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NEBRASKA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

TO: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Tobias Orr, Director of the Assistive Technology Partnership
Lindy Foley, Director of Nebraska VR

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:

Grant the Commissioner the authority to approve a contract with ESU #10 to rebuild and update the AT4ALL website.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The website, www.AT4ALL.com, is used as an equipment database for Assistive Technology Partnership's statewide assistive technology loan program where Nebraskans can borrow and acquire assistive technology.

ESU #10 originally reconstructed the AT4ALL website from TechConnectors in 2003 and have hosted, maintained, and performed annual upgrades since. Over the past 15 years the AT4All website has not kept up with changing technology; therefore, a rebuild is necessary. The end goal of this rebuild is to make the website easier to navigate, more intuitive, visually more appealing, and overall, make the user-experience simpler.

Currently the site is used by ATP and 20 out of state partners. Through these agreements NDE has only had to pay a fraction of hosting and upgrade costs over the years. For example, the most recent upgrade contract (with ESU 10) was for $5,015. NDE's portion ended up being approximately $239. The problem with this model is that all of the partners vote on what upgrades are done each year, and since the out of state partners do not use the website the same way that Nebraska does, the upgrades over the past 10 years did not benefit our consumers. Because of this we feel it is necessary for NDE to take on this rebuild/update to ensure that the end product is what is needed for Nebraska.

ESTIMATED COST:

$49,810

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS INDICATE THE FUNDING SOURCE Special Education (IDEA B, IDEA C), Administration for Community Living (ACL) -State Assistive Technology (AT) Grant.

To lead and support the preparation of all Nebraskans for learning, earning, and living.