# **2022 Assistive Technology Structures Overview**

**Overview**

The following outlines the five AT Structures ATAC members discussed during the September 2020 ATAC meeting. The intent of document provides ATAC members an opportunity to review some AT Structures and determine the best structure for California. ATAC members can make a recommendation to the Department of Rehabilitation Executive Team on how best develop a RFA/ RFP or other methods to compete the grant and move AT funding to the local level.

The current AT Grant holder is the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC) and the Grant Agreement was extended for an additional year and expires on 9/30/2022.

## **AT Structures discussed:**

**Option 1**: A Governor designated lead agency with no Implementing Entity.

**Option 2**: Governor designated lead agency with current grant holder as the Implementing Entity.

**Option 3**: Governor Designated Implementing Entity determined by award.

**Option 4**: DOR as the lead agency and competes the grant with multiple awards options.

**Option 5**: DOR as the lead agency -competes the grant with a future option for an Implementing Entity.

## **2.0 Funding**

1. DOR received $1,292,077 in federal funds for FFY 2021 to carry-out all AT Activities
2. DOR receives $210,000 in AB204 Funds that are included in the AT Grant to carry-out AT Activities
3. DOR charged a $17.8% indirect cost rate to implement the AT Grant

## **3.0 Reporting AT Activities into the National Assistive Technology Data Act System (NATADS)**

**Option 1**: If DOR is the lead agency and there is no implementing entity, DOR would be responsible for keying all state level and state leadership activities into NATADS. Additional staff training would be required.

**Option 2**: CFILC is the current implementing entity is responsible to key all state level and state leadership activities into NATADS. The staff is currently trained.

**Option 3**: With a governor designated implementing entity determined by award, the implementing entity would be responsible for keying all state level and state leadership activities into NADADS with proper training.

**Option 4**: If DOR competes the grant with multiple awards, additional training would be required for grantees to key activities into NATADS. DOR would be ultimately responsible to make sure this happens as the lead agency.

**Option 5**: DOR would be responsible as the lead agency to key all activities into NADADS. Later, if a future Implementing Entity is designated, the future implementing entity would be responsible for keying all activities into NATADS with proper training.

## **4.0 State Level Activities by the Numbers**

Note: All State Level Data were gathered from the Center for Assistive Technology Act Data Assistance (CATADA) database for FFY 2020. FFY 2021 data was not available at the time of this review.

**Device Lending**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **AT Structure Type** | **State** | **Total Activities** |
| Lead Agency | New York | 3,687 loans |
| Lead Agency | Oklahoma | 2,605 loans |
| Lead Agency | Arkansas | 863 loans |
| Implementing Entity | California | 811 loans |
| Implementing Entity | Florida | 1,447 loans |
| Implementing Entity | Illinois | 1,127 loans |
| Implementing Entity | Colorado | 775 loans |

Notes of Interest

* Oklahoma completed 2,605 loans with in-house lending and Able Tech.
* New York completed 3,687 loans through 12 Regional Centers and also works with Vocational Rehabilitation Access- VR which is overseen by the State Education Department
* There is an opportunity for DOR to work with Cooperative Programs, Supported Employment Programs, Regional Centers, or other state agencies programs through an Interagency agreement to produce additional loans with possible cost savings

**Device Demonstrations**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **AT Structure Type** | **State** | **Total Activities** |
| Lead Agency | New York | 2,508 demos |
| Lead Agency | Oklahoma | 6,105 demos |
| Lead Agency | Arkansas | 243 demos |
| Implementing Entity | California | 267 demos |
| Implementing Entity | Florida | 931 demos |
| Implementing Entity | Illinois | 385 demos |
| Implementing Entity | Colorado | 349 demos |

Notes of Interest

* Oklahoma- ABLE Tech provides device demonstration events to compare features and benefits of a particular AT device or category of devices. ABLE Tech has over 2000 devices to demo though in-house and various partner locations across state.
* New York uses 12 regional centers to provide demonstrations. People can walk-in or make an appointment.

**Device Reutilization**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **AT Structure Type** | **State** | **Total Activities** |
| Lead Agency | New York | 5 units |
| Lead Agency | Oklahoma | 11,899 units |
| Lead Agency | Arkansas | none |
| Implementing Entity | California | 59 units |
| Implementing Entity | Florida | 2 units |
| Implementing Entity | Illinois | none |
| Implementing Entity | Colorado | 134 |

Notes of Interest

* Oklahoma posts accessible equipment on an accessible website and receives additional funding through Healthcare Authority and the Oklahoma Medicaid Agency.
* Possible opportunity to partner with Medicaid

**State Financing**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **AT Structure Type** | **State** | **Total Activities** |
| Lead Agency | New York | none |
| Lead Agency | Oklahoma | 338 |
| Lead Agency | Arkansas | 2 |
| Implementing Entity | California | none |
| Implementing Entity | Florida | 56 |
| Implementing Entity | Illinois | 8 |
| Implementing Entity | Washington | 121 |

Notes of Interest

* Washington developed and Individual Development Plan (IDP) and provides low dollar matching loans. Washington also has a partnership with the Federal Communications Commission and the Perkins School for the Blind
* Oklahoma ABLE Tech partners with Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation and BacFirst of Stillwater to provide a statewide alternative financing program to Oklahomans with disabilities through direct loans for all unsecured loans and bank partner loans for all secured or collaterized loans.

## **5.0 State Leadership Activities**

* California

Ability Tools provides a toll-free information and referral service through 800-390-2699 Voice/800-900-0706 TTY as well as online at www.abilitytools.org. Ability Tools also enhances AT awareness through participation in outreach events throughout the state, social media updates, presentations and working in collaboration with other nonprofits and referral agencies. Ability Tools materials are disseminated throughout the state to increase AT awareness. Ability Tools conducts webinar and in-person trainings throughout the year. The training announcements and the archived webinars are posted on the Ability Tools website.

* New York

TRAID coordinates the Interagency Partnership on Assistive Technology (IPAT,) which is composed of state agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and consumers who work to increase awareness of AT devices and services. The TRAID director also participates on other state agency boards such as the Vocational Rehabilitation State Rehab Council to ensure that the assistive technology needs of consumers are being met. TRAID staff also provide trainings for organizations in order to increase knowledge of various devices.

* Oklahoma

BLE Tech provides training for education, employment, community living, and information technology and telecommunication professionals along with persons with disabilities and their family members. ABLE Tech has activities partnering with the State Department of Education – Parts C and B, the Department of Rehabilitation Services and the Medicaid agency. ABLE Tech also manages the special education due process hearing system for the State of Oklahoma which administers innovative programs and services to help assist families and school districts in settling disputes regarding the education programs of students with disabilities. In addition, ABLE Tech coordinates statewide training to all state agencies, institutions of higher education, and career technology centers on electronic information technology accessibility. The ABLE Tech INFO-line provides a toll-free information and referral service.