

DDS Assistive Technology Notice of Opportunity (NOO)

Frequently Asked Questions

Post Prior to June 8, 2022

- 1) Who can help an individual or family to apply for an Assistive Technology (AT) Grant?

A qualified provider who already provides support to an individual or family may offer assistance in applying for an AT Grant. If there is no provider available to assist with the application, the Case Manager or Helpline may be able to assist as needed.

- 2) Can a Case Manager apply for funding for a family or individual on their caseload? If so, what type of documentation is needed?

A Case Manager can apply for an AT Grant in conjunction with an individual or family on their caseload. Required documentation is outlined in the original NOO and please make sure to address each item below as applicable.

I. Descriptions of Specific Utility / Statement of Need:

- 1) Type and location of home.
- 2) Potential technology needs and hardship due to lack of AT
- 3) Proposed AT equipment and name of vendor
- 4) Proposed AT service(s) and name of vendor.
- 5) Cost of proposed AT equipment or services.

II. Rationale/ Program Parameters/ Intended Outcomes/ Longevity

- 6) How AT will enhance independence for the individual(s) supported
- 7) How AT will enhance the health & safety of the individual(s) supported.
- 8) Transition plan for the introduction of AT.
- 9) Funding plan on how these supports will be maintained once the grant ends
- 10) Fade plan for staff supports.

- 3) Is there an application? Or do I submit the information answering the below questions?

There is not a formal application. Please follow guidance as outlined in the original NOO.

- 4) Am I able to submit proposals for more than one individual or family?
You may submit proposals for more than one individual or family. Each proposal must be submitted separately.
- 5) Is there a limit on the number of devices that may be purchased? My son will receive remote services and the job coach, and he must have a device. He will also need a few other items for the services to have the expected impact on his ability to gain meaningful employment. Is there a cap per household?
The proposal should include all items and services that are needed. There is no cap on the number of items per household identified in the NOO. Items and services should be prioritized in the event that not all items and services requested can be funded.
- 6) Is there a limit to the dollar amount (financial parameters) that can be requested? (several similar questions)
There is no limit to the dollar amount that can be requested. Items and services should be prioritized in the event that not all items and services requested can be funded
- 7) Is there a requirement to the page length of the request?
There is no page length requirement.
- 8) To clarify, would the purchase of tablets or iPads to loan to individuals and families to use to connect to our virtual programming qualify for this grant?
The Notice of Opportunity is designed to support individuals living in a family home, community companion home (CCH) or receive individualized home supports (IHS) in the creative use of Active Technology (AT) to enhance independence and virtual interpersonal and community participation for individuals with intellectual disability. The Notice of Opportunity is not for provider purchases.
- 9) Can you provide us with the approximate amount of funding available and the average anticipated grant award for successful applications?
There is approximately \$100,000-\$150,000 in available grant funding. The average grant award will depend on the number and type of submissions received.
- 10) Are you most interested in economy of scale (large numbers of participants served), or will you consider equally important the proposals wishing to provide remote supports to those people living alone or with their families whom we deem most in need of services/equipment that we have not yet been

able to provide?

The goal is to fund as many proposals as possible. Proposals will be prioritized based upon those deemed most in need of services/equipment that are not yet available to them.

11) Can you please give me a sense of the scale of the grant we should be seeking? This will help us with our proposed equipment budget, as well as managing our expectations.

Proposals should include all items and services that are needed. Items and services should be prioritized in the event that not all items and services requested can be funded.

12) Can you link me to where the FAQ will be posted on 5/17?

<https://portal.ct.gov/DDS/General/AssistiveTechnology/AT-Latest-News>

13) Does the grant apply to people already receiving funding for AT from DDS or only for those who don't already have it?

People who have received DDS funding for AT may submit a proposal. Awards will be based upon the needs of the individuals.

14) If someone who already has funding is interested in new or different AT, should we include them in this grant?

People who are interested in new or different AT are able to submit a proposal.

15) When does the grant funding end?

Any services awarded through the NOO will be active for up to one year.

16) Is it necessary for the individual who has AT needs to submit a request?

A person who has AT needs may receive assistance in submitting a proposal.

17) Once the request is submitted, how will it get to the provider supplying the AT resources and supports?

The proposal shall include the name of the provider who will be supplying the AT resources and supports. If awarded, the recipient will contact the provider directly to procure items or arrange for supports.

18) May an agency identify a person in need and submit the response/request to DDS...and then once awarded work with the person to implement the identified need?

An agency may work with an identified person to create a proposal and submit on their behalf.

19) Can this be used to enhance waiver time?

It should NOT SUPPLANT waiver services, but it can enhance waived services.

20) Does it require a fading plan for staff supports? In other words, our goal is to keep people independent longer, preventing them from needing more support and a more structured environment so we would not necessarily be scaling staffing back, just not needing to add more.

See the NOO requirements regarding: "TITRATION PLAN".

21) Does it cover cost and support for keeping the tech up to date and running during the year?

NO, you need to have a plan to maintain the equipment (This is addressed in NOO Outline).

22) I have a woman on my caseload that may benefit from Assistive Technology supports. She lives on her own and works independently. She does not have any DDS funded supports however relies heavily on her retired parents (one of whom has cancer and is very unstable). Is there an assessment that could be completed to explore what may be able to assist her to live even more successfully. Especially as her parents age and will someday be unavailable to her.

An AT assessment may be needed to hopefully allow and maintain independence in the community.

23) I recently applied for a family grant for one of my individuals to purchase a Tablet (please see attached). The sister requested the grant as she was planning to pay out of pocket. This would be a hardship financially. The grant was denied. Could this family receive assistance to pay for the tablet?

Please submit specific details of the tablet that you are hoping to receive with the funds from this grant (make, model, hard drive size, memory, ext.). When all of the proposals are reviewed, you will know whether or not you have been granted funds.

Please Note: Questions came from Case Managers about specific families. The person specific details are not included in these questions