



# STATE OF NEW MEXICO

## GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY



*Susana Martinez*  
*Governor*  
*Jim Parker*  
*Director*

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491 Old Santa Fe Trail  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501  
505-476-0412 / Fax: 505-827-6328  
1-877-696-1470

[gcd@state.nm.us](mailto:gcd@state.nm.us)  
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The New Mexico Technology Assistance Program (NMTAP) transferred to the New Mexico Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD) from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, effective October 27, 2012. NMTAP is Federally financed through the Rehabilitation Services Administration at \$432.0 and provides financing for four full-time employees to provide and assist in providing the programs and services listed below.

Both agencies are continuing to work to make the transition to GCD from DVR as smooth as possible. NMTAP statewide services provide various types of assistance to individuals with disabilities of all ages through the use of assistive technology. The programs listed below are part of NMTAP:

- **ABLE Loan Bank** – Provides short term loans of Assistive Technology devices for individuals with disabilities, who would like to try out a device prior to purchase. [NMTAP does not directly purchase items for individuals or agencies]
- **TeleWork Loan Program** – Loan program for persons with disabilities, who are seeking purchase of business-related equipment to assist in the start-up or expansion of a home-based business or self-employment. The program provides loan guarantees and interest rate subsidies and is managed by the San Juan Center for Independence in Farmington. [Currently finalizing Agreement with US Bank in Santa Fe to provide the loans]
- **Alternative Financing (Loan) Program (AFP)**– Low-interest loan program that allows a New Mexico resident with a disability to purchase assistive technology, or make home modifications to live more independently in the community. The AFP is managed by the San Juan Center for Independence in Farmington through an Agreement with First Community Bank of Farmington.

**'Creating Opportunities for Barrier Free Futures'**

- **Back In Use** – Computer and durable medical equipment (DME) donation program that places “gently used” computer-related systems and devices and DME in the homes and businesses of New Mexicans with disabilities. The program is managed by ADELANTE in Albuquerque.
- NMTAP staff also provides device demonstrations, information and assistance, transition assistance and assistive technology training to individuals, agencies, schools, therapists, rehabilitation facilities, veteran organizations and other public and private entities.

For additional information, please contact GCD at 1-877-696-1470 or 505-476-0412, or at [gcd@state.nm.us](mailto:gcd@state.nm.us).



# State of New Mexico

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SEP 28 2012

Susana Martinez  
*Governor*

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE  
DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

September 21, 2012

Mr. Edward Anthony  
Acting RSA Commissioner  
U.S. Department of Education, OSERS  
550 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-2800

Mr. Robert A. Groenendaal  
Management and Program Analyst  
Rehabilitation Services Administration  
U.S. Department of Education, OSERS  
550 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW Room 5025  
Washington, DC 20202-2800

Dear Acting Commissioner Anthony & Mr. Groenendaal:

It has come to my attention that the federal Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) has raised concerns about whether or not the New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) is the proper agency to administer the New Mexico Telework Loan Program and the Alternative Finance Loan Program. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in coordination with the Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD), has been working to find a solution to this potential problem so that the funds are not in jeopardy in the future. It is my understanding that the agencies have consulted with RSA and determined that a transfer of the loan programs from DVR to GCD would satisfy federal concerns. The state of New Mexico intends to transfer these programs effective October 27, 2012.

The Governor's Commission on Disability is well equipped to deliver these services and has a distinguished history of providing assistance to the disabled community in New Mexico. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susana Martinez".

Susana Martinez  
Governor

Cc: Ralph Vigil, Acting Director, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
Jim Parker, Director, Governor's Commission on Disability





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES  
REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

OCT 17 2012

Governor Susana Martinez  
State of New Mexico  
State Capitol  
Room 400  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Re: Designation of Lead Agency for the New Mexico State Grant for Assistive Technology

Dear Governor Susana Martinez,

Thank you for your letter dated September 21, 2012, to request approval from the Secretary of the Department of Education for designation of the Governor's Commission on Disability as the lead agency for the State Grant for Assistive Technology program in New Mexico.

On behalf of the Secretary, the Office of Special Education Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) approves the request to change the lead agency for the New Mexico Technology Assistance Program. RSA has been assured that the change in lead agency for the New Mexico statewide AT program is mutually agreed upon by the New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and the New Mexico Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD). RSA also understands that the AT program will benefit from GCD's history of delivering services, providing assistance to individuals with disabilities, and enhancing collaboration within the state of New Mexico, and will enable an increase in the coordination of comprehensive AT services for individuals with disabilities throughout all regions of the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Edward Anthony".

Edward Anthony, Ph.D.  
Deputy Commissioner

400 MARYLAND AVE. S.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20202

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