

Related Assistive Technology Projects, Senior AT Safety Program and Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program

At the same time that IPAT implemented the No Place Like Home project, they also administered the Senior Assistive Technology Safety Program (SATS) and the North Dakota Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (TEDP). Some of the participants of the No Place Like Home project were also in need of specialized telephone equipment, medication dispensers, and AT safety equipment. IPAT was able to coordinate and extend resources by accessing funding from SATS and TEDP to provide those devices. This freed up money to buy other equipment for the participants and allowed 5 additional people to participate in the No Place Like Home project.

It is worth noting that in addition to the 45 devices provided through the No Place Like Home project that 588 medication devices (32 different types) were distributed through the SATS program from 2003-2005. Many notes and comments were received by IPAT regarding the differences they made. A typical comment “. . .our biggest concern for our mother living alone was that she mixes up her medicines and forgets to take them or takes them at the wrong time. After getting the MedReady, she now takes her medicine like she is supposed to and I now feel much more comfortable with her staying in her own home.”

The SATS program distributed a total of 5130 pieces of AT safety equipment to 3508 people living in their homes. The TEDP program distributed a total of 510 telephones and 61 telephone accessories to 537 North Dakota residents. Although these folks have not been followed like the No Place Like Home participants, it is a fact the AT devices are assisting them to live ‘safely’ and remain in their own homes. A note from a Milton resident, “Thank you for all of the items. . .It’s a wonderful program and will help many of us to stay at home.”