



October 2020

CALIFORNIA ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Department of Rehabilitation is seeking applications and nominations to serve on the Assistive Technology Advisory Council.

About the Assistive Technology Advisory Council:

The Assistive Technology Advisory Council (ATAC) is established pursuant to Section 4(c)(2) of the Assistive Technology Act of 2004 (AT Act). AT Act programs all have a public agency that serves as the Lead Entity. The Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) was designated by the governor as the Lead Entity and controls and administers the funds, submits the application, and implements other duties required of AT Act programs.

The AT Act describes the requirement to establish an advisory council “to provide consumer-responsive, consumer-driven advice to the State for, planning of, implementation of, and evaluation of the activities carried out through the grant, including setting the measurable goals described in subsection (d)(3).”

The primary functions of the ATAC are:

- To serve as ambassadors of the AT Act Program
- To assist with the development of the three-year State Plan for Assistive Technology (SPAT) submitted to the Administration on Community Living, US Department of Health and Human Services
- To assist the program with implementing and evaluating the activities identified in the SPAT and suggesting amendments, if needed, based on the Annual Progress Report (APR)
- To provide a stakeholder voice about issues related to access to, and acquisition of, assistive technology in California
- To provide input to other agencies and or partners in order to improve AT services within California

Composition:

In accordance with Section 4(c)(2) of the AT Act, the advisory council is to be a consumer-majority body, that is, with at least 51 percent individuals who are people with disabilities who are users of assistive technology devices and services. The AT Act prescribes a set of representatives from agencies and organizations, including:

- A representative of the designated State agency as defined in section 7 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (e.g. the vocational rehabilitation (VR) agency);
- A representative of the State agency for individuals who are blind, if such an agency is separate;
- A representative of a State center for independent living under title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973;
- A representative of the State workforce investment board established under section 111 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act; and
- A representative of the State educational agency as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Members of the ATAC shall reflect the diversity of California “with respect to race, ethnicity, types of disabilities across the age span,” as well as the types of AT devices and services used by its citizens with disabilities.

Responsibilities of members include:

- Attend and actively participate in all Assistive Technology Advisory Council (ATAC) meetings;
- Serve as a liaison between the State’s AT Act program and entity they represent (including state agencies and the community as a whole), promoting and sharing the State’s AT programs' mission and resources;
- Participate in identification and exploration of new opportunities to increase access to, and acquisition of, assistive technology devices and services, especially those involving partnerships with diverse stakeholders;
- Assist in educating others about AT devices and services through the state AT Act program (and other resources as appropriate);
- Participate in reviewing the State program's efforts and achievements of its goals; and,
- Support the establishment/maintenance/improvement of state and federal laws and policies that promote access to and acquisition of assistive technology

Would you like to serve?

The DOR Director-appointed ATAC consists of a diverse membership interested in, and representative of, Californians who are persons with disabilities who use assistive technology or are family members of persons with disabilities who use assistive technology. The DOR Director appoints representatives of specified entities to a three-year term.

All qualified applicants are urged to apply. If interested, please see the instructions below and complete the attached application.

There are multiple ATAC consumer vacancies. This recruitment will strive to select individuals representing the following populations of people who utilize assistive technology:

- Blind and visually impaired
- Deaf and hard of hearing
- Developmental disabilities
- Physical disabilities
- Other disabilities
- Representative of people aged 60 and older
- Representative of people aged 14 to 23
- Representative of a person with a disability, such as a family member or guardian of a person with a disability, who uses assistive technology

How to apply for appointment by the DOR Director to serve on the ATAC:

1. Complete the application and provide your resumé.
2. E-mail the application and your resumé to Karl Ortega at Karl.Ortega@dor.ca.gov.
3. Sign and mail your application and resumé to:

Department of Rehabilitation
Attn: AT Program, Karl Ortega
721 Capitol Mall
Fourth Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Questions? Please email Karl.Ortega@dor.ca.gov.

Attachment: ATAC Application