

Activity at a Glance

- 1,146 Assistive Technology (AT) devices were loaned in 28 counties
- 584 individuals received AT demonstrations
- 381 Minnesotans saved \$37,122 by purchasing used rather than new AT
- Four citizens saved \$8,390 by purchasing used AT from www.mnstarte.org
- 2,418 citizens received AT information at 24 community events
- 372 consumers, professionals, and family members attended 22 training sessions
- Over 2,330 Funding and Resources Directories distributed
- Technical assistance was provided to the Technology Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC) for Web Accessibility and Accessible Information Technology Procurement
- 14 Minnesotans received Awards for Excellence for their work with or use of AT during an event at the capitol

Activity Description

The Minnesota System of Technology to Achieve Results (STAR) is federally funded by the Rehabilitation Services Administration in accordance with the Federal Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended (PL 108-364). The mission of the STAR program is to help all Minnesotans with disabilities gain access to and acquire the assistive technology (AT) they need to live, learn, work, and play. An AT device is any piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional abilities of a person with a disability. The governor appoints the advisory council members; 71.4% of the members are individuals with disabilities or have a family member with a disability.

STAR works with consumers and providers to develop a statewide network of AT resources and provides Minnesotans access to AT for demonstration and loan prior to purchasing a device. STAR also provides AT training, technical assistance, public awareness, and statewide information and referral services.

Population Served

According to 2004 Census estimates, nearly one in eight, or 12.2%, of Minnesota's population has at least one form of disability. Approximately 566,000 Minnesotans between the ages of five and 64 had one or more disabilities and approximately 217,000 Minnesota adults 65 years old or older had one or more disabilities. These individuals often need assistance in performing daily activities or participating in community life. STAR conducts activities that promote the availability and benefits of assistive technology devices and services for these populations.

Services Provided

STAR works to build collaborative relationships in the AT community and, along with its nonprofit partners, is working to provide statewide coverage of services. In addition, STAR works with state agencies and others in serving as a central clearinghouse for AT information.

Device loan, device demonstration, device reuse

- STAR's five nonprofit partners loan AT devices to individuals with disabilities regardless of age or diagnosis. Individuals with cerebral palsy, autism, cancer, or stroke survivors benefit from using the loan programs. Devices are loaned so individuals may try an AT device prior to purchase.
- STAR and five nonprofit partners provide AT demonstrations to individuals with disabilities, their families and the professionals who work with them. A demonstration compares features of similar AT devices in order to make a decision regarding the appropriateness of a specific AT device.
- When appropriate, STAR encourages the reutilization of AT and provides a website, www.mnstarte.org, where individuals may post AT for sale, donation, or exchange. STAR also contracted with five community organizations to refurbish gently used AT devices for reuse throughout Minnesota.

Collaboration, training, and technical assistance

- STAR participates in collaborative efforts to increase awareness of and access to AT. Collaborative efforts include working with the Department of Education's Assistive Technology Leadership Team; the Department of Health's Emergency Preparedness Committee; the Minnesota Disability Law Center Advisory Council; and the Minnesota Regions Assistive Technology Collaborative.
- STAR exhibits at community events, provides information to individuals and families, and conducts training sessions about using AT to live, learn, work, and play.

Public awareness and information and referral assistance

- STAR provides information about AT to individuals who contact STAR either by phone or the web.

ADMINISTRATION DEPT

Program: GOVT AND CITIZEN SERVICES

Activity: STAR

Narrative

- STAR publishes a biennial statewide directory of AT funding resources and services. This directory provides consumers of AT and professionals with information about AT, who provides evaluations and assessments to determine a need for AT, and where and how to obtain funding to purchase AT.
- STAR sponsors an awards ceremony each spring which creates awareness of AT and recognizes individuals for their commitment to removing barriers to independence for people with disabilities through the use of AT.

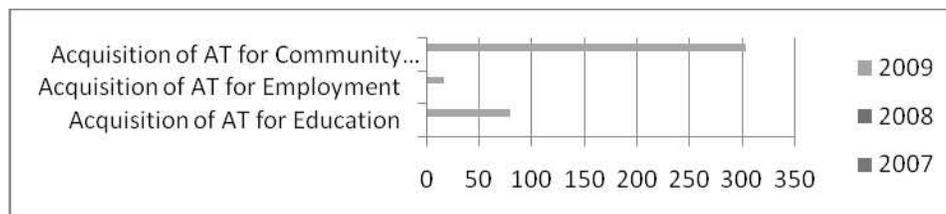
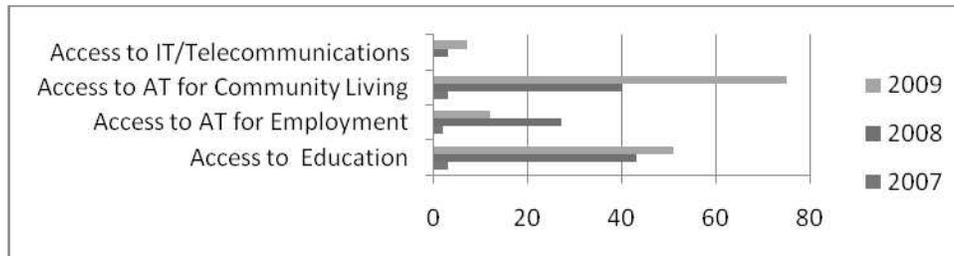
Key Activity Goals & Measures

Minnesota Milestones Statewide Goals - All people will be welcomed, respected, and able to participate fully in Minnesota's communities and economy (<http://server.admin.state.mn.us/mm/goal.html>)

STAR works to achieve the Minnesota Milestone for Community and Democracy that all people will be welcomed, respected, and able to participate fully in Minnesota's communities and economy. In order to live as independently as possible and to live, learn, work and play, people with disabilities and senior citizens may need AT for hearing, vision, mobility, or to accomplish a task. Consistent with STAR's federal mandates, the STAR Advisory Council recommended two goals for the STAR Program. These goals are:

- STAR will provide AT device loan and demonstration services to improve access to AT education, employment, community living and information technology (IT)/telecommunications.
- STAR will provide support for the exchange or reutilization of AT to improve acquisition of AT in education, employment, and community living.

Measures (graphs represent individuals):



Activity Funding

Funding for the STAR Program is obtained from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Rehabilitation Services Administration under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended by PL 108-364. Funding is currently \$475,163 per federal fiscal year (FFY). Level funding is anticipated for FFY 2011. STAR does not receive a general fund appropriation.

Contact

Program Manager

Phone: (651) 201-2295

TTY (Metro) MN Relay 711

(Non-metro) (888) 234-1267

<http://www.starprogram.state.mn.us>

ADMINISTRATION DEPT
Program: GOVT AND CITIZEN SERVICES
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Budget Activity Summary

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>					
	Current		Governor's Recomm.		Biennium
	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	2012-13
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>					
Statutory Appropriations					
Federal	501	484	482	482	964
Total	501	484	482	482	964
<u>Expenditures by Category</u>					
Total Compensation	209	209	215	217	432
Other Operating Expenses	164	183	163	163	326
Local Assistance	128	90	104	102	206
Other Financial Transactions	0	2	0	0	0
Total	501	484	482	482	964
Full-Time Equivalents (FTE)	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.0	