

(H) enhance the skills and competencies of individuals involved in providing assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;

(I) increase awareness and knowledge of the benefits of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services among targeted individuals;

(J) increase the awareness of the needs of individuals with disabilities of all ages for assistive technology devices and for assistive technology services; and

(K) increase the capacity of public agencies and private entities to provide and pay for assistive technology devices and assistive technology services on a statewide basis for individuals with disabilities of all ages;

(2) to identify Federal policies that facilitate payment for assistive technology devices and assistive technology services, to identify those Federal policies that impede such payment, and to eliminate inappropriate barriers to such payment; and

(3) to enhance the ability of the Federal Government to—

(A) provide States with financial assistance that supports—

(i) information and public awareness programs relating to the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;

(ii) improved interagency and public-private coordination, especially through new and improved policies, that result in increased availability of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services; and

(iii) technical assistance and training in the provision or use of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services; and

(B) fund national, regional, State, and local targeted initiatives that promote understanding of and access to assistive technology devices and assistive technology services for targeted individuals.

(Pub. L. 105-394, §2, Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3628.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (b), was in the original “this Act”, meaning Pub. L. 105-394, Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3627, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note below and Tables.

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 105-394, §1(a), Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3627, provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter, amending sections 705, 763, 764, 781, 792, 794b, and 794e of this title and section 3710 of Title 15, Commerce and Trade, and repealing chapter 24 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Assistive Technology Act of 1998’.”

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 3002, 3011, 3013 of this title.

§ 3002. Definitions and rule

(a) Definitions

In this chapter:

(1) Advocacy services

The term “advocacy services”, except as used as part of the term “protection and advocacy services”, means services provided to assist individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives in accessing assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.

(2) Assistive technology

The term “assistive technology” means technology designed to be utilized in an assistive technology device or assistive technology service.

(3) Assistive technology device

The term “assistive technology device” means 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.

(4) Assistive technology service

The term “assistive technology service” means any service that directly assists an individual with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device. Such term includes—

(A) the evaluation of the assistive technology needs of an individual with a disability, including a functional evaluation of the impact of the provision of appropriate assistive technology and appropriate services to the individual in the customary environment of the individual;

(B) services consisting of purchasing, leasing, or otherwise providing for the acquisition of assistive technology devices by individuals with disabilities;

(C) services consisting of selecting, designing, fitting, customizing, adapting, applying, maintaining, repairing, or replacing assistive technology devices;

(D) coordination and use of necessary therapies, interventions, or services with assistive technology devices, such as therapies, interventions, or services associated with education and rehabilitation plans and programs;

(E) training or technical assistance for an individual with disabilities, or, where appropriate, the family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives of such an individual; and

(F) training or technical assistance for professionals (including individuals providing education and rehabilitation services), employers, or other individuals who provide services to, employ, or are otherwise substantially involved in the major life functions of individuals with disabilities.

(5) Capacity building and advocacy activities

The term “capacity building and advocacy activities” means efforts that—

(A) result in laws, regulations, policies, practices, procedures, or organizational structures that promote consumer-responsive programs or entities; and

(B) facilitate and increase access to, provision of, and funding for, assistive technology devices and assistive technology services,

in order to empower individuals with disabilities to achieve greater independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion within the community and the workforce.

(6) Comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance

The term “comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance” means a consumer-responsive program of technology-related assistance for individuals with disabilities, implemented by a State, and equally available to all individuals with disabilities residing in the State, regardless of their type of disability, age, income level, or location of residence in the State, or the type of assistive technology device or assistive technology service required.

(7) Consumer-responsive

The term “consumer-responsive”—

(A) with regard to policies, means that the policies are consistent with the principles of—

(i) respect for individual dignity, personal responsibility, self-determination, and pursuit of meaningful careers, based on informed choice, of individuals with disabilities;

(ii) respect for the privacy, rights, and equal access (including the use of accessible formats) of such individuals;

(iii) inclusion, integration, and full participation of such individuals in society;

(iv) support for the involvement in decisions of a family member, a guardian, an advocate, or an authorized representative, if an individual with a disability requests, desires, or needs such involvement; and

(v) support for individual and systems advocacy and community involvement; and

(B) with respect to an entity, program, or activity, means that the entity, program, or activity—

(i) is easily accessible to, and usable by, individuals with disabilities and, when appropriate, their family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives;

(ii) responds to the needs of individuals with disabilities in a timely and appropriate manner; and

(iii) facilitates the full and meaningful participation of individuals with disabilities (including individuals from under-represented populations and rural populations) and their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives, in—

(I) decisions relating to the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to such individuals; and

(II) decisions related to the maintenance, improvement, and evaluation of the comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance, including decisions that affect advocacy, capacity building, and capacity building and advocacy activities.

(8) Disability

The term “disability” means a condition of an individual that is considered to be a disability or handicap for the purposes of any Federal law other than this chapter or for the purposes of the law of the State in which the individual resides.

(9) Individual with a disability; individuals with disabilities

(A) Individual with a disability

The term “individual with a disability” means any individual of any age, race, or ethnicity—

(i) who has a disability; and

(ii) who is or would be enabled by an assistive technology device or an assistive technology service to minimize deterioration in functioning, to maintain a level of functioning, or to achieve a greater level of functioning in any major life activity.

(B) Individuals with disabilities

The term “individuals with disabilities” means more than one individual with a disability.

(10) Institution of higher education

The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given such term in section 1141(a)¹ of title 20, and includes a community college receiving funding under the Tribally Controlled Community College Assistance Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

(11) Protection and advocacy services

The term “protection and advocacy services” means services that—

(A) are described in subtitle C of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 [42 U.S.C. 15041 et seq.], the Protection and Advocacy for Mentally Ill Individuals Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 10801 et seq.),¹ or section 794e of this title; and

(B) assist individuals with disabilities with respect to assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.

(12) Secretary

The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Education.

(13) State

(A) In general

Except as provided in subparagraph (B) and section 3052 of this title, the term “State” means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(B) Outlying areas

In sections 3011(c) and 3012(b) of this title:

(i) Outlying area

The term “outlying area” means the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

¹ See References in Text note below.

(ii) State

The term “State” does not include the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(14) Targeted individuals

The term “targeted individuals” means—

(A) individuals with disabilities of all ages and their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives;

(B) individuals who work for public or private entities (including insurers or managed care providers), that have contact with individuals with disabilities;

(C) educators and related services personnel;

(D) technology experts (including engineers);

(E) health and allied health professionals;

(F) employers; and

(G) other appropriate individuals and entities.

(15) Technology-related assistance

The term “technology-related assistance” means assistance provided through capacity building and advocacy activities that accomplish the purposes described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (K) of section 3001(b)(1) of this title.

(16) Underrepresented population

The term “underrepresented population” means a population that is typically underrepresented in service provision, and includes populations such as persons who have low-incidence disabilities, persons who are minorities, poor persons, persons with limited-English proficiency, older individuals, or persons from rural areas.

(17) Universal design

The term “universal design” means a concept or philosophy for designing and delivering products and services that are usable by people with the widest possible range of functional capabilities, which include products and services that are directly usable (without requiring assistive technologies) and products and services that are made usable with assistive technologies.

(b) References

References in this chapter to a provision of the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals With Disabilities Act of 1988 shall be considered to be references to such provision as in effect on the day before November 13, 1998.

(Pub. L. 105-394, § 3, Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3631; Pub. L. 106-402, title IV, § 401(b)(4)(A), Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1738.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 1141(a) of title 20, referred to in subsec. (a)(10), was repealed by Pub. L. 105-244, § 3, title I, § 101(b), title VII, § 702, Oct. 7, 1998, 112 Stat. 1585, 1616, 1803, effective Oct. 1, 1998. However, the term “institution of higher education” is defined in section 1001 of Title 20, Education.

The Tribally Controlled Community College Assistance Act of 1978, referred to in subsec. (a)(10), is Pub. L. 95-471, Oct. 17, 1978, 92 Stat. 1325, as amended, which is

classified principally to chapter 20 (§1801 et seq.) of Title 25, Indians. The Act was renamed the Tribally Controlled College or University Assistance Act of 1978 by Pub. L. 105-244, title IX, § 901(b)(1), Oct. 7, 1998, 112 Stat. 1827. Section 901(d) of Pub. L. 105-244, set out as a note under section 1801 of Title 25, provided that any reference to a section or other provision of the Tribally Controlled Community College Assistance Act of 1978 shall be deemed to be a reference to the Tribally Controlled College or University Assistance Act of 1978. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1801 of Title 25 and Tables.

The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, referred to in subsec. (a)(11)(A), is Pub. L. 106-402, Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1677. Subtitle C of the Act probably means subtitle C of title I of the Act which is classified generally to part C (§15041 et seq.) of subchapter I of chapter 144 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 15001 of Title 42 and Tables.

The Protection and Advocacy for Mentally Ill Individuals Act of 1986, referred to in subsec. (a)(11)(A), was Pub. L. 99-319, May 23, 1986, 100 Stat. 478, as amended. Pub. L. 99-319 was renamed the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act by Pub. L. 106-310, div. B, title XXXII, § 3206(a), Oct. 17, 2000, 114 Stat. 1193, and is classified generally to chapter 114 (§10801 et seq.) of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 10801 of Title 42 and Tables.

The Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals With Disabilities Act of 1988, referred to in subsec. (b), is Pub. L. 100-407, Aug. 19, 1988, 102 Stat. 1044, as amended, which was classified generally to chapter 24 (§2201 et seq.) of this title, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 105-394, title IV, § 401, Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3661.

AMENDMENTS

2000—Subsec. (a)(11)(A). Pub. L. 106-402 substituted “subtitle C of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000” for “part C of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 6041 et seq.)”.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 705, 763, 781, 792 of this title; title 10 section 1582; title 15 section 3710.

SUBCHAPTER I—STATE GRANT PROGRAMS**SUBCHAPTER REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS**

This subchapter is referred to in section 3051 of this title.

§ 3011. Continuity grants for States that received funding for a limited period for technology-related assistance**(a) Grants to States****(1) In general**

The Secretary shall award grants, in accordance with this section, to eligible States to support capacity building and advocacy activities, designed to assist the States in maintaining permanent comprehensive statewide programs of technology-related assistance that accomplish the purposes described in section 3001(b)(1) of this title.

(2) Eligible States

To be eligible to receive a grant under this section a State shall be a State that received grants for less than 10 years under title I of the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals With Disabilities Act of 1988.