

State Plan for Assistive Technology, 2021–2023

**Public Hearing Presentation
June 2022**



**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES**

What is Assistive Technology?

- Assistive Technology (AT) is any device or service that is used by a person to increase or maintain their skills, independence, and safety.
- AT is often used by people with disabilities, people who are aging, or caregivers.

What is Assistive Technology? (Continued)

- AT can be used at work, school, home, or community settings.
- AT can be as simple as a magnifier or as complex as voice-activated or eye gaze computer software.

Federal Definition of AT

AT is any product or piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, used to maintain or improve the functional capabilities of people with disabilities.

Source: Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended in 2004 [H.R. 4278]

Federal Definition of AT Services

AT service is any service that directly assists an individual with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device. These services can include but are not limited to evaluation, acquisition, device selection, training, and technical assistance.

Source: Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended in 2004 [H.R. 4278]

AT Services Flow

- How do you access information about and acquire assistive technology devices for yourself, family members, or clients to enhance life, work, and play?
- The AT Act authorizes state leadership and state-level activities designed to provide an integrated continuum of AT services. Each activity within the continuum provides critical access or acquisition to AT.



State AT Program (1)

Functions of the State AT program:

- Supporting state efforts to improve the provision of assistive technology to individuals with disabilities of all ages through comprehensive, statewide programs that are consumer-responsive.
- Making assistive technology devices and services more available and accessible to individuals with disabilities and their families.

State AT Program (2)

- The Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, oversees the state grant for AT.
- ACL provides one grant to each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the territories. The grants are non-competitive and based on a formulary. The amount of each state's annual award is based largely on state population.



State AT Program (3)

- The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) receives the state grant for AT and oversees WisTech, Wisconsin's State AT program.
- AT services provided through the WisTech program are delivered by central DHS staff and by external subcontractors and collaborative partners.



WisTech Subcontractors

- Access to Independence
- Bureau of Correctional Enterprises
- Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin
- Independence First
- Independent Living Resources
- indiGO
- Midstate Independent Living Consultants
- Options for Independent Living
- Society's Assets
- University of Wisconsin-Madison

WisTech Collaborative Partners

- Aging and disability resource centers
- Center for Deafblind Persons, Inc.
- Cooperative Educational Services Agency #2
- Department of Public Instruction

- Good News Project
- Hear Wisconsin
- Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DHS)
- Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHS)
- Public Service Commission

What is the State AT Advisory Council?

- The State AT Advisory Council provides consumer-responsive, consumer-driven advice to the state for planning, implementation, and evaluation of the activities carried out by the State AT program, including setting measurable goals.

What is the State AT Advisory Council? (Continued)

- At least 51% of advisory council membership is comprised of people with disabilities who are AT users. The other members of the council are representatives from agencies and organizations, as prescribed in the AT Act.
- Please visit [Wisconsin's State AT Advisory Council website](#) for more information.

What is the State Plan for AT?

- Each state submits a three-year plan to ACL to conduct the required AT services and activities, as defined in the AT Act.
- The State Plan for AT is developed by the State AT Advisory Council and through public input.

What is the State Plan for AT? (Continued)

- The state plan includes budgetary allocations for state leadership and state level activities.
 - State level activities include state finance, device demonstration, device loan, and device reutilization.
 - State leadership activities include training, technical assistance, and information and assistance.
- DHS submits a report on state plan goals and program data to ACL annually.

State AT Plan Components

- Who conducts the state level activities?
 - State AT grant program
 - Contractors (paid and unpaid)
 - Both
- How are AT services implemented?
 - Central location
 - Regional sites
 - Combination
- How is the budget allocated?
 - Is a fee charged for an activity or not?
 - Who specifically conducts the activities?
 - What are specific examples of the activities?

Wisconsin State AT Plan, 2021–2023

State Level Activities Conducted

State Level Activity	Activity Conducted? (Yes or No)	Who Conducts? (State, Other, or Both)	Where is it Conducted? (Central, Regional, or Both)	Fee Charged?
State Financing	Yes	Other—WisTech Subcontractors	Regional	No
Device Reutilization	Yes	Other—WisTech Subcontractors	Regional	A fee may be charged to purchase reutilized equipment.
Device Loan	Yes	Both	Both	No
Device Demonstration	Yes	Both	Both	No

Public Input—Services Conducted

Do you have any comments on how Wisconsin plans to conduct or implement state level or state leadership activities through the State AT Program (WisTech)?

State AT Program Budget Allocations

State AT programs that provide all state level activities must allocate their annual grant award as follows:

- 60% state level activities
- 40% state leadership activities

Transition Allocation of State Leadership Activities

5% of the budget for state leadership activities must be allocated to transition training or technical assistance. Transition is defined as students with disabilities, within the meaning of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), that receive transition services; and adults who are individuals with disabilities maintaining or transitioning to community living.

Wisconsin's State Grant AT Program Budget, 2021–2023

- The State AT program budget runs on a federal fiscal year (FFY) from October 1 through September 30 of the following calendar year.
- Wisconsin's grant allocations for 2021–2023 are:
 - FFY 2021: \$524,397.
 - FFY 2022: \$524,987 (estimated). Wisconsin also received an extra \$80,000 in FFY 2022 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Expanding Public Health Workforce grant).
 - FFY 2023: to be determined.

Proposed Budget Allocations in the State AT Plan, 2021–2023 (1)

FFY 2021: \$524,397

- State level activities: \$314,638.20
- State leadership activities: \$209,758.80 (\$10,487.94 of this must be spent on transition training or technical assistance.)

FFY 2022: \$524,987
(estimate)

- State level activities: \$314,992.20
- State leadership activities: \$209,994.80 (\$10,499.74 of this must be spent on transition training or technical assistance.)

Proposed Budget Allocations in the State AT Plan, 2021–2023 (2)

FFY 2022 ARPA Funds: \$80,000

- The intent of the program is to increase the number of public health professionals within the aging and disability networks to support the public health of older adults and people with disabilities.
- Funding may be used to cover wages and benefits for public health professionals; the costs of associated equipment, training, and supplies for these professionals; and other indirect costs.

Proposed Budget Allocations in the State AT Plan, 2021–2023 (3)

FFY 2022 ARPA Funds: \$80,000

- These funds must be used by September 30, 2024.
- The State AT Advisory Council and WisTech program have not determined what these funds will be spent on at this time.

Proposed Budget Allocations in the State AT Plan, 2021–2023 (4)

- FFY 2023: \$524,397* (to be determined)
- State Level Activities \$314,638.20
- State Leadership Activities \$209,758.80
(\$10,487.94 of this) must be spent on transition training or technical assistance.

*Note: Since the FFY 2023 grant amount is still to be determined, the FFY 2021 amount is being used as an estimate.

Public Input—Budget Allocations

Do you have any comments on the proposed budget and expenditures of the State AT program (WisTech) for federal fiscal years 2021–2023?

Public Input—Underserved Populations

Do you feel there are people in your community or certain populations who can benefit from AT devices and services and are not receiving them? This can include, but is not limited to:

- People with disabilities in urban versus rural areas.
- Specific disability groups or populations (for example, Deaf people or people with physical disabilities).
- Minority populations.
- Specific age groups.

State Plan Feedback (1)

If you have additional comments related to the State Plan for Assistive Technology, 2021–2023, that you did not share during the public hearing, please do so via mail or email.

Mail:

WisTech Program
ATTN: State Plan Feedback
1 W Wilson Street, Room 551
PO Box 2659
Madison, WI 53701-2659

Email:

[DHS WisTech Email](#) (Please list subject line of email as “State Plan Feedback.”)

State Plan Feedback (2)

- Please note the State AT Advisory Council and WisTech will be able to incorporate public input received directly related to the State AT Plan and the State AT activities and service delivered by the WisTech Program. The AT Advisory Council and WisTech Program will not be able to incorporate public input outside of these areas, but may use any additional information received to assess AT needs on a statewide basis.

Thank You for Your Time and Participation

For more information please contact:

Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources

ATTN: WisTech Program

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