

**Minnesota STAR
Program**
A System of
Technology to
Achieve Results



*Minnesota's Assistive Technology
Act Program*

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STAR Staff

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Constellations

Summer 2007

Assistive Technology (AT) Works!

Minnesota Assistive Technology Advisory Council seeks citizens who want to make a difference

The Minnesota Assistive Technology Advisory Council is seeking citizens who want to help ensure that persons with disabilities have the devices they need to live, learn, work and play. The Council oversees the planning, implementation and evaluation of the State Assistive Technology Plan, which is submitted to the federal government.

Applications for the 15-member council, which meets quarterly, will be accepted through Aug. 15, 2007. Members receive reimbursement for travel expenses. The Council especially encourages applicants who reflect the diversity of Minnesota, including racial and ethnic groups, geographic location and range of disabilities. At least six members must be individuals with disabilities who use assistive technology, family members, or guardians of the individual.

Assistive technology (AT) is any device that maintains, improves or increases function of an individual with a disability at home, work, school and in the community. AT ranges from pencil grips to sophisticated devices that generate speech.

Interested citizens can apply online at www.sos.state.mn.us (click on the open appointments link); by writing to the Secretary of State, Open Appointments, 180 State Office Building, 100 Constitution Ave., St. Paul, 55155-1299; or by calling the Secretary of State's office at 651/297-5845.

The Minnesota Assistive Technology Advisory Council was established under the federal Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as provided by Public Law 108-364, as amended. The Department of Administration is charged under Minnesota Statute 16B.055, subd. 1, as the lead agency in assisting the Council with carrying out its responsibilities.



STAR Awards Device Loan and Demonstration Grants

STAR recently awarded three grants to increase access to device loans and demonstrations in Minnesota. The 2007 grant recipients are: People Achieving Change Through Technology (PACTT) a program of Ability Building Center (www.abcinc.org) located at 310 Elton Hills Drive NW, Rochester; United Cerebral Palsy of Minnesota (www.ucpmn.org) located at 1821 University Avenue West, St. Paul; and, United Cerebral Palsy of Central Minnesota (www.ucpcentralmn.org) located at 510 25th Avenue North, Saint Cloud. Using grant funds, these loan & demonstration programs will purchase equipment to increase the inventory of items available for short-term loan throughout the state.

Assistive equipment available to MN employers and employees with hearing loss: Pathways to Employment Loan Program

In an effort to increase competitive employment for persons with hearing loss in Minnesota, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS), a division of the State of Minnesota Department of Human Services, received a federal grant from Pathways to Employment to purchase assistive technology and to establish an equipment loan program for employers.

Through the Pathways to Employment Loan Program, DHHS will help employers determine the technology needed to provide communication access for an employee (or an applicant) with hearing loss. DHHS will demonstrate the equipment, make it available on short-term loan (30-day) and provide training on how to use the technology to the person with hearing loss, their co-workers and supervisors,

The target audience for this program includes job-ready deaf, late-deafened, deafblind and hard of hearing persons who are applying for a job, on the job or seeking new assignments or promotion. This audience may include Rehabilitation Services' clients with hearing loss who are waiting receipt of assistive technology.

For additional information the Pathways to Employment Equipment Loan program, contact your nearest Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services office:

dhhs.bemidji@state.mn.us, dhhs.duluth@state.mn.us,
dhhs.mankato@state.mn.us, dhhs.metro@state.mn.us,
dhhs.moorhead@state.mn.us, dhhs.rochester@state.mn.us,
dhhs.stcloud@state.mn.us, dhhs.virginia@state.mn.us

STAR Announcement

After serving as STAR's Executive Director for nearly four years, Chuck Rassbach retired in July. STAR and its Advisory Council thank Chuck for his service to STAR and his efforts to help Minnesotans obtain the assistive technology they need.

STARTE

Reusing Assistive Technology

Find or sell used assistive technology
using STAR Technology Exchange

www.mnstarte.org

Minnesota's First AT Reuse Conference is a Success

Over 100 registrants participated in Minnesota's first Assistive Technology Reuse Conference held Tuesday, July 24 at the DHS Elmer L. Anderson Building in Saint Paul.

"We are here today to begin laying the groundwork for a system that will get reusable assistive technology to Minnesotans who need it." Commissioner Dana Badgerow, Department of Administration, told participants while welcoming them to the conference.

During the morning, Jeremy Buzzell, program specialist from Rehabilitation Services Administration and Carolyn Phillips with the Georgia Department of Labor and Director of the new National AT Reuse Technical Assistance Center, Pass It On, informed and inspired participants with a national purpose and vision for promoting reuse of assistive technology. Conference presentations are available for viewing at www.starprogram.state.mn.us.

The afternoon sessions included a panel discussion representing AT Reuse services and program already available to Minnesotans. There was also thoughtful discussion on the future of AT reuse in Minnesota facilitated by Management Analysis and Development, a division of the Department of Administration.

Participants also had an opportunity to celebrate the 17th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act during the afternoon break sponsored by the Minnesota State Council on Disability.

The Minnesota STAR program and the Department of Human Services Disability Services Division gratefully acknowledge the conference planning committee whose efforts greatly contributed to the success of the day:

- Assistive Technology of Minnesota
- Courage Center
- Department of Employment and Economic Development, Rehabilitation Services
- Department of Employment and Economic Development, State Services for the Blind
- Department of Human Services, Department of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Division
- Gillette Lifetime Specialty Healthcare
- Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Minnesota State Council on Disability
- Multiple Sclerosis Society- Minnesota Chapter
- PACER Center/Simon Technology Center
- United Cerebral Palsy of Minnesota

STAR also would like to thank our co-sponsor, the Department of Human Services, Disability Services Division, for the use of its spacious conference area and untiring commitment to make the conference a success.

Learn more about reusing
assistive technology by visiting

www.starprogram.state.mn.us



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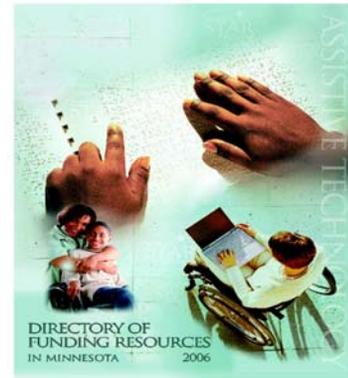
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www.starprogram.state.mn.us

Request a copy of the 2006 Assistive Technology Directory

Would you like a free copy of the 2006 Assistive Technology Directory of Funding Resources? Call 651-201-2640 or toll-free 888-234-1267 to request one or more copies of this popular directory or browse our online version at www.starprogram.state.mn.us.



All STAR materials are available in alternative formats

¡FOLLETOS EN ESPAÑOL! STAR ha empezado traducir folletos en Inglés a Español. Actualmente, STAR tiene dos folletos en Español: "Directorio de Recursos de Financiamiento para Tecnología Asistiva en Minnesota" y "El Programa STAR: Un Sistema de Tecnología para Lograr Resultados."

STAR does not endorse or recommend any particular product, individual or agency. The posting of information in this newsletter and on STAR's Web site is educational in nature and does not imply endorsement by STAR's funder, the Rehabilitation Services Administration.

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