

Archived Information

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Goal: To increase availability of, funding for, access to, and provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.	Funding History (\$ in millions)			
	Fiscal Year	Appropriation	Fiscal Year	Appropriation
Legislation: Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1988, as amended, Title I (U.S.C. 2201-2217). P.L. 100-407. Assistive Technology Act 1998 P.L. 105-394 (29 USC 3001).	1985	\$0	2000	\$34
	1990	\$15	2001	\$41
	1995	\$39	2002 (Requested)	\$61

Program Description

The Assistive Technology (AT) State Grant program supports states in their development of technology-related activities and initiatives that enhance the ability of disabled individuals to access assistive devices and services through systems changes, advocacy, and consumer responsiveness. The AT Act also supports grants to states for alternative financing programs to assist individuals in purchasing assistive devices and services.

The efforts are intended to:

- Increase the availability of assistive devices and services by helping states to review or establish policies and procedures that may help ensure the availability of assistive devices; increase funding for the provision of devices and revise policies that impede device availability; build state and local capability to provide services; and improve coordination among public and private agencies;
- Increase the awareness and knowledge about assistive technology among persons with disabilities, their families, professionals who work with disabled persons, employers, community organizations, and other involved groups;
- Increase public and government awareness of the needs of individuals with disabilities for assistive technology devices and services; and
- Establish, expand, or maintain alternative financing programs for individuals with disabilities.

The AT Act requires that 87.5 percent of the funds appropriated for Title I be used for the AT State grant program, 7.9 percent of the funds be used for Protection and Advocacy (P&A) for AT, and 4.6 percent of the funds be spent on technical assistance activities. The AT Act also prescribes the amount each state is to receive under the AT State grant program, and sets a minimum allotment for grantees under the P&A program.

Program Performance

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: Negative trend away from target.</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>The performance data for 99 shows a significant decrease and a performance target that was not met. Initially, it was anticipated that the target would be met based on electronic requests for information alone. There are a number of external factors that have influenced the data collection for FY99. The OMB approved form that States had been using for annual performance reporting expired in 1998. States were encouraged to continue to use the old performance guidelines however, most States elected not to use this format. Further, web based inquiries and information requests were not counted in FY99 and it was impossible to extract this data from certain States. NIDRR is in the process of developing a completely revised web-based instrument for annual data collection. Pilot testing will take place early in 2001. However, States cannot be required to use the new system for one year.</p>	<p>Source: 56 state projects have submitted an annual performance report to the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). At present there is no standardized or universal reporting format.</p> <p><i>Frequency:</i> Annually.</p> <p><i>Next collection update:</i> Fall 2001.</p> <p><i>Date to be reported:</i> December 2001.</p> <p>Validation Procedure: Nationally recognized organization was awarded a technical assistance (TA) 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.</p> <p>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: All states had 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, burdensome and does not take advantage of technological capabilities. This instrument expired in FY98. FY99 data reflects lack of consistent definitions, high rates of non-response, lack of current data and a smaller sample size. New (TA) grantee will develop and assist NIDRR to implement a comprehensive, timely, responsive and user-friendly Web-based approach to data collection that will address this indicator adequately.</p>	
Year	Actual Performance			Performance Targets
1997:	88,003			
1998:	614,942			
1999:	97,027			676,000
2000:	Data Available 12/01			744,000
2001:				818,000
2002:		900,000		

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>		Status: Target met.		<p>Source: 56 state projects have submitted an annual performance report to the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). At present there is no standardized or universal reporting format. <i>Frequency:</i> Annually. <i>Next collection update:</i> Fall 2001. <i>Date to be reported:</i> December 2001.</p> <p>Validation Procedure:</p> <p>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: The new web based system will facilitate periodic and regular updates whereby each State will routinely enter <i>current</i> data. Aggregated data will be easier to analyze and report thereby eliminating year old data.</p>
Year	Actual Performance	Performance Targets		
1997:	77,204			
1998:	81,760			
1999:	84,186	86,000		
2000:	Data Available 12/01	90,000		
2001:		95,000		
2002:		100,000		
		<p>Explanation: The FY99 data reflects the reporting of 35 States on this indicator. Data was extrapolated to the best of our ability from States that did include data on professionals trained. Had all States reported on this indicator, clearly the performance target would have been exceeded. The new web based instrument will capture collection elements on professional training.</p>		
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>		Status: Positive movement toward target.		<p>Source: 56 state projects have submitted an annual performance report to the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). At present there is no standardized or universal reporting format. <i>Frequency:</i> Annually. <i>Next collection update:</i> Fall 2001. <i>Date to be reported:</i> December 2001.</p> <p>Validation Procedure: 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 that incorporate refined and useful definitions.</p> <p>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: Same as described in 1.1 and 1.2.</p>
Year	Actual Performance	Performance Targets		
1997:	95%			
1998:	92%			
1999:	88%	95%		
2000:	Data Available 12/01	95%		
2001:		95%		
2002:		95%		
		<p>Explanation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The FY 99 data indicate that 49 out of 56 states are engaged in barrier reduction/elimination. The reduction is accounted for by the difficulty in extracting data from annual performance reports. Currently, there is no uniform way of reporting legislative and policy changes that reduce barriers. Eighty-four (84) 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 99 data at left demonstrate that most of the state projects were instrumental in making legislative or policy changes affecting access to AT. The new instrument will include data elements that will more accurately address systems change and will use standard definitions. 		

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.				
Targets and Performance Data			Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
Year	Actual Performance	Performance Targets	Status: Unable to judge. Explanation: This new alternative financing program was funded for the first time in September, 2000. A baseline will be established once data are available.	Source: Web based reporting system. <i>Frequency:</i> Annually. <i>Next collection update:</i> Fall, 2001. <i>Date to be reported:</i> December 2001. Validation Procedure: Data will be supplied by the new reporting instrument. No formal verification will be applied. Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: N/A.
1997				
1998				
1999:	No Data Available	N/A		
2000:	Data Available 12/01	N/A		
2001:		N/A		
2002:		N/A		

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.				
Targets and Performance Data			Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
Year	Actual Performance	Performance Targets	Status: No FY 1999 data available. Explanation: This is a new indicator. The Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (AT Act) was signed into law in November 1998. Section 102 authorizes grants to states to provide protection and advocacy services to individuals with disabilities to increase access to AT. This data has not yet been routinely collected by the new grantees under this authority. In FY 2001, the grantees performance reports will contain data on this indicator.	Source: Annual Performance Reports <i>Frequency:</i> Annually. <i>Next collection update:</i> FY 2001. <i>Date to be reported:</i> July 2001. Validation Procedure: Data will be provided by grantees. No formal verification procedure applied. Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: Data not yet available. However, data will be collected as part of annual performance reporting requirements.
1999:	No Data Available	No specific target set		
2000:	Data Available 7/01	Unable to judge		
2001:		Unable to judge		
2002:		Unable to judge		