Mission

Increase assistive technology awareness and accessibility to a scale where all Colorado residents are assured their rights to personal development, learning, independent living, and work opportunities of their choice. State entities will work toward efficient and effective use of resources as they pursue activities such as cooperative training and technical assistance, recycling programs, shared loan banks, cooperative service agreements.

Purpose

Improve access to and acquisition of AT devices and services for individuals in education, employment, community living, and information technology. Additionally, the AT Coalition is the Advisory Council for the Assistive Technology Program of Colorado, a federally funded program under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended.

History of the AT Coalition

The AT Coalition was formed in July 2001 by leaders from several state agencies with federal mandates to provide assistive technology services/equipment to Colorado residents. The incentives for collaboration were to maximize the limited resources, avoid duplication of effort, and support each other in keeping pace with technology that grows so rapidly that it is impossible for any single agency to stay current on all of the options.

Membership

Historically, membership on the AT Coalition has been voluntary and open to anyone who has an interest in raising awareness about assistive technology or promoting its usage. With the added function of serving as the Advisory Council for the AT Program membership must meet the requirements of the Assistive Technology Act. A majority of the council must be individuals with disabilities who use AT or family members or guardians of these individuals. The council also must include a representative of the designated State agency that implements the Rehabilitation Act, a representative of a state center of independent living; a representative of the state workforce investment board; a representative of the state educational agency; and representatives of other state agencies, public agencies or private organizations. At times when the Advisory Council membership is incomplete, active recruitment efforts should be in place to attract appropriate new members to remain in compliance with the AT Act.

Roles of Members

To participate in meetings, sharing and responding to information specific or related to assistive technology for people with disabilities

To assist in the implementation of the Statewide AT Program through activities the Council deems necessary, including but not limited to: outreach; training; interagency cooperation, collaboration, and coordination.

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 for the Statewide Assistive Technology Program.

To review and make recommendations for the measurable goals of the Statewide AT Grant in the areas of education, employment, community living, and information technology.
Accomplishments

Under advisement of the AT Coalition, the AT Program of Colorado in coordination with Assistive Technology Partners has accomplished the following:

Ongoing collaborative statewide training on the use of assistive technology

Individual client/student evaluations conducted in Denver area, Grand Junction and surrounding areas, in southeast Colorado.

Formation and implementation of a statewide assistive technology loan bank for Colorado school districts and Early Intervention programs

Ongoing technical assistance to service providers within the partnering agencies

Established WESTAC (Western Technical Assistance Center), a satellite assistive technology center located at the Workforce Center in Grand Junction

Established SETAC (Southeast Technical Assistance Center), a satellite assistive technology center located at Pikes Peak BOCES in Colorado Springs

Development and implementation of AT Finder, a search tool to find assistive technology on multiple online classified programs such as eBay and Craig’s List.

Development and implementation of AT Funding Sources, a Colorado based database to find funding by county for assistive technology

Established AT Network, a regionally based program to raise the awareness about assistive technology in rural as well as the metropolitan areas of Colorado and to build local organizations capacity to help people find the technology they need.

The Governor has annually proclaimed a week in October as Assistive Technology Awareness Week beginning in 2008.

Meetings

The AT Coalition meets no less than 4 times per year and as often as 6 times per year during the following months: January, March, May, July, September, and November. Meetings are cancelled if less than 10 members are able to attend.

Upon request, accommodations are provided for members to fully participate in the meetings.
Assistive Technology Program of Colorado
in compliance with the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended

ADVISORY COUNCIL BYLAWS
(as amended February 2011)

ARTICLE I

NAME

Assistive Technology Program of Colorado Advisory Council

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE, MISSION, VISION

Purpose: To serve in an advisory capacity to the Assistive Technology Program of Colorado, assuring the accomplishment of its goals as demonstrated through measurable outcomes.

Mission: Increase awareness and accessibility to assistive technology to a scale where all Colorado residents are assured their rights to personal development, learning, independent living, and work opportunities of their choice.

Vision: The Assistive Technology Program of Colorado will be an exemplary model of collaboration among state level agencies/organizations to make assistive technology accessible, functional, timely and more affordable for all Colorado residents.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

A. The Council will be appointed as a subcommittee of the Colorado Assistive Technology (AT) Coalition and will conduct business as part of the regularly scheduled AT Coalition meetings, meeting a minimum of four times per year.

B. Members representing state agencies and organizations must have the authority from their entity to make decisions regarding the actions of this Council.

C. The Council shall be composed of not less than 12 members. The Council shall be composed of a majority of people who use assistive technology due to a disability or their family members or caregivers with representation from across disability areas and agencies.

D. Diversity of membership and representation from rural areas will be targeted in recruitment efforts. The AT Coalition will approve membership to the Advisory Council.

E. Nominations to the Council shall be submitted to the Colorado Assistive Technology Coalition (AT Coalition) and be based on disability area; represent various areas of the state, skills and organization affiliation interested in the provision of Assistive Technology devices and services and diverse ethnic groups.
ARTICLE IV

TERMS OF OFFICE

A. Consideration will be given to replacing members who are not able to attend a majority of meetings in any given calendar year.

ARTICLE V.

OFFICERS

A. The AT Coalition Co-Chairpersons will be members on the Council and also serve as the officers for the council. Two people will be elected to fulfill these positions for a two year term. Their terms will be staggered so that one new chairperson serves with an experienced chairperson.

B. The Chairpersons, with input from the Council members and the Coordinator of the Assistive Technology Program of Colorado, may appoint Committee/Task Group Chairpersons as deemed necessary.

C. Assistive Technology Partners will provide a non-voting secretary.

D. Elections of Co-Chairpersons will take place annually in May.

ARTICLE VII

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

A. To confer with Coordinator of the Assistive Technology Program of Colorado in developing the agenda items for the AT Coalition meetings.

B. To preside over the AT Coalition/Advisory Council meetings. The chairpersons may request that ATP staff assist in the facilitation of meetings.

C. To appoint, with the Council Members and Coordinator of the Assistive Technology Program of Colorado, committee/task group chairpersons.

ARTICLE VIII

FUNCTIONS OF COORDINATOR OF THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM OF COLORADO

A. Participate in AT Coalition/Council meetings.

B. Assist the chairperson in facilitating meetings upon request.

C. Serve as facilitator for Committee/Task Group discussions

D. Assure clerical support for committee reports (minutes, mailing, meeting notices and agenda).

E. Serve as resource person (ex officio member).

F. Assure quarterly communication between council members and Assistive Technology Program of Colorado staff.

G. Communicate updates via email and phone.

H. Execute logistical meeting set-up and travel accommodations for advisory council meetings.
ARTICLE IX

MEETINGS

A. The Council shall meet at least quarterly.
B. The Chairpersons or a simple majority of the total Council may call additional meetings as deemed necessary with appropriate notification.
C. All meetings of the Council shall be held in barrier-free meeting sites. Reasonable accommodations and alternative format shall be provided in means that are accessible to persons with disabilities.
D. All meetings will be held at Assistive Technology Partners Office, unless notified otherwise.
E. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the Council members in attendance.
Nomination Form

Colorado Assistive Technology Program Advisory Council

A function of the Colorado Assistive Technology Coalition

Purpose:

To provide consumer-responsive, consumer-driven advice to the State for, planning of, implementation of, and evaluation of the activities carried out through the statewide assistive technology program as required by the Assistive Technology Act of 2004

Composition

(The advisory council shall be geographically representative of the State and reflect the diversity of the State with respect to race, ethnicity, and types of disabilities across the age span.)

- Individuals with disabilities who are AT users or family members or guardians
  A Representative of:
  - Independent Living Centers
  - Workforce Centers
  - Colorado Department of Education
  - Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
  - Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council
  - Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Older People
  - Family Voices
  - Talking Book Library
  - Department of Human Services – Aging Services
  - Other interested persons

Time Commitment

The term of appointment is two years. Members may be appointed for successive terms, not to exceed two terms. Meetings are held six times per year on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Attendance is expected at all meetings with a requirement of not missing more than two meetings. Teleconferencing will be available for members

Nominator: ___________________________________________

Name of Nominee: _____________________________________
Background and Information about Nominee: (Nominee may complete this information)

City/State/Zip: __________________  County: _____________________________

Congressional District (if known): ______

Email Address: ________________________________

Home Phone: ___________________ Work Phone: _____________________

Ethnicity (Optional): ___________________________

Please list experiences with assistive technology and individuals with disabilities and why you are interested in being considered for Advisory Committee membership.

Signature___________________________________________Date____________

Submit Nominations To:

Coordinator of Assistive Technology Program of Colorado ATTN: AT Coalition
Assistive Technology Partners
601 East 18th Avenue, Suite 130
Denver, CO 80203
Phone: 303-315-1280 Fax: 303-837-1208
Email: GeneralInfo@AT-Partners.org
AT Coalition Members Declaration of Representation
The ADVISORY COUNCIL for the Statewide Assistive Technology Program is required, under the AT Act of 1998, as amended to have broad representation of ethnicity, geographic representation, and consumers. Moreover, this Council seeks this representation to assure that the program is high quality and meeting the needs of the public it serves. Please help the Council to know how you can contribute to the diversity of our membership by completing the following questionnaire.

Ethnicity:

- African American
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Caucasian
- Native American
- Spanish/Hispanic
- Other

State Agency or Organization you represent:

- Assistive Technology Partners (AT Act implementing entity)
- State agency for individuals who are blind
- State Center for Independent Living
- State Workforce Investment Board
- State Educational Agency
- Other _________________________________________________

Age Groups Served or Represented:

- Birth to the aging
- 0 – 3
- 3 – 21
- 16 – adult
- Over 55

Counties Represented:

- All in Colorado
- Name of County (ies)_______________________________

Do you:

- Have a disability and use AT? (disability – optional)__________________________
- Have a family member or are you a caretaker for some who has a disability and uses AT?
  (disability – optional)__________________________
- If yes to either of the above, please describe the AT______________________________