



Wisconsin's State Plan for Assistive Technology

Federal Fiscal Years 2018-2020

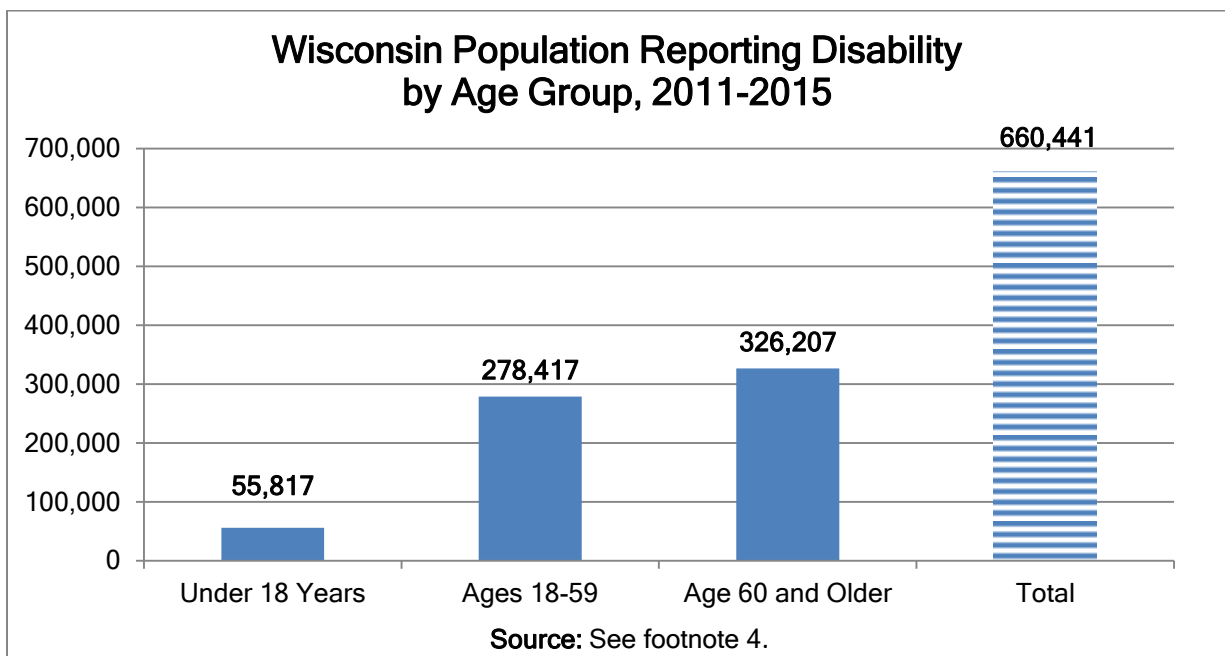
The mission of the WisTech Program is to improve awareness, access to, and acquisition of assistive technology for individuals with disabilities of all ages in Wisconsin.

“All people with disabilities have the assistive technology they need to allow them to increase or maintain their independence and improve their overall quality of life.”

WisTech Program Vision Statement

Assistive Technology (AT) is any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.¹ AT may be as simple as using a loop-style drawer handle or as complex as an eye gaze interface to operate a personal computer. Wisconsin recognizes the vital role AT plays in the lives of older adults and people with disabilities. AT allows people to live independently in the community, or residence of their choice, with dignity and respect.

Wisconsin is home to many residents, of all ages, who report having a disability. There are 326,207 residents who reported a disability were over the age of 60², with a projected growth of 8.8 percent by the year 2030.³ Approximately 11 percent of people with disabilities reside in rural areas of the state.



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports 6.5 percent of all adults in the United States report difficulty performing tasks that allow them to live independently. In addition, 3.6 percent of adults have a disability that makes self-care

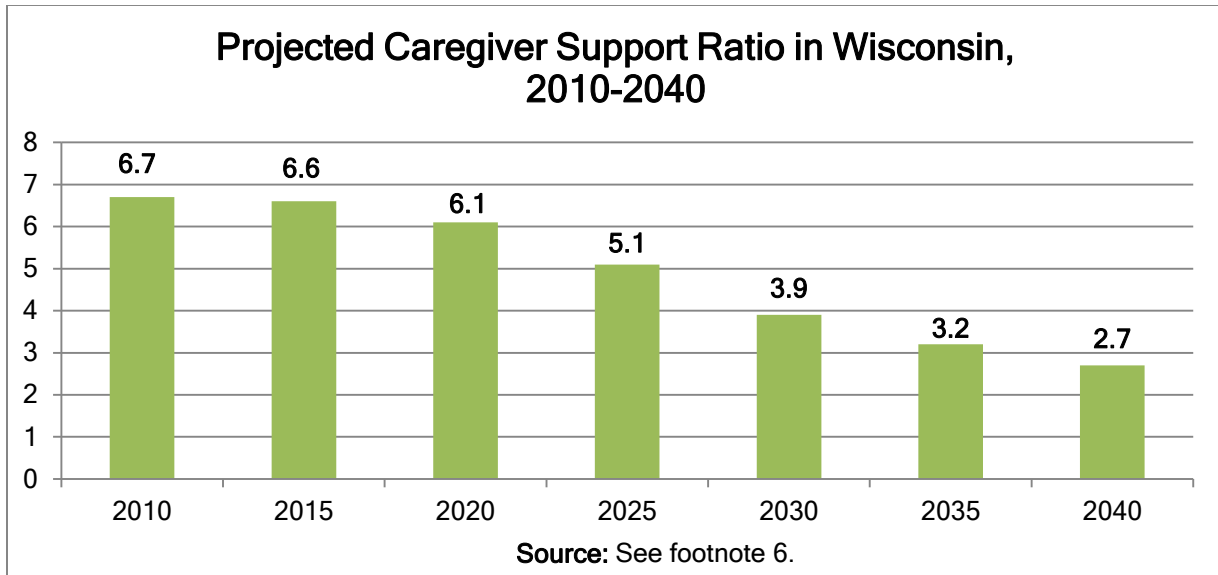
¹ Assistive Technology as defined in the Assistive Technology (AT) Act of 1998, as amended in 2004.

² U.S. Census, American Community Survey, PUMS File, 2011-2015.

³ U.S. Census, Wisconsin Demographic Services Center, and Minnesota Population Center National Historical Geographic Information System: Version 2.0. Minneapolis, MN: University.

⁴ U.S. Census, American Community Survey, PUMS File, 2011-2015.

(tasks such as dressing or bathing) difficult.⁵ AT could assist individuals with disabilities or older adults with being able to complete these self-care tasks more independently.



Caregivers play a critical role in supporting older adults and people with disabilities in the community. The caregiver support ratio in Wisconsin (defined as the number of those ages 45-64 for each person ages 80 and older) is projected to shrink from 6.6 in 2015 to 3.9 by 2030.⁷ AT and durable medical equipment can alleviate the burden on caregivers and can aid in preventing injuries through the use of items such as lift belts and transfer chairs.

The State Plan for Assistive Technology seeks to address the AT needs of a growing aging and disabled population through leadership, partnership, and collaboration. The goals and strategies identified in this plan were developed and informed by the mission and core values of the WisTech Program, including:

- ***Respect for people.***
- ***Empowering individuals.***
- ***Collaboration.***
- ***Provision of quality assistive technology services.***
- ***Commitment to customer service.***
- ***Finding innovative solutions.***
- ***Accessibility of services, materials, website, and office locations.***

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Key Findings: Prevalence of Disability and Disability Type amount Adults, United States, 2013. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/features/key-findings-community-prevalence.html>.

⁶ Wisconsin Department of Administration, Demographic Services Center, Population Projections, Vintage 2013.

⁷ Ibid.

Addressing Wisconsin's Assistive Technology Needs

The State Plan for Assistive Technology⁸ identifies what is needed in order to provide high-quality AT services on a statewide basis. This plan outlines how the WisTech program will provide leadership to plan for and address the AT needs of older adults and people with disabilities in Wisconsin. The goals for the 2018-2020⁹ Wisconsin State Plan for Assistive Technology include:

Goal 1: Awareness	Increase awareness of assistive technology and the WisTech program.
Goal 2: Sustainability	Ensure sustainability and quality of assistive technology services supported by the WisTech program.
Goal 3: Knowledge	Provide professional training opportunities through the WisTech program.
Goal 4: Universal Accessibility	Ensure universal accessibility of the WisTech program.

The WisTech program also plans to address the unmet AT needs impacting people in Wisconsin, including:

- Availability of AT equipment for students outside of the classroom.
- Financial assistance and resources for AT acquisition.
- AT training for people with disabilities and older adults.
- Funding to purchase accessible vehicles and/or to make vehicle modifications.
- Home modifications in specific living situations.
- Access to AT devices and services for underserved populations in Wisconsin.
- Use of AT as a job accommodation.

The following pages outline the strategies for achieving these goals and addressing Wisconsin's unmet AT needs.

⁸ The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration on Community Living (ACL) requires that states that receive federal funding from the AT Act are to submit a State Plan for Assistive Technology every three years.

⁹ These goals cover Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2018 (beginning October 1, 2017) through FFY 2020 (ending September 30, 2020).



Goal 1: Awareness

Increase awareness of assistive technology and the WisTech program.

Strategy

Increase outreach, implement effective marketing strategies, and offer educational training.

Measure of Success

Increase the awareness of assistive technology (AT) services and supports available in Wisconsin as demonstrated by an increase in the number of WisTech program referrals by 5 percent annually.

Deliverables:

- AT home modifications
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) assessments for businesses
- Standardized marketing materials and messaging
- Web-based educational tools
- WisTech newsletter

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Goal 2: Sustainability

Ensure sustainability and quality of assistive technology services supported by the WisTech program.

Strategy

Create and maintain collaborative partnerships.

Measures of Success

- Increase public and private funding opportunities available to support the WisTech program.
- Increase the number of collaborative partnerships that support innovation and expand AT services statewide.
- Increase the number of providers who hold assistive technology professional (ATP) certification statewide.

Deliverables:

- Comprehensive plan for program financial sustainability
- ATP training scholarships
- AT workforce development plan

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Goal 3: Knowledge

Provide professional training opportunities through the WisTech program.

Strategy

Provide opportunities for education, training, and network collaboration.

Measures of Success

- Increase knowledge, skills, and competencies of AT professionals, providers, state agency partners, and stakeholders by hosting three regional trainings annually.
- Increase the number of providers who are certified as ATP in Wisconsin.

Deliverables:

- Professional training opportunities
- Technical assistance documents
- Networking opportunities

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Goal 4: Universal Accessibility

Ensure universal accessibility of the WisTech program.

Strategy

The WisTech program is fully accessible and serves to lead by example.

Measure of Success

Increase consumer participation in AT Advisory Council meetings and WisTech sponsored trainings by 5 percent annually.*

Deliverables:

- WisTech program contracts contain ADA accessibility requirements
- Fully accessible* AT Advisory Council meetings
- Fully accessible* WisTech trainings

**To ensure full participation in the WisTech program by all interested parties and stakeholders, the Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources (BADR) is providing reasonable accommodations at all WisTech meetings and trainings. Computer Aided Real-time Translation, sign language interpreters, and meeting materials in accessible formats will be provided as requested. BADR is ensuring all meetings and trainings are held at locations that meet American with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Meetings and trainings will be made available through distance communication.*

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Assistive Technology Act Funds

The AT Act provides federal funding for programs and services that create better access to affordable and appropriate AT devices and services. Congress passed amendments to the AT Act in 2004, which specifically called for improving access to AT in the areas of education, employment, community living, and information and communications technology (ICT).

At least 60 percent of the funds received by the state must support **state-level activities** that are programs and services for people with disabilities. State-level activities include: **state financing, device reutilization; device loan, and device demonstration**. Forty percent or less of the funds must be used to support **state leadership activities** that provide guidance to people with disabilities and to the programs and providers who serve them. State leadership activities include: **training, technical assistance, public awareness, and information and assistance**.

The following charts show the percentage of federal funding used for state-level and state leadership activities for FFY 2018.

Resource Allocation for FFY 2018

State-Level Activities			
Grantee or Program Name	State-Level Activity	Description	Percentage of Funding
Mobility Store	Device Reuse	Administer the state reuse program in partnership with Department of Corrections.	11.7%
Department of Corrections	Device Reuse	Provide staff oversight to inmates who sanitize and repair devices.	9.8%
University of Wisconsin Madison	Device Reuse	Administer the Wisconsin Infant and Children's Statewide Hearing Aid Exchange Service (WISHES) program.	1.4%
Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources to Vendors	Device Loan, Device Demonstration, State Financing	Buy software, databases, and other items needed to support data collection and maintain accurate device loan and demonstration inventory accessible to the public.	2.0%
Wisconsin Independent Living Centers	Device Loan, Device Demonstration, State Financing	Provide state level activities to people with disabilities.	75.0% (9.4% per ILC)

State Leadership Activities			
Grantee or Program Name	State Leadership Activity	Description	Percentage of Funding
Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources	Program Administration	Fund staff salary, fringe, travel, materials in alternative formats, supplies, and other related expenses.	17.3%
Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources	Training	Provide AT training to WisTech subcontractors, stakeholders, and partners.	14.0%
Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources	Public Outreach	Fund booths and marketing materials.	1.4%
Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources for AT Advisory Council	Program Administration	Fund expenses for meetings, travel reimbursements to members, and accommodations.	4.7%
<i>In Procurement</i>	Training and Technical Assistance	To provide transition training and technical assistance.	4.4%
Wisconsin Independent Living Centers	Training	Fund staff procurement or maintainance their Assistive Technology Professional Certification.	3.7% (0.46% per ILC)
Wisconsin Independent Living Centers	Training, Technical Assistance, Public Awareness, and Information and Assistance	Provide state leadership activities to local service areas in Wisconsin.	59.5% (7.4% per ILC)

Background and Definitions - Assistive Technology Act

State Assistive Technology Advisory Council

The State Assistive Technology Advisory Council is required by the Assistive Technology (AT) Act. At least 51 percent of council membership comprises people with disabilities, who are AT users. The other members of the council are representatives from agencies and organizations as prescribed in the AT Act. Wisconsin's AT Advisory Council provides advice and guidance on the following:

- Wisconsin's State Plan for Assistive Technology.
- WisTech program support and evaluation.
- Program data and outcomes monitoring.
- AT partnership development and maintenance.

To learn more about the council or to become a member, please visit the [Assistive Technology Advisory Council webpage](#).

Information and Communication Technology

Information and communication technology (ICT) relates to the accessibility and readability of digital documents and web content in a format that can be accessed by a wide range of devices. ICT standards were established by section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. § 794 (d)).

State Plan for Assistive Technology

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration on Community Living (ACL) requires states that receive federal funding from the AT Act to submit a state plan for assistive technology. The state plan outlines goals for the state's AT program and tracks progress towards these goals based on federal performance measures.

Transition Assistance

Transition assistance refers to assistance that individuals with disabilities receive in order to successfully navigate the transition from high school to postsecondary education, employment, or from a care or rehabilitation facility back to their home and community.

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The WisTech Program welcomes your feedback.

WisTech program staff are available to answer any questions readers may have, to provide the State Plan for AT in accessible formats, and to receive any feedback or suggestions you may have on the plan. For contact information, please visit:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/wistech/index.htm>.



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