



Get an Inside Look at Assistive Technology & Home Modifications

The National Assistive Technology Technical Assistance Partnership and the Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP) conducted a regional housing conference August 12-13, 2008 in Omaha, Nebraska. Representatives from thirteen states attended the day and half workshop.

The goal for the workshop was to provide other Tech Act projects an opportunity to:

- Review Nebraska's state plan that supports housing assistance for people with disabilities
- Review types of home modifications and assistive technology and resources to pay for them
- Review how this plan compliments the assistive technology services under the AT Act

Five panels of experts shared their experience with the Partnership and the difference it has made for their organization and the consumers they serve:

1. Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care:
Home and Community Based Waiver
Subsidized Adoption, Children and Family Services
ATP Technology Specialists shared the day-to-day service delivery process
2. Vocational Rehabilitation Title 1/Part B
3. Community Development Housing
Nebraska Housing Developers Association
Nebraska Department of Economic Development/Community Development Division
USDA Rural Development, Nebraska State Office
4. Community Collaboration
Easter Seals Nebraska, Alternative Financing Program
Rebuilding Together
United Cerebral Palsy of Nebraska
5. Consumer/Contractor

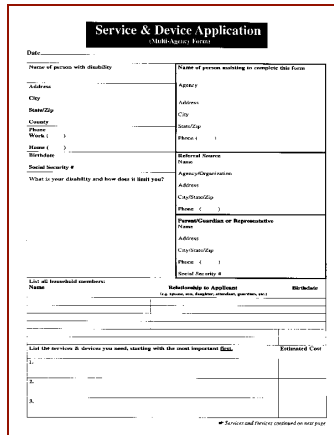
A consumer shared how her 25-year-old twin daughters are able to live in a duplex instead of an institution with the help of ATP:

- ATP conducted an on site assessment and identified a ceiling track lift as solution; drafted specifications; obtained quotes; coordinated funding; and worked with the vendor during installation. The system allows a single caregiver to position the consumer in a sling and lift them from the floor, tub, or bed and then lower them to a sitting or laying position. The system provides safety for the both the consumers and the backs of the caregivers by eliminating them having to lift the individuals.
- ATP's Funding Coordinator coordinated the funding from two Health and Human Services Programs, Medicaid and the Disabled Persons and Family Support (\$8,000). The Enrichment Foundation, established by a family to bridge the funding gap, provided the additional \$5,000 needed to make the modifications possible. The Foundation contracts with ATP to assist consumers that need funding to pay for appropriate cost effective solutions.

A contractor described the advantages of working with ATP:

- Detailed plans based on an on-site assessment by the Technology Specialists are provided for developing an estimate
- Tech Specialists are available to answer questions and assist with problems encountered during the construction/installation
- Guaranteed payment for the projects (funding is identified before projects begin)

Tools for implementation were demonstrated which are available for states to utilize:



The image shows a form titled "Service & Device Application" with a sub-header "NIMH/AT4All Form". The form is divided into several sections for data entry:

- Header:** "Date:" followed by a blank line.
- Left Column:**
 - "Name of person with disability:" followed by a blank line.
 - "Address:" followed by a blank line.
 - "City:" followed by a blank line.
 - "State/Zip:" followed by a blank line.
 - "County:" followed by a blank line.
 - "Phone ():" followed by a blank line.
 - "Home ():" followed by a blank line.
 - "Work ():" followed by a blank line.
 - "Social Security #:" followed by a blank line.
 - "What is your disability and how does it limit you?:" followed by a large blank area.
- Right Column:**
 - "Name of person wanting to complete this form:" followed by a blank line.
 - "Address:" followed by a blank line.
 - "City:" followed by a blank line.
 - "State/Zip:" followed by a blank line.
 - "Phone ():" followed by a blank line.
 - "Home ():" followed by a blank line.
 - "Work ():" followed by a blank line.
 - "Referral Source:" followed by a blank line.
 - "Name:" followed by a blank line.
 - "Agency/Organization:" followed by a blank line.
 - "Address:" followed by a blank line.
 - "City/State/Zip:" followed by a blank line.
 - "Phone ():" followed by a blank line.
 - "Person/Contact or Representative:" followed by a blank line.
 - "Name:" followed by a blank line.
 - "Address:" followed by a blank line.
 - "City/State/Zip:" followed by a blank line.
 - "Phone ():" followed by a blank line.
 - "Social Security #:" followed by a blank line.
- Bottom Section:**
 - "List all household members:" followed by a table with columns "Name", "Relationship to Applicant", and "Electronic".
 - "List all services & devices you want, starting with the most important first:" followed by a table with columns "Service/Device" and "Electronic".

- Referral Form
- Service and Device Application
- Client Database (ATTIE)
- On-line recycled equipment
- On-line housing location

AT4All.com
www.housing.ne.gov

Technical assistance was also available to help participants begin to develop their own state plan by:

- Identifying collaborators and techniques for their participation
- Targeting systems and policies for change
- Learning strategies to combine collaborators into a partnership

Evaluations from the workshop:

- Participants agreed the information for starting/modifying their statewide home modification programs was provided
- Opportunities for networking and sharing ideas with colleagues were included
- One participant said, "I came to learn the nuts and bolts of the ATP program and how partnerships work and another said "good regional conference, a fine example of the AT program's history, process, and eventual successes; provided a good road map as well as ideas for new direction to attempt."

Considerations for Your Plan of Action

State

Completed by

Policy, procedure, practice to be changed

- How was the need identified?
- What problem does it solve? What is the hoped for outcome?
- How many people will be impacted and what is the potential cost/benefit?

Strategy for making a change

- Where to start? Who to contact for information and guidance?
- Is there a formal process?
- What is the timeline for the process?
- What information/documentation is required?
- Who is eligible to apply?

Who needs to be involved to make a change

- Champion(s)?
- Agency representatives?
- Advocates?
- Those who might be opposed?
- Implementer?

What resources are needed

- Staff?
- Services?
- Funding?
- Consultants/studies?

Plan of Action

State

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Goals What are you going to change?	Objectives Process and Action Steps	Who will be involved and responsible?	Resources Needed	Timeline (start and end date)