram@carechest.com](mailto:ilprogram@carechest.com)

## **Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT)**

**The Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center (NDALC) is the PAAT lead agency and directly funded by the Administration for Community Living.**

The PAAT's were created for the protection and advocacy systems in each State for the purpose of enabling such systems to assist in the acquisition, utilization, or maintenance of assistive technology devices or assistive technology services for individuals with disabilities. This program is for individuals with disabilities seeking Assistive Technology (devices or systems used to improve or maintain the capabilities of persons with disabilities). Designed to promote the provision of assistive technology and services through systemic reform, PAAT has the authority to negotiate compliance with federal law.

Administered by Administration for Community Living and the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

- Conducting consumer-responsive activities, including activities that will lead to increased access, for individuals with disabilities, to funding for assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;
- Engaging in informal advocacy to assist in securing assistive technology devices and assistive technology services for individuals with disabilities;
- Engaging in formal representation for individuals with disabilities to secure systems change, and in advocacy activities to secure assistive technology devices and assistive technology services for individuals with disabilities;
- Developing and implementing strategies to enhance the long-term abilities of individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives to advocate the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to which the individuals with disabilities are entitled under law other than this Act;
- Coordinating activities with protection and advocacy services funded through sources other than this Act, and coordinating activities with the capacity building and advocacy activities carried out by the lead agency; and
- To improve the awareness of individuals with disabilities about the accessibility of assistive technology and assist such individuals in the acquisition, utilization, or maintenance of assistive technology devices or assistive technology services.

### **Elko:**

Main Office: (775) 777-1590

Toll Free: (800) 992-5715

Nevada Relay: 711

Email: [elko@ndalc.org](mailto:elko@ndalc.org)

### **Las Vegas:**

Main Office: (702) 257-8150

Toll Free: (800) 992-5715

Nevada Relay: 711

Email: [lasvegas@ndalc.org](mailto:lasvegas@ndalc.org)

### **Reno:**

Main Office: (775) 333-7878

Toll Free: (800) 992-5715

Nevada Relay: 711

Email: [reno@ndalc.org](mailto:reno@ndalc.org)