

## Sobczyk, Lisa M - DHS

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**From:** Aumanstal, Mason E - DHS  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 27, 2018 10:09 AM  
**To:** 'John Nousaine'  
**Cc:** Sobczyk, Lisa M - DHS  
**Subject:** RE:

Good Morning John,

Thank you for your email and comments on behalf of the WILN (Wisconsin Independent Living Network AT group). The input provided is very much appreciated. I have addressed each of the points raised in your email individually below:

The objective of Goal 2 is to make sure that the program is applying for, and making use of, appropriate grant opportunities allowing the program to grow beyond what is provided through the federal grant awarded by the AT Act. In particular, the AT Council was looking at securing 5% of the federal award amount in private or public resources to expand the provision of AT services statewide.

Actually Goals 2 and 3 both address an increase in Assistive Technology Professionals (ATPs) throughout the state of Wisconsin. The ATP certification is offered through Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA). The Council specifically was focusing on financial sustainability of the WisTech program and each WisTech subcontractor having at least one RESNA certified ATP on staff. It was also the AT Advisory Council's way of ensuring that the highest quality of AT information and services are being provided in Wisconsin.

Goal 3 focused on increasing knowledge, skills, and competencies of assistive technology (AT) professionals, providers, partners, and stakeholders by providing professional training opportunities on AT, including AT devices for specific populations, new assessment techniques, and other relevant topics. This includes encouraging ILCs as well as other AT providers throughout the state to pursue this certification. This goal would also encompass:

- WisTech regional trainings
- WisTech webinars
- Hosting professional networking opportunities by convening AT professionals and stakeholders around the state to see demonstrations on new equipment and share shops where professionals can highlight program successes and discuss challenges
- Each WisTech subcontractor will provide and/or allow staff to attend training opportunities that will allow for individuals to maintain their certification by receiving Continuing Education Units

The federal Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended in 2004, as mandated by the legislation and outlined in Wisconsin's State Plan for Assistive Technology on page 8. Specifically the AT Act states:

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[[Page 118 STAT. 1720]] (<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-108publ364/html/PLAW-108publ364.htm>)

“(ii) support for the development of State-financed or privately financed alternative financing systems of subsidies (which may include conducting an initial 1-year feasibility study of, improving, administering, operating, providing capital for, or collaborating with an entity with respect to, such a system) for the provision of assistive technology devices, such as--

“(l) a low-interest loan fund;

- ``(II) an interest buy-down program;
- ``(III) a revolving loan fund;
- ``(IV) a loan guarantee or insurance program;
- ``(V) a program providing for the purchase, lease, or other acquisition of assistive technology devices or assistive technology services; or
- ``(VI) another mechanism that is approved by the Secretary.

``(B) Device reutilization programs.--The State shall directly, or in collaboration with public or private entities, carry out assistive technology device reutilization programs that provide for the exchange, repair, recycling, or other reutilization of assistive technology devices, which may include redistribution through device sales, loans, rentals, or donations.

``(C) Device loan programs.--The State shall directly, or in collaboration with public or private entities, carry out device loan programs that provide short-term loans of assistive technology devices to individuals, employers, public agencies, or others seeking to meet the needs of targeted individuals and entities, including others seeking to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794).

``(D) Device demonstrations.--

``(i) In general.--The State shall directly, or in collaboration with public and private entities, such as one-stop partners, as defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801), demonstrate a variety of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services (including assisting individuals in making informed choices regarding, and providing experiences with, the devices and services), using personnel who are familiar with such devices and services and their applications.

``(ii) Comprehensive information.--The State shall directly, or through referrals, provide to individuals, to the extent practicable, comprehensive information about State and local assistive technology vendors, providers, and repair services.

``(3) State leadership activities.--

``(A) In general.--A State that receives a grant under this section shall use a portion of not more than 40 percent of the funds made available through the grant to carry out the activities described in subparagraph (B). From that portion, the State shall use at least 5

percent of the portion for activities described in subparagraph (B)(i)(III).

“(B) Required activities.—“

The dollar amounts were included in previous drafts of the State Plan shared with the ILCs. Please see below. However, the chart below is not reflective of the additional \$31,073 in State Assistive Technology Program funds the state received for Federal Fiscal Year 2018 for a total award of \$500,699. The AT Advisory Council will be discussing these funds at their next meeting.

| <b>State-Level Activities Budget for FFY 2018</b>   |  |   |                                  |
|---|--|---|----------------------------------|
| <b>Grantee/Program Name</b>                         | <b>State-Level Activity</b>                        | <b>Description</b>  | <b>Cost</b>                      |
| Mobility Store                                      | Device Reuse                                       | To administer the state reuse program in partnership with Department of Corrections.  | \$30,000                         |
| Department of Corrections                           | Device Reuse                                       | To provide staff oversight to inmates who sanitize and repair devices.  | \$24,500                         |
| University of Wisconsin Madison                     | Device Reuse                                       | To administer the Wisconsin Infant/ Children's Statewide Hearing Aid Exchange Service (WISHES) program.   | \$3,500                          |
| Bureau on Aging and Disability Resources to Vendors | Device Loan, Device Demonstration, State Financing | To buy software, databases, and other items needed to support data collection and maintain accurate device loan/demonstration inventory accessible to the public. | \$6,000                          |
| Wisconsin Independent Living Centers                | Device Loan, Device Demonstration, State Financing | To provide state level activities to people with disabilities.  | \$192,000 (\$24,000 to each ILC) |
| <b>TOTAL BUDGET for programs/services</b>           |  |   | <b>\$256,000</b>                 |

| <b>State Leadership Activities Budget for FFY 2018</b>                   |  |   |                                     |
|--|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Grantee/Program Name</b>  | <b>State Leadership Activity</b>   | <b>Description</b>  | <b>Cost</b>                         |
| Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources                                 | Program Administration   | Funding for staff salary, fringe, travel, materials in alternative formats, supplies, and other related expenses. | \$37,125                            |
| Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources                                 | Training   | To provide AT training to WisTech subcontractors, stakeholders, and partners                                      | \$30,000                            |
| Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources                                 | Public Outreach  | Funding for booths and marketing materials.   | \$3,000                             |
| Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources for AT Advisory Council         | Program Administration   | To fund expenses for meetings, travel reimbursements to members, and accommodations.                              | \$10,000                            |
| TBD – Will be awarded to entity providing this state leadership activity | Training and Technical Assistance  | To provide transition training and technical assistance.  | \$9,423                             |
| Wisconsin Independent Living Centers                                     | Training   | Funding for staff to obtain or maintain their Assistive Technology Professional Certification.                    | \$8,000<br>(\$1,000 per ILC)        |
| Wisconsin Independent Living Centers                                     | Training, Technical Assistance, Public Awareness, and Information and Assistance | To provide state leadership activities to local service areas in Wisconsin.                                       | \$128,000<br>(\$16,000 to each ILC) |
| <b>TOTAL BUDGET for guidance</b>   |  |   | <b>\$215,125</b>                    |

Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you again for your comments and input.

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**From:** John Nousaine [mailto:john@northcountryil.org]

**Sent:** Thursday, June 07, 2018 11:41 AM

**To:** Sobczyk, Lisa M - DHS; Aumanstal, Mason E - DHS

**Subject:**

Lisa & Mason. Here are the comments on the SPAT from us.

The WILN (Wisconsin Independent Living Network AT group) met on 6/6/18 to discuss and offer comment to the SPAT (state plan for assistive technology) to offer comment on the final draft.

Overall we were very positive on the SPAT and look forward to further enhancing Wisconsin's AT network.

Our comments are as follows

Goal 2 - We wonder if there is more detail on increasing sustainability of the program particularly on the federal AT act. We recommend a robust effort in maintaining and increasing the advocacy for program on the federal level.

Goals 3 & 4 – Both goals mention increasing the number of providers that are ATP (assistive technology Professional) certified. We assume that is the RESNA certification? Are there other entities or groups that this would pertain to other than the ILCs?

Funding levels. We understand and appreciate the funding levels are portrayed in percentages as we won't know the funding levels in any given year of the plan. The split between state level activities (at least 60%) and state leadership activities (no more than 40%). How is the split between state level activities and state leadership activities determined? Also it will be helpful to know the dollar amounts when that becomes available.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the WILN AT group.

"If you're not at the table, you're on the menu" Senator Harkin

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