



Nebraska VR Report

2018-2019

Tobias Orr

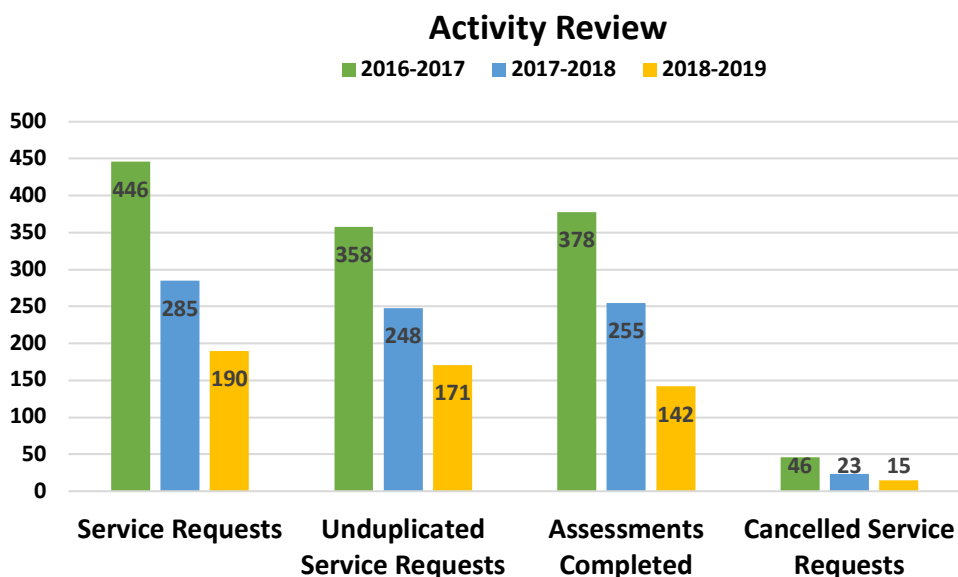
Director

Brooke Harrie

Program Supervisor

SERVICE REQUESTS AND ASSESSMENTS

The following report includes analysis and comparisons of Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP) and Nebraska VR (NE VR) service program data from the last three fiscal years (FY 2016-2017, 2017-2018 and 2018-2019). The chart below is an overview of service requests received during this time, as well as the unduplicated service requests and assessments completed. ATP received a total of 202 service requests during the last fiscal year, however 12 of those were ergonomic or worksite assessments for new and existing NE VR staff. In order to accurately report on the number of service requests received and assessments completed for NE VR clients, the number of service requests for NE VR staff has been removed from all data.



During FY 2018-2019, the total number of service requests received was lower than the previous two years. The fewer service requests continues to be the result of NE VR going into an Order of Selection (OOS) starting in January 2018, with all Priority groups being closed by April of 2018. ATP has seen a slight increase in service requests as groups of Priority 1 individuals have been released from the waiting list over the last year and anticipate more service requests as NE VR continues to serve more and more clients. ATP has continued to work with NE VR clients with active cases as well as individuals served through job retention and transition aged youth through Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS). Individuals who are interns through Project SEARCH are included under Pre-ETS and service requests for this population have continued to increase. This past year ATP has focused on educating NE VR staff on the services that can be provided for Pre-ETS including informational assessments, loans/demonstrations of equipment through AT4All, Reuse and funding coordination services. ATP staff continue to stay busy with NE VR service requests and by moving some FTE's over to other ATP programs such as Education, HHS A&D/DD Waiver and iCanConnect. As a result of service requests slowing down, some ATP staff also chose to reduce their hours to 30 or 32 hours a week. This reduction in staff in the ATP-VR Program is reflected in the lower cost to NE VR during FY19. As NE VR funding picks up and service requests increase, ATP staff may need to

increase their hours to cover the workload. The program currently has one Program Supervisor/Technology Specialist in Omaha, one Technology Specialist in Kearney, one Technology Specialist in Lincoln, one Technology Specialist in Columbus and one part time NE VR Technology Specialist in Scottsbluff. At the time of this report, the Omaha ATP office was working to hire a new Technology Specialist to help out with the larger number of service requests in the Omaha area.

There were a total of 9 priority cases this fiscal year. This has almost doubled since last year having only 5 priority cases. A case is considered a priority if the client is at immediate risk of losing their job, they are failing a class in school or if they cannot start a job until their assistive technology (AT) need is met. Priority cases are assessed within 5 business days versus a standard NE VR case where the Technology Specialist has 30 days to complete the assessment. The number of unduplicated service requests reflects the number of clients with significant disabilities that required several different AT services in order to prepare for, obtain and maintain employment. There were 19 cases this year with more than 1 service request. Only 10% of cases had more than one service request this year dropping from 13% and 19% the last two years. The number of service requests this year ranged from one to three per individual referred. The number of cancelled service requests has remained consistent at about 8%. Service requests were cancelled for a variety of reasons including the needs of the client being met by another source, client determined they did not want or need services, duplication of service requests, client did not maintain contact or the referral being inappropriate as the technology requested was not related to the individual's disability. A case is only cancelled by ATP if the assessment is not able to be completed. If the assessment is completed with the client, even if the recommendations are not obtained, a report with information on the recommendations will be submitted to NE VR staff and the case will be closed as complete by the Technology Specialist.

The chart on the next page reflects the number of assessments completed by AT category for the past three fiscal years for NE VR clients. Due to a lower number of service requests this year, fewer assessments were completed. A total of 142 assessments were completed for the 190 service requests as of September 30, 2019. Assessments may not have been completed for the service request because the referral was cancelled, inappropriate or the referral was just recently received and the assessment is scheduled, but was not completed before the end of the fiscal year. Service requests received from NE VR staff are categorized to reflect the type of AT recommended by the Technology Specialist. Recommendations are based on the most cost-effective solution that will assist the client in meeting their individual education or employment goal. The type of AT most commonly assessed for has consistently been cognitive aids. Cognitive aids were about 45% of the technology assessed for this fiscal year, with worksite AT and vehicle modifications being the second and third most assessed for technology.

ASSESSMENTS BY ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CATEGORY

AT CATEGORY	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
ADL Equipment	26	14	7
Bathroom/Laundry Modifications	12	9	2
Bicycle	-	4	2
Cognitive Aids	91	58	64
Communication	5	7	1
Computer (hardware/software)	29	27	4
Entrance Modifications	13	4	1
Ergonomics	21	9	2
Hearing Devices and Accessories	24	18	6
Information Only	9	4	2
Kitchen Modifications	0	1	0
Lift (Interior and Exterior)	4	2	2
Lift Repair	2	0	0
Mobility Device	23	11	5
Mobility Device Repair	0	2	2
Other	3	0	0
Other Home Modifications	4	5	2
Prosthetic/Orthosis	1	0	0
Ramp	1	2	1
Vehicle Modifications	57	34	11
Vehicle Modifications Repair	0	2	1
Vision Device	1	0	0
Worksite AT	52	42	27
Total	378	255	142

This is the second year for the ATP bicycle program and 2 referrals were received. This continues to be a low-cost solution for NE VR clients throughout the state when addressing transportation issues. Transportation is a major barrier for many NE VR clients who are trying to go to work. This program partners with local bicycles shops who donate used bicycles and parts. The ATP Technology Specialist in Lincoln is then able to use his expertise in this area to properly fit a bicycle to an individual for safety and comfort, as well as save money.

The ATP Program Supervisor and Technology Specialists continue to work on educating all NE VR staff about ATP services and how the process works by discussing this at ATP Team Tours, attending NE VR team meetings, presenting at new staff implementation trainings when they are held and also working one on one with new NE VR staff that are hired when they are referred to NE VR for their ergonomic assessment. The three charts found on the following pages reflect service request activity by NE VR office/team. These charts are followed by a map of Nebraska showing the service requests statewide by ATP service area in each county.

SERVICE REQUESTS BY VR OFFICE

VR OFFICE	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Columbus	31	24	31
Fremont	7	5	0
Grand Island/ Hastings	45	23	6
Kearney	81	40	16
Lincoln	90	59	40
Norfolk/ South Sioux City	31	18	13
North Platte	27	14	6
Omaha Downtown	64	20	11
Omaha Pre-ETS	-	41	64
Omaha West	56	26	3
Scottsbluff	14	15	0
Total	446	285	190

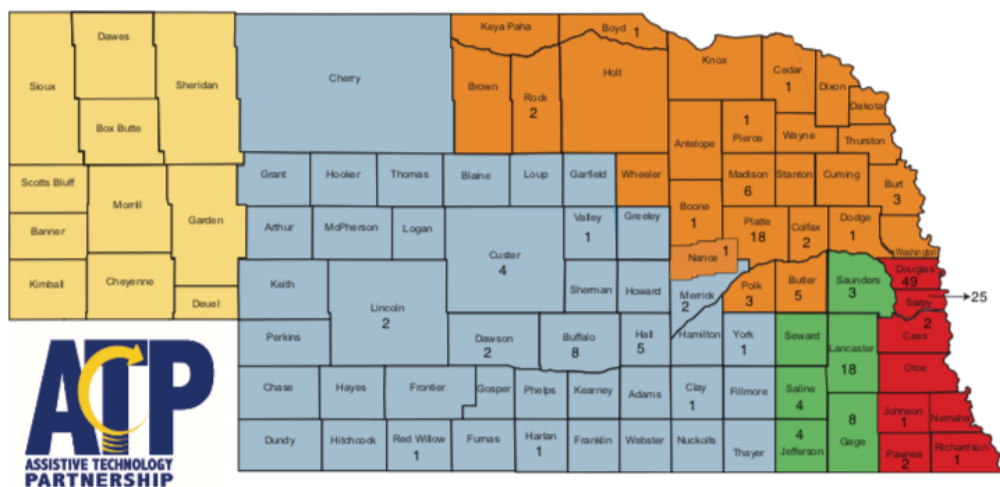
UNDUPLICATED SERVICE REQUESTS BY VR OFFICE

VR OFFICE	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Columbus	28	21	29
Fremont	5	5	0
Grand Island/ Hastings	38	19	6
Kearney	64	31	14
Lincoln	77	54	37
Norfolk/ South Sioux City	26	16	13
North Platte	21	14	4
Omaha Downtown	48	17	6
Omaha Pre-ETS	-	41	59
Omaha West	39	20	3
Scottsbluff	12	10	0
Total	358	248	171

ASSESSMENTS COMPLETED BY VR OFFICE

VR OFFICE	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Columbus	27	18	19
Fremont	6	5	0
Grand Island/ Hastings	29	18	3
Kearney	69	34	13
Lincoln	85	55	34
Norfolk/ South Sioux City	29	17	11
North Platte	20	12	4
Omaha Downtown	61	20	11
Omaha Pre-ETS	-	40	46
Omaha West	46	22	1
Scottsbluff	6	14	0
Total	378	255	142

SERVICE REQUESTS BY ATP SERVICE AREA



Nebraska VR Service Requests: 190

■ 28

Kearney

315 W. 60th Street, Suite 300, 68845
(877) 713-4002

■ 45

Columbus

3100 23rd Street, Suite 5, 68601
(402) 276-4811



Scottsbluff

505A Broadway, Suite 500, 69361
(877) 713-4002

■ 80

Omaha

1313 Farnam Street, Suite 305, 68102
(877) 713-4002

■ 37

Lincoln

3901 N. 27th Street, Suite 5, 68521
(402) 471-0734, (877) 713-4002

DISABILITY

Disability was a new category reported on last year, so only 2 years of data will be available for comparison. All recommendations made by NE VR Technology Specialists are related to the client's disability and job goal. The following 3 charts show the primary, secondary and tertiary disabilities reported to NE VR by the client and then listed on the ATP referral form. The number of unduplicated service requests are included in this list so each client and their diagnoses are only listed once. Cognitive disabilities including Intellectual Disability, Dyslexia and learning disabilities were the primary diagnoses of the individuals referred to ATP this year. This was followed by individuals with Attention Deficit and/or Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD) and physical disabilities. The following chart shows the primary disabilities that were reported.

PRIMARY DISABILITY REPORTED

PRIMARY DISABILITY	2017-2018	2018-2019
ADD/ADHD	25	19
Asthma/COPD	1	2
Autism	12	13
Brain Injury (TBI/ABI)	7	7
Cognitive (Intellectual/SLD/Dyslexia)	33	51
Cerebral Palsy (CP)	16	9
Diabetes	3	0
Down Syndrome	1	2
Emotional/Mental Health	16	4
Hearing Impairment	29	10
Heart Disease	2	1
Hormonal Disorder	1	0
Hydrocephalus	1	1
Lyme Disease	1	0
Multiple Sclerosis (MS)	9	3
Muscular Dystrophy (MD)	7	4
Parkinson's Disease	1	0
Physical Disability (Arthritis, Arthrogryposis, back, amputation, Charcot Marie Tooth, Club foot, DDD, fibromyalgia, Polio, Transverse Myelitis)	36	15
Seizures/Epilepsy	6	2
Speech Impairment/Delay	4	4
Spina Bifida	6	6
Spinal Cord Injury (Quadriplegia/Paraplegia)	21	14

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Spinal Cord Injury (Quadriplegia/Paraplegia)	21	14
Stroke	9	3
Vision Impairment	1	1
Total	248	171

SECONDARY DISABILITY REPORTED

Approximately 45% of individuals referred to ATP identified both a primary and secondary disability diagnosis. A cognitive or intellectual disability was the most common secondary diagnosis, followed again by ADD/ADHD and physical disabilities. Diagnoses are reported in the order in which they are listed on the ATP referral form, typically by severity or what causes the most barriers to employment for the individual. The following chart shows the secondary disabilities that were reported.

SECONDARY DISABILITY	2017-2018	2018-2019
ADD/ADHD	1	9
Asthma	4	0
Autism	2	6
Autoimmune Disease	0	2
Cancer	1	0
Cognitive (Intellectual/SLD)	23	16
Diabetes	5	1
Emotional/Mental Health	23	7
Hearing Impairment	9	0
Hydrocephalus	0	2
Hypertension	1	2
Hypothyroid/Hyperthyroid	0	2
Kidney/End Stage Renal Disease	0	1
Multiple Sclerosis	0	1
Obesity	3	0
Physical Disability (ALS, back, Arthritis, DDD, Fibromyalgia, Scoliosis, Carpel Tunnel)	25	12
Seizures/Epilepsy	2	0
Shaken Baby Syndrome	1	0
Speech Impairment/Delay	1	7
Spinal Cord Injury (Paraplegia/Quadriplegia)	0	7
Vision Impairment	2	2
Total	103	77

TERTIARY DISABILITY REPORTED

Of the 171 unduplicated service requests, 26 or approximately 15% of individuals had at least 3 disability diagnoses. This shows that the individuals being referred to ATP from NE VR have significant disabilities resulting in barriers to employment that are requiring AT assistance. The chart below shows the tertiary disability diagnoses that were reported.

TERTIARY DISABILITY	2017-2018	2018-2019
ADD/ADHD	1	1
Brain Injury (TBI/ABI)	4	1
Cognitive (Intellectual/SLD)	2	4
Diabetes	5	1
Emotional/Mental Health	6	4
Epilepsy/Seizures	0	1
Hearing Impairment	4	1
Hypothyroid/Hyperthyroid	0	1
Kidney Disease	1	0
Migraines	0	2
Physical Disability (back, balance, obesity, hypertension)	9	7
Seizures/ Epilepsy	1	1
Sleep Apnea	1	0
Speech Impairment/Delay	2	2
Vision Impairment	1	0
Total	37	26

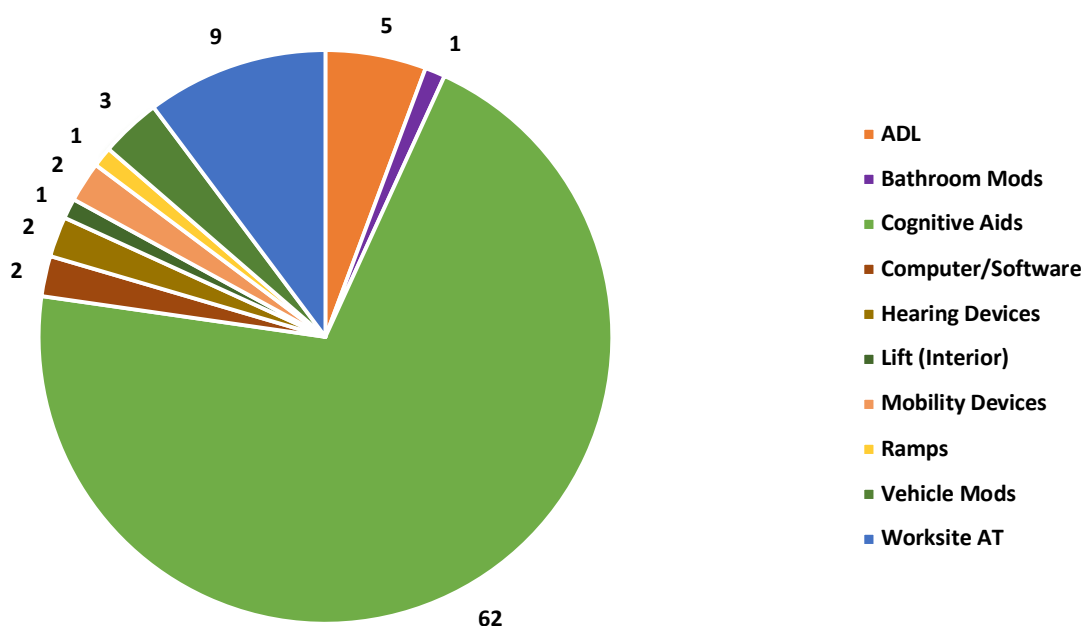
PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES

This is the second year that Pre-Employment Transition Services or Pre-ETS is being reported on. Project SEARCH also falls under the Pre-ETS category and is included in this section. These numbers were also included in the number of service requests reported on initially.

The number of Pre-ETS students referred to ATP have increased this year, despite the overall drop in total service requests for the year. There was a 75% increase in Pre-ETS referrals to ATP this year and 30 of those referrals were identified as participating in Project SEARCH. For Pre-ETS referrals, ATP Technology Specialists completed information only assessments providing recommendations for equipment or technology that could be helpful given their specific diagnoses and needs for school or work. Equipment could also be provided as a loan or demonstration from our AT4All website to ensure it worked for the individual before they purchased anything. Pre-ETS referrals could also access ATP's Reuse Program as well as funding coordination services to help them with accessing the AT recommended. It is unknown how many individuals actually moved forward with purchasing the recommended AT on their own, however some did apply for funding coordination through ATP by completing a Service and Device Application. Of those individuals many were able to receive funding assistance

through the Independent Living Part B funding and the Enrichment Foundation Grant. Technology Specialists presented to teams about the NE VR/ATP collaboration and demonstrated equipment to classrooms, small groups and clients individually. A couple of the Pre-ETS clients referred to ATP applied for NE VR services and had IPEs written. In these rare cases, NE VR was able to purchase recommendations for the clients. Below is a graph showing the specific technology that was requested as a need for the 88 Pre-ETS clients who were assessed by ATP. Cognitive aids were the most assessed for technology for Pre-ETS last year and continue to be by far the most recommended AT this fiscal year for this population. Cognitive aids include technology to help an individual complete a task, such as an app or a type of reminder system. Computers or software were the second highest assessed for AT last year followed by hearing devices. However this year that was replaced by Worksite AT and ADL devices.

Pre-ETS Assessments by Assistive Technology Category

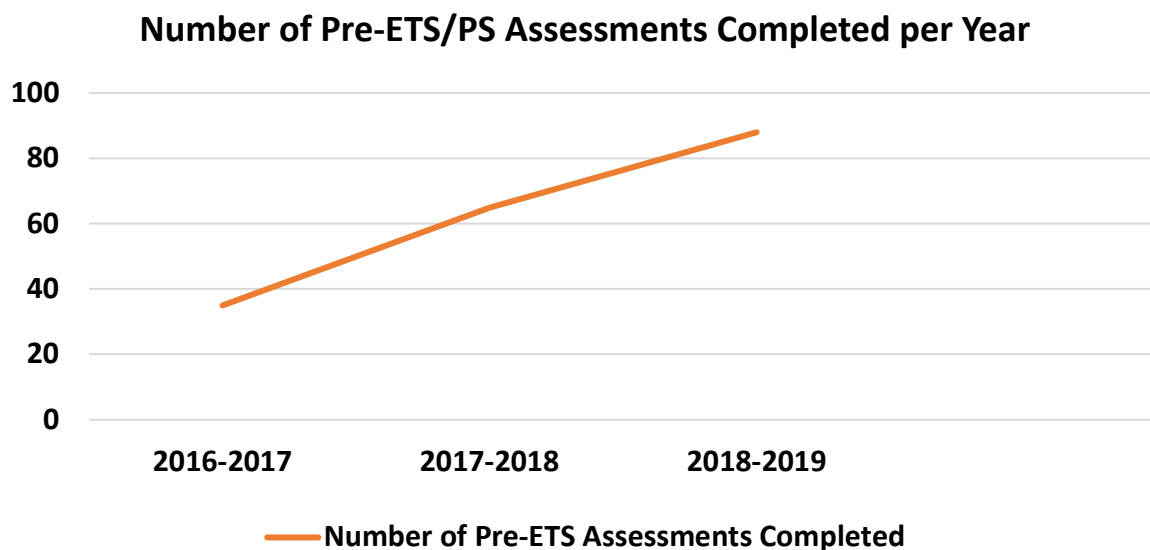


A total of 128 service requests were received that were Pre-ETS cases. However, only 88 of those service requests were assessed. This is due to multiple service requests being received towards the end of the fiscal year and being scheduled, but not yet assessed as well as 12 of the cases being cancelled. Cases are cancelled due to students being unavailable for services, declining services or not following through with contacting ATP for an assessment. This is approximately 9% and is up just slightly from the 6% of cancelled Pre-ETS cases from last year. These numbers show that Pre-ETS cases overall have good follow through and the majority of cases are being met with and assessed thanks to the additional assistance also provided by parents, NE VR Pre-ETS staff and school contacts. The chart below shows the total number of Pre-ETS service requests by VR office throughout the state over the past two years.

Pre-ETS SERVICE REQUESTS BY VR OFFICE

VR OFFICE	2017-2018	2018-2019
Columbus	7	26
Fremont	0	0
Grand Island/ Hastings	4	4
Kearney	0	5
Lincoln	11	21
Norfolk/ South Sioux City	4	6
North Platte	6	0
Omaha Downtown	0	0
Omaha Pre-ETS	41	64
Omaha West	0	2
Scottsbluff	0	0
Total	73	128

The number of service requests and assessments completed for the Pre-ETS population has continued to increase significantly. The growth in referrals could be attributed to NE VR staff having a better understanding over the years of how they can work with this population. ATP staff have also worked hard this past year talking with each team at meetings and focusing during Team Tours on educating NE VR staff about the services available through ATP and how it could benefit Pre-ETS students. This will continue to be a focus in the coming years as it is so important for individuals with disabilities to know the resources available to them, especially at a young age when they are just entering the workforce. Below is a chart showing the number of assessments completed for Pre-ETS/Project SEARCH referrals in the past 3 years. In the past two years Pre-ETS numbers were tracked, however in previous years only Project SEARCH referrals alone were monitored; so, Project SEARCH numbers were used for the 2016-2017 year in the graph displayed below.



FUNDING

The following two charts summarize and compare the amount of VR Title 1 funds and leveraged funds for assistive technology. The ATP Resource Specialist researches local, state and federal funding guidelines and eligibility requirements for funding resources that may be available for the clients we serve. The VR Title 1 Program Supervisor participates in funding coordination meetings quarterly to discuss potential comparable benefits that may be leveraged for VR Title 1 clients, such as the Enrichment Foundation Grant, Medicaid Waiver and Part B Independent Living funds. The charts below show only the amounts authorized between October 1 and September 30th for the last 3 fiscal years.

LEVERAGED FUNDS BY SOURCE

SOURCE	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Enrichment Foundation Grant (EFG)	\$40,000.00	\$62,927.11	\$57,743.77
DHHS- A&D Waiver	\$20,000.00	\$31,655.03	\$33,848.25
Part B	\$0.00	\$8,217.88	\$2,325.00
Client Contribution	\$16,376.11	\$4,410.94	\$3,390.50
Total	\$76,376.11	\$107,210.96	\$97,307.52

AMOUNT EXPENDED FOR AT SOLUTIONS

SOURCE	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
VR Title 1 Funds	\$970,097.61	\$583,736.43	\$105,288.09
Leveraged Funds	\$76,376.11	\$107,210.96	\$97,307.52
Total	\$1,046,473.72	\$690,947.39	\$202,595.61

Due to NE VR continuing to be in the OOS status during this fiscal year, the funds NE VR spent on AT were again drastically decreased. The VR Title 1 Program Supervisor worked closely with the ATP Funding Specialist and other Program Supervisors within ATP to identify other funding sources that NE VR clients may be able to utilize to assist them with obtaining the AT they need. The leveraged funds continued to be high this year, even despite the lower number of service requests. For leveraged funds, the last of the Part B IL Funds were spent this year. Every year ATP applies to receive EFG funds, so this assistance should continue and is

available for individuals with disabilities who live in Douglas or Sarpy county. The past 2 years about \$60,000 from EFG was set aside for NE VR clients. This year the remaining amount of the \$60,000 was spent on AT for a CPAP client. Clients are asked to apply for A&D Waiver if they are Medicaid eligible and are assisted through this process. NE VR staff have been more active in working with employers and asking if they can help or provide the equipment recommended by ATP for their employees. Another funding source utilized this past year was the ATP bicycle program. Two bicycles were donated and a Technology Specialist with this knowledge was able to get the parts donated in order to fix up each bike specifically to meet the individual need of each person. This is estimated to have saved NE VR an additional \$375 that was not included in the categories above.

Client contribution shows that it went down slightly as it is only tracking cases where clients paid a portion of the cost, not the whole total. In reality, client contribution more than likely increased as some clients ended up paying for the entire cost of their AT needs on their own, but these cases were not tracked as ATP did not create the order or authorization. For example, NE VR cannot spend money on Pre-ETS cases so recommendations are made and resources are provided. The client and their family then pay for the AT they feel they need on their own and ATP is not involved in the case at this point, unless they request training on the equipment after it is purchased. Multiple individuals served through Pre-ETS did apply for funding coordination services this year and at least \$68,861.04 of the leveraged funds spent were for Pre-ETS cases showing a great need for financial assistance of AT for this population.

DEVICE DEMONSTRATIONS, LOANS AND REUTILIZATION ACTIVITIES

The AT4ALL database is used to track all equipment demonstrations, loans and reutilization activities. Below are charts comparing demonstration, loan and reutilization activities for the past three years.

The equipment recommendations made by the NE VR Technology Specialists are based on the most cost-effective solution that addresses the functional limitations that the client is experiencing in school or work. Equipment demonstrations occur with clients when possible to help determine if a piece of technology will meet their needs before something is purchased. Demonstrations are completed by the Technology Specialist and are a hands-on experience with the technology so the client can see how it works to help make a more informed decision. Equipment that is very expensive or that would not be sanitary to let multiple people use is marked for demonstration purposes only and is not allowed to be taken home by the client.

EMPLOYMENT DEMONSTRATIONS BY ATP SERVICE AREA

Demonstrations			
Service Area	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Columbus	21	28	0
Kearney	133	76	49
Lincoln	4	12	8
Omaha	102	115	86
Scottsbluff	1	0	0
TOTAL	261	231	143

The majority of the equipment found on the AT4ALL website is available to individuals in Nebraska and NE VR clients as a short-term loan. An equipment loan allows the client to have direct access to the technology in their home, school or work environment, typically for up to 30 days. Devices can be loaned to assist with decision-making, provide a short-term accommodation or to serve as a loaner during device repair or while a client is waiting for funding. The number of equipment demonstrations and loans has continued to decrease the past 3 years. This can be attributed to the lower number of NE VR referrals received as well as increased access to online videos and tutorials that show how to use equipment as well as the pros and cons.

EMPLOYMENT LOANS BY ATP SERVICE AREA

Employment Loans			
Service Area	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Columbus	26	12	4
Kearney	70	25	11
Lincoln	89	53	42
Omaha	59	47	23
Scottsbluff	0	1	0
TOTAL	240	138	80

With the limited NE VR funding, Technology Specialists have really focused on looking for alternative resources for NE VR clients to help meet their technology needs. Technology Specialists try to reuse equipment that is donated in clean, working condition to help offset the cost of assistive technology through the Reuse Program. The equipment could have been donated by an outside source or a past NE VR client who no longer needed or was no longer

using the equipment. Sometimes maybe only a battery is needed to get a donated device to work properly, so this small cost may be paid by NE VR instead of purchasing a whole new device. Of all the job tasks of a Technology Specialist, logging demonstrations and loans is something that is often overlooked. A greater focus continues to be put on making sure all demonstrations, loans and reutilization activities are properly documented by Technology Specialists. The new AT4ALL website is almost complete, which will also assist with easier and more efficient data tracking.

EMPLOYMENT REUTILIZATION BY ATP SERVICE AREA

Employment Reutilization			
Service Area	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Columbus	0	0	2
Kearney	1	5	3
Lincoln	11	6	14
Omaha	5	8	9
Scottsbluff	0	0	0
TOTAL	17	17	28

The number of reutilization activities has increased significantly this past year. The reuse of equipment is a priority for NE VR clients to ensure the equipment is getting into the hands of individuals quickly and it is the lowest cost option available. Reuse of equipment for NE VR staff referrals also happens very frequently, but these numbers were not included in the charts above. Large dollar items such as stair glides, vertical platform lifts and even a standing wheelchair have been donated to ATP in the past and are available to clients through the Reuse Program.

CLIENT SATISFACTION SURVEY

Every client that works with NE VR Technology Specialists is sent a survey once their case is complete to follow-up on the services they were provided. Twenty-two client satisfaction surveys were returned during FY 2018-2019. This is lower than the 59 surveys received last fiscal year as a result of the lower number of referrals received by NE VR. Clients reported between 86% and 95% satisfaction rate in all categories, which is consistent with previous years. There was 1 survey returned who stated they were dissatisfied with services and 1 survey returned where the individual did not answer all the questions. If a client stated they were dissatisfied on the survey, the Program Supervisor for the VR Title 1 Program contacted the client to get more information to help determine what happened in the situation and if any additional assistance was needed. The table on the following page summarizes the results of the 22 surveys received back.

CLIENT SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

Questions	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Response
1-ATP staff responded in a timely manner.	12	9	0	1	0	0
2-ATP staff explained the process and answered my questions.	15	6	0	1	0	0
3-I was involved in making choices about the equipment/modifications.	12	9	0	0	1	0
4-The equipment and modifications I received met my expectations.	13	7	1	0	1	0
5-I know how to use the equipment and modifications I received.	14	6	0	1	0	1
6-The equipment and modifications have helped me.	16	3	0	0	1	2

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

1) VR Staff Training

This past calendar year ATP Technology Specialists took turns creating an email blast sent out via Constant Contact about AT equipment of their choice to provide technology training to VR staff. The email included information on technology that could assist someone with a disability with work or school as well as links to resources and videos online for VR staff to watch and learn more about the highlighted equipment. This training to VR staff allowed them to participate at their own leisure and was sent out quarterly. In April the first edition was emailed out and it highlighted the ATP Bicycle Program and other resources/alternatives for transportation. The second edition was released in June and discussed new wrist solutions or smartwatches and the third edition was sent out in October and featured 10 different apps for various disabilities for National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The final edition this year will be sent out in December and will be providing information on the accessibility features already built in and available on various devices.

2) Marketing/Public Awareness/Employment Outreach

The ATP Program Supervisor for the VR Title 1 program has been actively participating in conferences and resource fairs throughout the state to increase the public awareness of ATP and the agency's many programs. Over 15 presentations or resource booths were attended by the ATP Program Supervisor this past year and reached an estimated 500+ people in the community at these events. Events attended include Pre-ETS

school/classroom presentations, Disability Organizations Together Serve (DOTS) Meetings, Eastern Nebraska Transition Conference, Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital employee in-service lunches, Omaha Metro Transition Conference, BAC and Project SEARCH events, Baxter Arena Health and Wellness Expo, FEAT Trainings, MDA and Stroke Support Groups and an Omaha Greater Chamber Meeting. Technology Specialists also are active in attending events in their service area as needed.

3) Continue to Improve Data Collection

As our database ATTIE continues to improve, the ATP Program Supervisor for the VR Title 1 program has provided feedback and suggestions to keep improving data collection to the ATP Director. The Program Supervisor has focused this year on data collection of loans, demonstrations and reutilization activities in the AT4ALL website as this is often overlooked due to busy schedules. This was even an individual goal for some technology specialists to ensure the numbers were logged correctly to show more accurate numbers for loans, demonstrations and reutilization activities happening throughout the state.

4) Maintain and Improve Communication with NE VR Teams

During FY 2018-2019, the ATP Program Supervisor met with each NE VR office either in person or via video conference. This was organized as a Team Tour during the summer of 2019 along with the CAP Director and 4 other VR Program Directors. During the ATP team tours, program updates and services were discussed along with any cases or questions NE VR had regarding ATP services. The Technology Specialists also continued to attend VR team meetings monthly, or as requested, to provide updates on ATP cases and sharing of AT equipment for NE VR staff knowledge and training.

5) Support Project SEARCH

ATP staff continued to work closely with all Project SEARCH sites and provide AT support and knowledge to interns and staff throughout the state this past year. The ATP Program Supervisor and Technology Specialists worked one on one with referrals and also attended Business Advisory Council meetings, steering committee meetings, skills/assessment days, open houses and orientation nights as needed to assist the interns with AT needs so they could be as successful as possible in their rotations. ATP's involvement in Project SEARCH also helped bring awareness of ATP services to many of the interns as a resource for the future as they enter the world of work.

6) Continuation of Workgroup

The ATP Program Supervisor, the NE VR Program Director for Counseling and NE VR Program Director for Employment Services continued to meet on a monthly basis, or as schedules allowed, to focus on strengthening the partnership between VR and ATP. During these meetings, cases and policies were discussed to ensure that both programs are on the same page and the partnership is running consistently throughout the state.

7) Continue to Provide and Improve Pre-ETS

The ATP Program Supervisor and Technology Specialists throughout the state have continued to work with Pre-ETS clients and promote the services ATP can offer this population to NE VR staff. Technology Specialists completed AT assessments, demonstrations and equipment loans as well as provided resources to clients and their families for funding assistance of AT equipment so the clients can continue to be successful in their educational and vocational goals. Pre-ETS staff through NE VR also invited Technology Specialists to present about ATP services to groups and classrooms as well as speak at conferences where both teachers and students were in attendance to share about the programs ATP has to offer.

GOALS 2019-2020

1) VR Staff Training

Technology Specialists will continue with the Constant Contact email blasts that are sent out quarterly to NE VR staff as training next year. These emails will highlight various types of AT equipment available so NE VR staff can continue to expand their knowledge and resources for the clients they serve. The format of Constant Contact is quick, easy and allows individuals to view the information as their schedule allows. We are hoping to engage NE VR staff more during these emails in the future, by asking a question at the end to see if staff feel these emails are beneficial and what types of AT they would like to see featured in future emails.

2) Marketing/Public Awareness

The ATP Program Supervisor will continue to work with ATP marketing staff and participate in community events in order to increase the public awareness of ATP and the NE VR partnership. This goal will be accomplished by the continued presence of ATP at Project SEARCH and VR events, DOTS, VRC, community resource fairs, school events and presentations to other employers and providers throughout the state.

3) Continue to Improve Data Collection

The ATP Program Supervisor will continue to work with NE VR Technology Specialists to ensure they are knowledgeable of the ATTIE database as changes occur as well as the ATP Director to provide feedback and suggestions for improvements to the system. Data collection of loans, demonstrations and reutilization activities in the AT4ALL website will continue to be a focus, especially as the new website is launched this next year. The ATP Program Supervisor will ensure all NE VR Technology Specialists are trained on and utilizing the AT4ALL system to ensure accurate data collection.

4) Maintain and Improve Communication with NE VR Teams

During FY 2019-2020, the ATP Program Supervisor will meet with all NE VR teams either in person or via video conference at least once to provide program updates and get feedback on the partnership and ATP services. The Technology Specialists will continue to attend VR team meetings monthly, or as their schedules allow, to provide updates on ATP cases and demonstrate new AT equipment for their knowledge when working with clients. The ATP Program Supervisor will also continue to meet monthly with the NE

VR Program Director for Counseling and NE VR Program Director for Employment Services to discuss policies, procedures and cases to ensure the partnership is handled consistently throughout the state.

5) Support Project SEARCH

ATP staff will continue to work closely with all Project SEARCH sites and provide AT support and knowledge to interns and staff. The ATP Program Supervisor and Technology Specialists will continue to work one on one with referrals as well as attend Business Advisory Council meetings, steering committee meetings, skills/assessment days, open houses and orientation nights as needed to assist the interns with AT needs so they can be as successful as possible in their rotations and are aware of ATP as a resource in the future.

6) Continue to Provide and Improve Pre-ETS

The ATP Program Supervisor and Technology Specialists throughout the state will continue to work with Pre-ETS students and promote this resource to NE VR staff. Technology Specialists will complete AT assessments, demonstrations and equipment loans as well as provide resources to clients and their families for funding assistance of AT equipment so the clients can continue to be successful in their educational and vocational goals.

7) Technology Specialist Training

Technology is changing every day and there is always something new for technology specialists to learn. Being up to date and knowledgeable of the technology available is tough, but it is so important for the clients we serve. This year it will be a goal for each technology specialist to attend at least 5 free trainings or webinars to learn about new technology and resources that could benefit their clients. The ATP Program Supervisor will share resources for trainings available through Quality Living Inc. (QLI), Easterseals Crossroads and other online sources.

SUCCESS STORIES



AT For Job Retention

Carolyn has been employed with the College of Saint Mary (CSM) for years and was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 1988. She started noticing a physical decline due to her diagnosis in 2007 including difficulty with ambulating, balance, ataxia and left foot drop. In her position as the Administrative Assistant to the CFO and Copy Center Supervisor, Carolyn has various job responsibilities all over campus as well as in the community. Her doctor recommended a power wheelchair as the scooter she was using was no longer meeting her needs. Her insurance covered the cost of the majority of the power wheelchair, however ATP was able to assist with funding coordination of a power elevating seat feature for her to access the copier at work as well as other items on higher counters and in cabinets. She completed a Service and Device Application and funds were identified through the Enrichment Foundation Grant to assist Carolyn as she lives in Sarpy County. Carolyn also had to purchase a new vehicle with modifications in order to transport her new power wheelchair. Nebraska VR and the Enrichment Foundation Grant provided the funding for the modifications she needed to the vehicle, including a full conversion, hand controls, transfer seat, EZ lock system for her power wheelchair and spinner knob with secondary controls for the wipers, turn signals and horn. She was brought in for VR services as a job retention case and as a result of the assistance she was provided she will be able to continue to work successfully in her position.



AT for Transportation

Dwight is working part time as a custodian for Pinnacle Bank Arena. He is deaf and usually rides the bus to work. The bus stop is about a half mile from his home, however he was interested in other transportation options for work to give him more flexibility in his work schedule. The bike was donated to ATP and fitted for Dwight by David Altman, ATP Technology Specialist. This bike was provided for Dwight at no cost to NE VR and David Altman provided the labor to fit it specifically for Dwight and ensure it was in good working condition. Dwight is now able to have reliable transportation and have more availability for work as he no longer has to rely solely on public transportation to get him to and from his job.

AT for Pre-ETS



Christian is a student at the Papillion Young Adult Program. He was referred to ATP as a Pre-ETS referral for technology assistance. When meeting with Christian and his teachers, they agreed the main priority for Christian was his manual wheelchair. Christian had received a power wheelchair through insurance, but due to not being able to get the power wheelchair in and out of his home, this was left at school for him to use. Christian used an old manual wheelchair the majority of the time at home as the hallways were not large enough for a power wheelchair and to transport himself to and from school. The old manual wheelchair was in poor condition after years of use and was a safety concern as it no longer had anti-tippers on the back and other important features. Insurance would not help with a new manual wheelchair so the family completed a Service and Device Application

through ATP. They were eligible for the Enrichment Foundation Grant since they live in Sarpy county and Christian was able to get a new manual wheelchair. He also needed a grabber as he has difficulty reaching items higher up from his wheelchair. There was a grabber available on the AT4ALL website through the Reuse Program. Christian was given this item for free to use at school and in his worksites in the community.

AT for Job Advancement

Janae is diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy and other disabling diagnoses causing muscle weakness in all her limbs and limited use of her legs, arms and hands. She has used a power wheelchair for mobility since age 4. Janae is working, but is limited on the hours she can work due to her mother providing transportation. At age 23 Janae completed a driver's evaluation and an electronic driving system called an AEVIT system was recommended. This would allow Janae to drive from her power wheelchair using a touchscreen and other customized electronic controls to meet her needs. This is a very expensive system and Janae completed a Service and Device Application for funding coordination. Janae purchased the 2018 Chrysler Pacifica and she was able to receive assistance for the vehicle modifications recommended from the Enrichment Foundation Grant since she lives in Douglas County, Nebraska VR and the A&D Waiver Program as Janae is eligible and receiving Medicaid Waiver services through HHS. These programs came together to allow Janae to obtain the vehicle



modifications she needs. Since getting the vehicle, she started in a new position and is also a student working towards a degree in business development so she can advance in her career field.