

Archived Information

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Goal: To increase availability of, funding for, access to, and provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.

Relationship of Program to Volume 1, Department-wide Objectives: Goal 2: Objective 2.4—individuals with disabilities will receive technology enabling them to learn, contribute and participate in school consistent with overall high standards; Goal 3: Objectives 3.1 and 3.4—secondary school students and adults with disabilities are provided with accessible information and the technology to support their job potential and lifelong learning; Goal 4: Objective 4.4—all technology investments are accessible to all users including employees and customers.

FY 2000—\$34,000,000

FY 2001—\$41,112,000 (Requested budget)

OBJECTIVE 1: THROUGH SYSTEMIC ACTIVITY, IMPROVE ACCESS TO AND AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY (AT) FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES WHO REQUIRE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY.

Indicator 1.1 Information: The number of individuals with disabilities who receive information about AT will increase by 10 percent annually.

Targets and Performance Data			Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
<i>Number of persons who received information</i>			<p>Status: No 1999 data but progress toward target is likely.</p> <p>Explanation: The significant increase from FY 1997 to FY 1998 is due to an increase in the data sample size (35 states to 42 states) and the implementation of state-operated Web sites facilitating electronic requests for information. Only actual requests for information were counted.</p>	<p>Source: 56 state projects have responded to National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) Performance Guidelines (Annual Report). <i>Frequency:</i> Annually. <i>Next Update:</i> Fall 2000.</p> <p>Validation Procedure: Verified by ED attestation process and ED Standards for Evaluating Program Performance Data. Nationally recognized organization was recently awarded a technical assistance grant to review existing data collection instrument as to validity, reliability, and accuracy and will revise, refine as necessary, and develop new and improved GPRA-responsive procedures for collecting data. We will continue to use this indicator as it is extremely important and reflects a priority activity of the grantees.</p> <p>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: All states have been using same instrument since 1996. While we have been able to capture some useful data and are able to report on this particular GPRA indicator, the process is cumbersome and lengthy and does not take advantage of technological capabilities. New grantee will develop and assist NIDRR to implement an abbreviated, useful, responsive and user-friendly Web-based approach to data collection.</p>
Year	Actual Performance	Performance Targets		
1997:	88,003			
1998:	614,942			
1999:	No data available	676,000		
2000:		744,000		
2001:		818,000		

Indicator 1.2 Trained professionals: The number of professionals trained to provide AT services will increase by 5 percent annually.				
Targets and Performance Data			Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
<i>Number of professionals trained</i>			<p>Status: No FY 1999 data, but progress toward target is likely.</p> <p>Explanation: The FY 1997 data measure professionals trained to provide AT services.</p>	<p>Source: All 56 states have responded National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation (NIDRR) Performance Guidelines (Annual Report). <i>Frequency:</i> Annually. <i>Next Update:</i> Fall 2000.</p> <p>Validation Procedure: Verified by ED attestation process and ED <u>Standards for Evaluating Program Performance Data</u>.</p> <p>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: Same as above.</p>
Year	Actual Performance	Performance Targets		
1997:	77,204			
1998:	81,760			
1999:	No data available	86,000		
2000:		90,000		
2001:		95,000		
Indicator 1.3 Barrier reduction: Annually, grantees activities will result in legislative and policy changes that reduce barriers.				
Targets and Performance Data			Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
<i>Percentage of the 56 grantees responsible for change in at least one area</i>			<p>Status: No FY 1999 data, but progress toward target is likely.</p> <p>Explanation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The FY 1997 and 1998 data indicate that all states are engaged in barrier reduction work and that the level of effort in barrier reduction increases annually. 90 percent or more of the states have been successful in implementing change. It is difficult, however, to express the outcomes of the work using the current data collection instrument. The FY 1997 and FY 1998 data at left demonstrate that most of the state projects were instrumental in making legislative or policy changes affecting access to AT but does not capture what impact those changes have had on individuals with disabilities. 	<p>Source: Performance Guidelines. <i>Frequency:</i> Annually. <i>Next Update:</i> Fall 2000.</p> <p>Validation Procedure: Verified by ED attestation process and ED <u>Standards for Evaluating Program Performance Data</u>. An important part of the scope of work for the new grantee referred to above is to develop accurate strategies for collecting and reporting barrier reduction related data.</p> <p>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: Same as above.</p>
Year	Actual Performance	Performance Targets		
1997:	95%			
1998:	92%			
1999:	No data available	95%		
2000:		95%		
2001:		95%		

Indicator 1.4 Individuals who receive loans: The number of individuals with disabilities who receive loans per \$1 million invested will meet or exceed the baseline.			Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
Targets and Performance Data			Status: Unable to judge. Explanation: This new alternative loan program will be funded for the first time in FY 2000. A baseline will be established once data are available.	Source: Once established, grantee progress reports. <i>Frequency:</i> Annually. <i>Next Update:</i> FY 2001. Validation Procedure: No data to validate. Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: N/A.
Year	Actual Performance	Performance Targets		
1997				
1998				
1999:	No data available	N/A		
2000:	N/A	N/A		
2001:				

OBJECTIVE 2: THROUGH PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY, INCREASE ACCESS TO AND FUNDING OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES AND SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

Indicator 2.1 Funding sources: The number of individuals receiving protection and advocacy services resulting in AT device and/or service will increase 5 percent annually.			Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
Targets and Performance Data			Status: No FY 1999 data available. Explanation: This is a new indicator. The Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (Tech Act) was signed into law in November 1998. Section 102 authorizes new grants to states to provide protection and advocacy services.	Source: To be determined by new technical assistance grantee. <i>Frequency:</i> Annually. <i>Next Update:</i> FY 2000. Validation Procedure: Data will be provided by grantees. No formal verification procedure applied. Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: Data not yet available. However, developing data collection instrument is part of scope of work of technical assistance provider as described above.
Year	Actual Performance	Performance Targets		
1999:	No data available	No specific target set		
2000:		Continuing increase		
2001:		Continuing increase		

KEY STRATEGIES

Strategies Continued from 1999

None.

New or Strengthened Strategies

- ❖ Provide technical assistance to states on accessibility issues.
- ❖ Attend meetings of professional organizations for special education and vocational rehabilitation; provide technical assistance; and disseminate information about successful activities developed between education programs for children with disabilities and Tech Act projects.
- ❖ Increase collaboration with state VR agencies.
- ❖ Monitor Tech Act reports for indications of reduction in the number of barriers to accessing assistive technology (AT) by underrepresented populations and rural populations; disseminate information about successful activities to eliminate barriers.
- ❖ Provide technical assistance and disseminate information to AT grantees about funding of AT services and devices.

HOW THIS PROGRAM COORDINATES WITH OTHER FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

- ❖ In order to increase availability of and access to assistive technology (AT) we are working closely with Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), specifically, the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) and Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), to improve payment for assistive technology devices, systems, and services.

CHALLENGES TO ACHIEVING PROGRAM GOAL

- ❖ There have not been any internal ED, GAO, or IG evaluations that have not been addressed.

INDICATOR CHANGES**From FY 1999 Annual Plan (two years old)**

Adjusted—None.

Dropped

- ❖ Indicator 2.1 was dropped.

From FY 2000 Annual Plan (last year's)

Adjusted

- ❖ Indicator 1.4 was modified and will now become 1.3.

Dropped

- ❖ Indicators 1.3, 1.5, 2.1, and 2.2 have been dropped.

New

- ❖ Indicator 2.1 is new.