

Public Comment Request: Wisconsin's State Plan for Assistive Technology

Response ID:1 Data

1. (untitled)

1. Do you support the goals, and strategies to achieve these goals, listed in the State Plan for Assistive Technology?

Yes

2. Do you have any comments related to Goal 1: Awareness (Increase awareness of assistive technology and the WisTech program)?

It would be helpful if the target clients were made more explicit. The background section uses the language "older adults and people with disabilities" which implies adulthood in both categories. This language leaves out the birth to age 21 population who are usually in the education system. Yet they are a group that potentially will receive the biggest benefit from AT services in the long term. They are invisible in the background, which only speaks to them in one bullet, and then the plan doesn't draw a connection with the goals.

So goal one would benefit from including some specificity in mentioning increasing awareness in families, caregivers and community supports.

3. Do you have any comments related to Goal 2: Sustainability (Ensure sustainability and quality of assistive technology services supported by the WisTech program)?

Goal two would benefit from including explicit mention about collaborating with families, caregivers and school districts/local education agencies .

4. Do you have any comments related to Goal 3: Knowledge (Provide professional training opportunities through the WisTech program)?

Goal three would benefit from explicit mention of providing training to parents, educators and community caregivers serving birth to 21 years.

5. Do you have any comments related to Goal 4: Universal Accessibility (Ensure universal accessibility of the WisTech program)?

Goal four - target families, educators and caregivers serving birth to 21 years.

6. Are there additional underserved populations that were not identified in the State Plan for Assistive Technology that should be addressed?

Children and students birth to 21 years still in the education system.

7. Are there any additional unmet assistive technology needs that were not identified in the State Plan for Assistive Technology, that should be addressed?

The identification of resources and services for birth to 21 year old consumers still in the school system - AT provided in classroom doesn't always follow students into their out of school day and environment. Plus - there may be AT resources and options that are known at the state level but not at the school level. That's where collaboration could be so impactful.

8. Please provide any additional comments, suggestions, or strategies to achieve our desired outcomes as identified in the 2018-2020 State Plan for Assistive Technology.

No discussion of funds focused overtly at the birth to 21 years school age level.

The use of the term "older adults and people with disabilities" makes it seem that this group doesn't include birth to 21 year consumers. It makes school age children invisible.