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Governor

STATE OF NEW MEXICO GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY



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Presentation Synopsis - Legislative Health & Human Services Committee meeting October 10, 2018 - 1pm
By Governor's Commission on Disability - New Mexico Technology Assistance Program (NMTAP)
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- NMTAP is a program under the Governor's Commission on Disability and provides services to all individuals of any disability, of any age, living anywhere in New Mexico.
- NMTAP is federally funded to provide services under the federal law, Assistive Technology Act (AT Act).
- NMTAP is a formula grant under the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Community Living.
- NMTAP is a statewide program designed to increase knowledge of, access to, and acquisition of assistive or adaptive technology for anyone with any disability and the professionals or others supporting those individuals.
- Assistive technology (AT) includes devices that allow individuals (with hearing, speaking, thinking, seeing or moving disabilities) reach their goals in employment, education and community engagement. All of these areas relate to employment, since education may be needed to qualify for a job and functional daily living activities are needed for an individual to get to the job. Job accommodations also often include AT.
- Services include:
 - Device demonstrations several devices of the same type of AT are compared to determine which might best fit the individual needs. NMTAP provides this service to approximately 1400 individuals annually.
 - Device loan – devices are loaned to individuals for thirty (30) days to “try before you buy” in the environment in which they are needed. These devices can be picked up or sent by FedEx to anyone in the state, free of charge. NMTAP provides this service to approximately 300-400 individuals annually.
 - Reused AT Equipment – donated durable medical equipment and computers are provided to individuals with disabilities after they have been cleaned and checked for safety. Adelante is the partner contracted with NMTAP to provide this service in times when there is no other resource for the individual to obtain needed equipment. NMTAP provides this service to approximately 600-800 individuals annually.
 - Financial Loans – The partner for the two types of low interest loans offered is San Juan Center for Independence.
 - SEED Loans –**Self-Employment for Entrepreneurs with Disabilities** Loans are for the purchase of equipment by individuals with disabilities who have a business they want to expand, or who want to start a business



The New Mexico Technology Assistance Program (NMTAP) is a program of the NM Governor's Commission on Disability, supported by a grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Community Living.
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- Access Loans –loans offered to provide any individual with a disability the opportunity to purchase needed AT when there are no other options. They include, but are not limited to, a van with a ramp and/or hand controls, hearing aids or accessibility home modifications.
 - Training –training is offered to groups to provide in-depth understanding and operation of particular devices or services. NMTAP provides this service to approximately 1000 individuals at about 40 events annually.
 - Technical Assistance – includes in-depth training or troubleshooting of devices to individuals, referrals to resources other than NMTAP services. It may also be in-depth assistance to an organization so they can change their system to provide equal access for internal and external customers. NMTAP provides this service to approximately 2300 individuals annually.
- Outreach includes schools, case-managers, homecare agencies, other disability services providers, senior centers, community centers, assisted living locations, vocational rehabilitation service providers and others. We have satellite offices in Silver City through Western New Mexico University and in Las Vegas through the North Eastern Regional Educational Cooperative #4.
- NMTAP partners with many other state agencies and community organizations to provide access and information of a wide variety of assistive technology (AT) devices. We work toward not duplicating services, such as not providing telephones to deaf or hard of hearing individuals, since that service is provided by Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. We are working on an agreement to provide AT Evaluations to participants of the NM Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to assist the counselors in obtaining the best AT needed that will lead to successful employment.
- On October 5, 2018 the US Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture awarded New Mexico State University Extension Services an AgrAbility Grant. NMTAP is a proud partner of this four-year competitive federal grant, along with University of New Mexico and Mandy's Farm. We are just gearing up for this activity that provides AT to farmers, ranchers and their families statewide.
- GCD and NMTAP welcome referrals for services to any committee member and their constituents.
- Contact information: 1-505-841-4464 or www.tap.gcd.state.nm.us
- NMTAP will follow up with committee member suggestions for outreach including school Parent Teacher Organizations and victims groups.