



Overview of Statewide AT Program Advisory Councils

This PowerPoint will allow you to...

- **Describe the purpose of a statewide AT program advisory council.**
- **Describe the basic requirements of a statewide AT program advisory council.**
- **Describe the function of a statewide AT Program advisory council.**

Purpose of Advisory Council

To help plan, implement, and evaluate activities of statewide AT program programs.

The AT Act says:

An advisory council will 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.

Basic Membership Requirements

- **Individuals with disabilities/ family or guardian on an individual with a disability**
- **Representative from vocational rehabilitation and from a state agency for individuals who are blind- if separate agency**
- **Representative from a state center for independent living**
- **Representative from the state workforce investment board**
- **Representative from state education agency**

Basic Membership Requirements

Individuals with disabilities-

A statewide AT program advisory council is required to be composed of a majority of individuals (51%) with disabilities who use AT, or by their family members or guardians.

Example of an Advisory Council

- **Minimum membership: Nine (9) Members**
- **Five (5) Consumers (or family members)**
- **Four (4) Agency Representatives:**
 - 1. Vocational Rehabilitation**
 - 2. Independent Living Center**
 - 3. Workforce Investment Board**
 - 4. State Educational Agency**

Basic Requirements

A statewide AT Program advisory council is required to be:

- Geographically representative of the state.**
- Reflect the diversity of the state with respect to race, ethnicity, and types of disabilities across the age span.**

The Advisory Council Members

Members of the state AT advisory council cannot be compensated for their services, but they can be reimbursed for services to participate in the council- e.g., travel costs.

Advisory Council Functions

- **Provide expertise**
- **Liaison between the advisory council and community**
- **Identify needs to improve current statewide AT program activities**
- **Evaluation and oversight of statewide AT program activities**
- **Identifying potential funding sources for program**

Considerations

- **Recruiting members**
- **Orienting members**
- **Conducting an advisory council meeting**
- **Establishing policies for the advisory council**



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