

IPAT 1998
An Annual Report for the
Interagency Program for Assistive Technology

The Interagency Program for Assistive Technology (IPAT) offers a wide range of services to support the assistive technology needs of individuals of all ages with disabilities in North Dakota. During the program year of 1998, IPAT increased individual's access to assistive technology by providing technical assistance to 3,879 individuals, demonstration or loan of equipment to 2,311 individuals, training to 8,617 people, collaborated with 21 agencies/organizations for training and/or to increase program/system efficiency and effectiveness, and developed and published 16 products. IPAT personnel responsible for implementing program activities include 1 director, 4 regional coordinators, and 1 support person.

Judie Lee, Director

Source of Program Funding

IPAT received \$633,000 from the National Institute on Disability, U.S. Department of Education. IPAT is a program of North Dakota Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Human Services. IPAT seeks additional funding and/or in-kind matches to supplement program activities. In 1998, \$40,000 was received to expand the inventory of the Equipment Loan Library from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, with in-kind matches of equipment and services equaling \$15,000 from private entities.

Commitment to North Dakota

The following describes IPAT activities for program year 1998.

* IPAT coordinated the development of Partnerships for Assistive Technology (PAT), an interagency organization comprised of individuals with disabilities and 21 representatives from public and private entities to collaboratively advance the use of AT.

* In response to an IPAT conducted survey, the Department of Public Instruction established an AT Task Force to write AT Guidelines within education. IPAT served on this task force and provided significant technical assistance in the guide's development.

* IPAT established an Assistive Technology Financial Loan Program which makes unsecured personal loans available through First National Bank for the purchase of assistive technology devices.

* IPAT facilitates Medicaid of North Dakota's implementation of the Model Medicaid AAC Funding Policy as a working guide.

* IPAT provided follow-up training and information dissemination regarding the Assistive Technology Device Warranty Law, passed by the 1997 ND Legislature.

* All North Dakotans have access to assistive technology information through an IPAT supported toll-free AT Info-Line service and the IPAT webpage

www.ndipat.org

- * The free Used Equipment Bulletin Board was established to increase the availability of assistive technology devices.
- * Through IPAT's collaboration with the Adaptive Equipment Services program, consumers in rural/remote areas of ND receive fabrication and customization services otherwise unavailable to them.
- * Through a contract between IPAT and North Dakota's Protection & Advocacy Project, consumers are provided a full-range of technical assistance and administrative and/or legal remedies to ensure timely access to AT devices and services.
- * The AT Outreach Kits for Seniors and Young Children, bring AT information and hands-on experiences with low-tech devices to consumers throughout the state via volunteer trainers.
- * Through collaborative efforts between IPAT and Developmental Disabilities/Infant Development/Part C, AT device demonstration kits have been developed for and training provided to each of the eight regional Early Intervention Programs in ND.
- * IPAT recognizes and honors those individuals who provide or model exemplary commitment to AT solutions with the AT Key Award. To date, 117 AT Key Awards have been given.

Consumer Advisory Committee

The IPAT Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) is made up of 12-15 individuals with disabilities and/or family members representing all ages, types of disabilities, and regions in the state. The CAC provides advice to IPAT personnel, which is vital to assure that the project's goals and activities are responsive to the needs of the people in North Dakota

Publications

To increase access to assistive technology information, IPAT continually develops and disseminates materials to local, state, and national audiences. The 1998 publications include:

- * AT Key, 6 issues of IPAT's free newsletter
- * Technology for All: A Guide to Solving the Puzzle, a manual describing a process for developing an AT plan
- * IPAT Equipment Loan Library Manual, lists and describes the 575 pieces of equipment available for loan.
- * A Picture of Assistive Technology in North Dakota, a booklet highlighting North Dakotans using AT and their observations of AT device and service availability in the state
- * Maintain Your Lifestyle. . .Differently, a brochure providing an overview of AT for the elderly
- * IPAT Video Resource Library Directory, lists and describes the 140 AT related videos available for loan
- * Key Fact Sheets, over 180 information sheets specific to AT
- * Assistive Technology Assessment Process, booklet describing components of an AT assessment

- * Training Modules, developed four new modules for the inventory
- * Survey of Internet Availability in North Dakota 1998
- * Screening Tools for Assistive Technology, one for use in the school setting, one for the work-site
- * AT Financial Loan Program, flyer describing the program, process and contacts
- * IPAT Products & Services, brochure listing IPAT products and services
- * Program Analysis for Assistive Technology, booklet to assist in identifying where planning for AT needs to start while identifying what is in place
- * IPAT, brochure providing overview of project and AT service links
- * Assistive Technology and Recreation, resource on adaptive recreation

Creative Initiatives

IPAT requested proposals for assistive technology projects to be implemented throughout the state. Projects chosen by the CAC review committee are diverse and interesting. The projects funded are:

Know Your Rights to Assistive Technology in Education, video by KAT Video Productions, Inc.;

IntelliTools for Visually Impaired Learners, School for the Blind;

Increasing Access to AT in North Dakota, St. Alexius Medical Center;

Simplifying Medicaid Funding for AT, Pam Kennedy and St. Alexius Medical Center;

Recycle North Dakota, St. Alexius Medical Center

Access to Assistive Technology

IPAT Equipment Expo!

The IPAT Equipment Expo! was developed as a direct result of consumer requests for hands-on experiences with, and demonstration of, a range of AT. The Expo! serves as a traveling demonstration center and has been hosted by 11 entities providing opportunities to 1,442 individuals to explore simple to complex AT devices in their communities.

IPAT Equipment Loan Library

The IPAT Equipment Loan Library provides equipment for free, short-term loan to state residents of all ages with disabilities, meeting the need for equipment exploration, trial-use and assessment. There have been 869 equipment loans this year, 274 rural and 595 city. The populations of equipment borrowers are identified below.

Loan Library Users

Young Child (Part C) – 98 (11%)

Education – 271 (32%)

Vocational Rehabilitation – 194 (22%)
Older Adults – 78 (9%)
Minority – 34 (4%)
Other – 194 (22%)

Collaboration with Existing Conferences

IPAT personnel are recognized in the state as leaders in the area of AT and are invited to participate within established conferences. IPAT has infused AT into 27 existing conferences. Conferences and their audiences include:

- Young Child - North Dakota Early Childhood Institute

- Education - Fargo Summer Technology Conference
- North Dakota Teachers' Convention
- Teaching and Technology Conference
- Closing the Gap Conference

- Adult - ND Community Facilities Conference
- Vocational Rehabilitation Annual Conference
- North Dakota Rehabilitation Conference
- Vocational Education State Conference

- Older Adults - Conference on Aging and Disabilities
- Salute to Seniors Conference
- Senior Health Fairs
- Senior Sensation Conference
- ND Geriatric Healthcare Conference
- State House Conference on Aging

- Minority - National Native American Conference for Elders
- Native American Wellness Days

- All Populations - 911 Operators Annual Conference
- Partners in Policymaking
- Disability Awareness Day
- ND State and County Fairs
- ND Association for the Blind Conference
- ND Extension Conference
- ND Guardianship Conference
- ND Vision Conference
- ARC Conference
- Independent Living Conference

IPAT Regional Offices

The IPAT Regional Coordinators engage in the following activities to reduce barriers and to build the support systems necessary for individuals to obtain and

use AT: training, technical assistance, public awareness activities, recruitment of local consumer involvement, interagency cooperation, and outreach to under-represented populations.

The regional coordinators provided technology assistance services in the areas of general information, funding, equipment, referrals, and advocacy, to 3,879 individuals in North Dakota. The following illustrates the types of calls and the populations requesting the assistance

Types of Calls

Funding – 654 (17%)
Equipment Technical Assistance – 1,190 (31%)
General AT Information – 1,296 (33%)
Referrals – 522 (13%)
Advocacy – 217 (6%)

Total = 3,879

People Calling

Young Child (Part C) – 130 (3%)
Education – 811 (21%)
Vocational Rehabilitation – 1,096 (28%)
Older Adult – 777 (20%)
Minority – 187 (5%)
Other – 878 (23%)

Total = 3,879

Training

IPAT provided 102 training sessions attended by 8,617 individuals through statewide, regional, and outreach opportunities. The training sessions were conducted in 28 different cities representing 25 counties. Training topics were in the areas of equipment, policy, funding, AT resources, AT awareness, and strategies for AT implementation. The following illustrates the populations receiving the training.

Young Child (Part C) – 2 (2%)
Education – 14 (14%)
Vocational Rehabilitation – 31 (30%)
Older Adult – 23 (23%)
Minority – 7 (7%)
Other – 25 (24%)

Total = 102



Interagency Program for Assistive Technology
1.800.265.IPAT (4728) V/TT
www.ndipat.org

For training, consultation, or materials
please call the IPAT personnel nearest you:

Northwest IPAT Region Dud Zimmerman, Regional Coordinator
400-22nd Avenue NW
Minot, ND 58703
701.857.8630
dud@minot.com

Southwest IPAT Region: Peggy Shireley, Regional Coordinator
4007 State Street, #101
Bismarck, ND 58501
701.328.9544
shireley@btigate.com

Southeast IPAT Region: Mike Bishop, Regional Coordinator
P.O. Box 665
Valley City, ND 58072-0665
701.845.8626
bishop@pioneer.state.nd.us

This report is available in alternative formats.

Interagency Program for Assistive Technology
PO Box 743
Cavalier, ND 58220

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