Public Comment Request: Wisconsin's State Plan for Assistive Technology

1. (untitled)

1. Do you support the goals, and strategies to achieve these goals, listed in the State Plan for Assistive Technology?

Yes

2. Do you have any comments related to Goal 1: Awareness (Increase awareness of assistive technology and the WisTech program)?

I think the deliverables should include assistive technology assessments for reasonable accommodations in the workplace.

3. Do you have any comments related to Goal 2: Sustainability (Ensure sustainability and quality of assistive technology services supported by the WisTech program)?

Plan should link to or include the AT workforce development plan. Without more information it is difficult to comment on this deliverable.

4. Do you have any comments related to Goal 3: Knowledge (Provide professional training opportunities through the WisTech program)?

Professional training opportunities should be more broadly publicized to the disability community and advocates and be open to them.

5. Do you have any comments related to Goal 4: Universal Accessibility (Ensure universal accessibility of the WisTech program)?

This is a good goal but should go without saying.

6. Are there additional underserved populations that were not identified in the State Plan for Assistive Technology that should be addressed?

People that live in impoverished urban areas have limited access to assistive technology as well.

7. Are there any additional unmet assistive technology needs that were not identified in the State Plan for Assistive Technology, that should be addressed?

The plan speaks generally about unmet needs including student outside the classroom, AT training for older adults and people with disabilities, home modifications, and underserved populations but it does not list any specifics as to how these needs will be met or addressed. For example, home modifications are often difficult to get because available funding sources won't cover them. How is this addressed? or how are underserved populations going to be reached?

8. Please provide any additional comments, suggestions, or strategies to achieve our desired outcomes as identified in the 2018-2020 State Plan for Assistive Technology.

It seems the vast majority of your resources are allocated to independent living centers, while the independent living centers do good work, there is a large segment of the disabled population that has little or no contact with them. They generally do not do a lot of work with people with mental health issues, people with cognitive disabilities, and many people with sensory disabilities. All of these populations could benefit greatly from assistive technology.