

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS ON THE
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998
FOR FISCAL YEARS 2004 AND 2005**

2006

Annual Report to Congress
On the *Assistive Technology Act of 1998*
For Fiscal Years 2004 and 2005

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services
Rehabilitation Services Administration

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This annual report was produced by staff of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), with assistance from RTI International (RTI) and the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA).

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ABBREVIATIONS

AFP	-----	Alternative Financing Program
AFTAP	-----	Alternative Financing Technical Assistance Project
AT	-----	Assistive Technology
CBO	-----	Community-Based Organization
ED	-----	U.S. Department of Education
EDGAR	-----	Education Department General Administrative Regulations
FY	-----	Fiscal Year
FY 2004	-----	Oct. 1, 2003, to Sept.30, 2004
FY 2005	-----	Oct. 1, 2004, to Sept. 30, 2005
<i>IDEA</i>	-----	<i>Individuals with Disabilities Education Act</i>
IEP	-----	Individualized Education Program
IT	-----	Information Technology
NIDRR	-----	National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research
OMB	-----	Office of Management and Budget
OSERS	-----	Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services
PAAT	-----	Protection and Advocacy for AT
RESNA	-----	Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America
RSA	-----	Rehabilitation Services Administration
RTI	-----	RTI International
TA	-----	Technical Assistance
UIC	-----	University of Illinois at Chicago
VR	-----	Vocational Rehabilitation

INTRODUCTION

In 1988, Congress passed the *Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act* (P.L. 100-407) (*Tech Act*) to assist states with identifying and responding to the assistive technology (AT) needs of individuals with disabilities. Grants awarded under the *Tech Act* were used by states to create systemic change that improved the availability of assistive technology devices and services. States were provided with flexibility in the design of their programs, and this flexibility continued when the *Tech Act* was reauthorized in 1994 (P.L. 103-218).

The *Tech Act* was reauthorized again in 1998 as the *Assistive Technology Act of 1998* (P.L. 105-394) (*AT Act of 1998*). For FY 2004, this document reports on the activities of two programs authorized under the *AT Act of 1998*: (1) State Grants for AT, which provided grants for state programs designed to address the AT needs of individuals with disabilities through systems change, and (2) the Alternative Financing Program (AFP), which provided grants to support the federal share of establishing, expanding or maintaining loan programs that help individuals with disabilities purchase AT devices and services.

The programs in (1) and (2) above were significantly revised for FY 2005 and subsequent years when the *Assistive Technology Act of 1998* was amended in 2004. The next section of this report (see “**Overview**”) contains a description of the *Assistive Technology Act of 1998*, as amended by Public Law 108-364, and, for FY 2005, this document reports on activities of the State Grants for AT Program and the AFP¹ as authorized under that act.

Both the *AT Act of 1998* and *AT Act*, as amended by Public Law 108-364 require that the secretary of education submit to Congress a report on the activities funded under those respective acts. This document satisfies this requirement for FY 2004 and FY 2005.

This report is organized as follows:

- **Part I** reports on the FY 2004 performance of State Grants for AT programs as authorized under the *AT Act of 1998*. These reports are based on annual reports provided by the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the outlying areas² to the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA).³ **Part I** also describes states’ planned activities under the *AT Act*, as amended in 2004, as outlined in State Plans for AT submitted to RSA in August 2005. For more detailed information about State Plans for AT, see **Section 2B**.

¹ The *AT Act* as amended in 2004 authorizes for FY 2005 only the Alternative Financing Program under Title III of the *AT Act of 1998* as in effect prior to Oct. 25, 2004.

² Annual reports are provided by all grantees, which include the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

³ States submitted FY 2004 data through a Web-based reporting system that was operational until May 31, 2005. Because OMB approval for use of the system expired on that date, the system could not be used after that time.

- **Part II** describes the performance of Alternative Financing Programs during FY 2004 and FY 2005.
- **Appendix A** includes the requirements for the State Plan for AT that states submitted in order to receive a State Grant for AT in FY 2005.
- **Appendix B** includes a summary of each State Plan, highlighting states' activities.
- **Appendix C** lists the State Grants for AT programs (referred to as Statewide AT Programs as of FY 2005).
- **Appendix D** is a listing of AFPs funded under Title III of the *AT Act of 1998*.

OVERVIEW OF THE *ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT*

The Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (AT Act of 1998)

The *AT Act of 1998* authorized several grant programs intended to increase access to and provision of AT devices and services for individuals of all ages with disabilities. In calendar years 1998 through 2004, programs under the *AT Act* were administered by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) within the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

Title I of the AT Act of 1998

Continuing the grant program authorized under the *Tech Act of 1988*, Title I of the *AT Act of 1998* authorized State Grants for AT to support comprehensive statewide programs of technology-related assistance. The grant funds were provided to state agencies, although those agencies could delegate any of their responsibilities to another entity within the state. Grants were provided to every state, as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. However, no state was to receive funding for this program after Sept. 30, 2004.

States applied for grants under the *AT Act of 1998* by supplementing the applications they had submitted under the *Tech Act of 1988 and 1994*. Those supplements described:

- the state's goals for addressing the AT needs of individuals with disabilities related to health care, education, employment, telecommunications and information technology, or community living, and how the achievement of those goals would be measured; and
- how individuals with disabilities and their families were involved in selecting the goals, the measures for those goals and the activities to achieve those goals.

The act called for states to conduct capacity-building and advocacy activities that increased the availability of, funding for, access to and provision of AT devices and services (often referred to as "systems-change activities"). In conducting systems change, states were required to:

- support public awareness programs that provide information relating to the availability and benefits of AT;
- promote interagency coordination to encourage the adoption of policies that
 - improve access to AT and
 - result in improved coordination among entities responsible for policies, procedures or funding for AT;

- provide technical assistance and training to
 - promote access to AT in education, health care, employment and community living and
 - enhance the skills and competencies of consumers and professionals; and
- support outreach to organizations that provide AT.

Additional (or “discretionary”) activities that states could choose to conduct with grant funds included:

- supporting alternative state-financing systems that increase access to and funding for AT, including:
 - systems for the purchase, lease, other acquisition or payment for the provision of AT;
 - alternative financing systems (such as a low-interest loan fund, an interest buy-down program, a revolving loan fund, a loan guarantee or insurance program, or other mechanism) for the provision of AT;
 - short-term loans of AT devices; and
 - maintenance of information about, and recycling centers for, the redistribution of AT devices;
- providing demonstrations of AT so consumers can learn more about AT by trying it out;
- operating and expanding systems of technology-related information, such as funding sources and costs of AT devices and services;
- conducting interstate activities to expand the capacity of states to help consumers learn about, acquire, use, maintain, adapt and upgrade AT;
- supporting partnerships and cooperative initiatives to promote greater participation by business and industry in the development and dissemination of AT devices, services and information;
- paying the expenses necessary to ensure access to the comprehensive statewide program; and
- providing options for securing AT; and
- providing advocacy services.

Part I, Section 1 of this report, “**Implementation of AT Act of 1998, Title I,**” shows how many and what kind of individuals with disabilities and others were reached by these activities during FY 2004.

Given the purpose of the *AT Act of 1998*, NIDRR determined that state performance would be assessed by collecting information about the legislative and policy changes they helped facilitate to reduce barriers to AT availability in the areas of community living, education,

employment, health care and telecommunications and IT. More information on this is provided in **Part I, Section 1F, Legislative and Policy Changes**.

In addition to the State Grants for AT Program described above, Title I supported:

- Grants for Protection and Advocacy for AT (PAAT). PAAT grantees are separate from and report separately from other grantees under the *AT Act*. Data on PAAT activities are not included in this report. FY 2005 data were collected by PAATs using a new system and will not be available until 2006, so this data may be included in future reports.
- A national public Internet site on AT, maintained by the Center for Assistive Technology and Environmental Access at the Georgia Institute of Technology. The site provided individuals with disabilities and the general public with information on AT devices and services, as well as other disability-related resources (see <http://www.assistivetech.net>).
- Technical assistance (TA) to states. Two types of TA were provided to states:
 - RTI International (RTI)⁴ developed and maintained a Web-based data collection system through which states submit their annual reports to RSA and offered training and technical assistance on data collection issues, and
 - The Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) provided technical assistance and information to *AT Act* grantees to assist them to develop, implement and maintain their Statewide AT Programs.

Title II of the AT Act of 1998

Title II of the *AT Act of 1998* authorized National Activities, such as grants for small business incentives related to AT, the promotion of technology transfer and universal design, AT for rural and impoverished areas, and training for rehabilitation engineers. No funds were used for these activities.

Title III of the AT Act of 1998

Title III of the *AT Act of 1998* authorized the Alternative Financing Program (AFP) to help individuals with disabilities and their families fund the purchase of AT devices or services. AFP grants paid the federal share of establishing, expanding or maintaining State-level AFPs, such as low-interest loan funds, interest rate buy-down programs, revolving loan funds, loan guarantees or other mechanisms for the purchase or lease of AT. For descriptions of each of these program types and how they assist individuals with disabilities and their families to purchase AT, see **Table 1**.

⁴RTI International is a trade name of Research Triangle Institute.

Table 1. Types of Loan Programs

Type of Loan Program	Description
Revolving loan program	With a revolving loan (often called a direct loan) program, the AFP itself lends money directly to the borrower. The AFP determines the interest it will charge on the loan. The loan payments made by loan recipients are paid back to the AFP and are then available to fund new loans for individuals with disabilities.
Loan guarantee program	With a loan guarantee program, the AFP does not make a loan directly to the recipient, but rather guarantees a portion of the loan made by a third-party lender such as a conventional bank. By agreeing to cover all or part of a loan if the loan recipient should default, an AFP enables a bank to provide financing to individuals that the bank might otherwise deem too risky to receive a conventional loan.
Interest rate buy-down program	Through interest rate buy-down loans, an AFP uses its funds to reduce the interest rate on a lending institution's loan. For example, a loan that originally had an interest rate of 7 percent might be bought down by the AFP to 4 percent. This makes the loan more affordable because the borrower does not have to pay as much interest.
Non-guaranteed low-interest loan program	Some people who seek AT financing may qualify for non-guaranteed low-interest loans. For those individuals who have high enough incomes and credit scores to obtain loans directly from a conventional lender, the non-guaranteed low-interest loans may be appropriate. For the most part, the AFPs refer those individuals to their lending partners, who provide financing at a preferred or reduced rate negotiated between the bank and the AFP. The AFP does not use its funds for these loans.

Unlike the State Grants for AT Program under Title I, grants were not awarded to every state under Title III. Grants were awarded through a selection process after states submitted applications containing assurances related to the operation of their AFPs, including assurances related to consumer choice and control. Under Title III, states must establish policies and procedures to ensure: (a) the timely processing of requests for assistance; and (b) access to assistance regardless of type of disability, income, location of residence in the state, or type of AT needed by the consumer.

States that operate AFPs must enter into a contract with a community-based organization (CBO) to administer the program. This CBO must have individuals with disabilities involved in decision-making at all organizational levels. In turn, the CBO must contract with a lending institution to facilitate administration of the program. For more information about CBOs and lending institutions, see *Part II, Section D, Program Partners*. Though the grants were for one year, states and their partners were required to use their federal and state funds in a manner that supported the permanent operation of their AFPs.

Title III also provided for a grant for technical assistance to existing and future AFPs. As with the technical assistance to the State Grants for AT Program, technical assistance to the AFPs to establish and maintain their loan programs was provided by RESNA from 2000 to the present.

Part II of this report presents more detailed information about Title III AFPs. Data on individuals applying for loans were collected by RESNA through a subcontract with the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), which maintains a Web-based reporting system for grantees. Annual program data were collected by RESNA.

The Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as Amended by Public Law 108-364

The *AT Act of 1998*, as amended by Public Law 108-364, significantly changed the focus and structure of preceding legislation. As mandated by the 2004 amendments, the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) assumed responsibility for administering programs under the act as of December 2004. Activities previously authorized under Title II of the *AT Act of 1998* were eliminated, and the Alternative Financing Program under Title III was authorized only for FY 2005, under a special rule.

Section 4

The State Grants for AT Program, as authorized under Section 4 of the *AT Act of 1998*, as amended in 2004, is significantly different from the program authorized under Title I of the *AT Act of 1998* in effect prior to Oct. 25, 2004. Previously a discretionary grant program, State Grants for AT are now provided by formula. Any funds appropriated above the FY 2004 level, which is used as a baseline, are allocated according to a formula that provides a portion of the funds equally to all states and a portion of funds based on the population of a state.

Rather than using grant funds to support “systems change,” states will develop and maintain Statewide AT Programs that conduct activities to more directly increase access to and acquisition of AT devices and services for individuals with disabilities. Section 4 of the *AT Act* enumerates two sets of activities: “State-level” activities and “State Leadership” activities.

The State-level Activities are:

- state financing activities, including
 - systems for the purchase, lease, or other acquisition of, or payment for, AT devices and services (though states may not directly pay for AT devices and services for individuals with disabilities); or
 - Alternative Financing Programs⁵ such as a low-interest loan fund, an interest buy-down program, a revolving loan fund, a loan guarantee or insurance program or other mechanism for the provision of AT devices (or a state may conduct an initial one-year feasibility study for implementing an alternative financing system);

⁵ While they possess some similarities, “alternative financing systems” as included under state financing activities need not be the same as AFPs formerly funded under Title III of the *AT Act of 1998*, which contains many specific statutory requirements.

- device reutilization programs that support the exchange, repair, recycling or other reutilization of AT devices;
- device loan programs that provide short-term loans of AT so that individuals can try out devices or fill a temporary need for a device; and
- device demonstration programs in which personnel familiar with AT demonstrate a variety of AT devices and services and provide information about AT vendors, providers and repair services.

The State Leadership Activities are:

- training and technical assistance, which includes developing and disseminating training materials, conducting training, and providing technical assistance to enhance the AT knowledge, skills and competencies of appropriate individuals;⁶
- public awareness activities designed to provide information on the availability, benefits, appropriateness and costs of AT devices and services, including a statewide information and referral system; and
- coordination and collaboration of activities among public and private entities responsible for policies, procedures or funding for the provision of AT devices and services.

States are not required to fund a State-level activity if that activity is supported comparably with nonfederal funds. States that carry out all four State-level Activities may use up to 40 percent of their federal funds for State Leadership Activities. States that carry out two or three of the State-level Activities may use up to 30 percent of their funds for State Leadership Activities.

State Grants for AT are provided to a public “lead agency,” though the lead agency can appoint an “implementing entity” to administer the Statewide AT Program on its behalf. Each state must establish an advisory council to provide consumer-responsive, consumer-driven advice on the planning, implementation and evaluation of activities carried out by the Statewide AT Program. The council must include consumers who use AT or their families (who must constitute a majority), along with representatives of state agencies, including (at a minimum) the state education agency, state vocational rehabilitation (VR) agency, state agency for the blind (if separate from the state VR Agency), a center for independent living, and the state Workforce Investment Board.

The *AT Act* as amended in 2004 requires that states submit an application to receive a grant. RSA required this application to be in the form of a three-year State Plan for Assistive Technology (State Plan for AT), covering the period Oct. 1, 2005, to Sept. 30, 2008. During this three-year period, a state may be required to submit amendments and will be required to submit data, progress reports and annual budgets.

⁶ States are required to spend 5 percent of their State Leadership funds specifically to provide training and technical assistance to assist students with disabilities who receive transition services and adults who are maintaining or transitioning to community living.

State Plans for AT will be used to:

- determine a state's eligibility for the grant by ensuring the state is meeting the requirements of the *AT Act* and the requirements of the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR);
- establish a baseline for data collection efforts and performance measurement systems;
- provide information for an annual report to Congress;
- establish a baseline for the monitoring system to determine a state's ongoing compliance with the requirements of the *AT Act* and progress toward the state's goals; and
- inform technical assistance efforts and guide state implementation of programs.

State Plans for AT describe how each state will implement a Statewide AT Program that is comprehensive, meaning equally available to all individuals with disabilities residing in the state, regardless of the nature of their disability, age, income level, location of residence in the state, or the type of AT device or service required. Specific requirements of the State Plan for AT include a description of the:

- entities responsible for implementing the Statewide AT Program;
- state's advisory council;
- activities to be conducted;
- State-level Activities the state has elected not to conduct;
- measurable goals to be achieved by the Statewide AT Program's activities;
- involvement of public and private entities in the Statewide AT Program;
- support for the Statewide AT Program provided by the state; and
- proposed allocation and utilization of grant funds.

Appendix A presents the complete requirements for the development of the State Plans for AT.

Part I, Section 2, "Implementation of AT Act of 2004, Section 4," describes the development of State Plans for AT and the identification of measurable goals required by the new legislation. **Appendix B** includes synopses of states' plans for carrying out the activities required by the *AT Act*.

Section 5

Section 5 of the *AT Act*, as amended in 2004, continues to authorize grants for Protection and Advocacy for AT (PAAT). The provisions related to PAAT programs under Section 5 remain substantially the same as those included in Title I of the *AT Act of 1998*. PAAT grantees are separate from and report separately from other grantees under the *AT Act*. Data on PAAT

activities is not included in this report. FY 2005 data was collected by PAATs using a new system and will not be available until 2006, so it may be included in future reports.

Section 6

Section 6 of the *AT Act*, as amended in 2004, authorizes “national activities” to improve the administration of the act. These activities include training and technical assistance, data collection and reporting, a national public Internet site on AT, and other activities.

The National Assistive Technology Training and Technical Assistance Program will support the 56 Statewide AT Programs, the 57 Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology Programs, and the 33 Alternative Financing Programs funded under the *AT Act of 1998* and *AT Act of 1998*, as amended by Public Law 108-364. The goal of this national level program is to improve the effectiveness of the three entities as they work to get AT into the hands of individuals who need it. The program will also serve other entities nationwide that are not funded under the act.

Under its Assistive Technology Data Collection Project, RTI maintains a Web-based reporting system for use by AT grantees and provides states with technical assistance on data collection issues. The contractor also prepares annual reports on state activities for the Department of Education (ED). RTI has also developed and implemented a new Web-based reporting system for use by PAAT grantees, which grantees voluntarily used for the first time to submit FY 2004 reports.⁷ In FY 2005, RTI participated in a number of national meetings in which stakeholders provided input on development of performance measures for the program and a new data collection system that will respond to the requirements of the *AT Act of 2004*.

The National Public Internet Site on Assistive Technology (<http://www.assistivetech.net>) is intended to increase the availability of and ease of access to, information about AT and disability services and resources. The site provides 24-hour access to AT information for those with Internet connectivity, and a toll-free telephone number for those without it. The Web site serves all people but focuses particularly on people with disabilities, their families, service providers, educators and employers.

⁷ OMB approval of the PAAT system was not received in time for its use to be required in FY 2004.

**PART I.
THE STATE GRANTS FOR
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM**

1. IMPLEMENTATION OF TITLE I OF THE *AT ACT OF 1998*

A. Background

During FY 2004, the State Grants for AT Program was administered according to the *AT Act of 1998*, as in effect prior to Oct. 25, 2004. Under that act, the secretary of education was required to annually report to Congress on a variety of topics. **Table 2** presents the legislative reporting requirements and the sections of this document that address them.

Table 2. Reporting Requirements for the *AT Act of 1998* as in effect prior to Oct. 25, 2004, Title I

Reporting Requirement	Addressed by
(A) the demonstrated successes of the funded activities in improving interagency coordination relating to assistive technology, streamlining access to funding for assistive technology, and producing beneficial outcomes for users of assistive technology;	Interagency Coordination (page 19) and Legislative and Policy Changes (page 29)
(B) the demonstration activities carried out through the funded activities to— (i) promote access to such funding in public programs that were in existence on the date of the initiation of the demonstration activities; and (ii) establish additional options for obtaining such funding;	Demonstration activities were not required under the State Grants for AT Program, and no funding for them was appropriated under Title II. As such, there are no data to report.
(C) the education and training activities carried out through the funded activities to educate and train targeted individuals about assistive technology, including increasing awareness of funding through public programs for assistive technology;	Technical Assistance and Training (page 15)
(D) the research activities carried out through the funded activities to improve understanding of the costs and benefits of access to assistive technology for individuals with disabilities who represent a variety of ages and types of disabilities;	Research was neither a required nor discretionary activity under the State Grants for AT Program, and no funding for research was appropriated for Title II. As such, there are no data to report.
(E) the program outreach activities to rural and inner-city areas that are carried out through the funded activities;	Outreach (page 22)
(F) the activities carried out through the funded activities that are targeted to reach underrepresented populations and rural populations; and	Outreach (page 22)
(G) the consumer involvement activities carried out through the funded activities. ⁸	Public Awareness (page 17) and Consumer Satisfaction (page 28)

⁸ “Consumers” refers to persons with disabilities served by State Grant programs.

This section presents these data in the order of the required and discretionary activities⁹ of the *AT Act of 1998*, as well as additional data on activities not addressed in (A) through (G) above. A review of the quality and limitations of those data is included, as well as reporting on the amount of federal and nonfederal funding available to states for FY 2004. Finally, information is provided on the legislative and policy changes achieved by states as a result of their systems-change activities.

B. Data Collection and Limitations

FY 2004 data for the State Grants for AT Program were collected through a Web-based reporting system maintained by RTI. For the past several years, states have used this system to report on their activities for a 12-month period. However, because of the expiration of Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for use of the system in May 2005, some states did not report for a full 12-month period. This document is based on reports submitted by 50 states and four other grantees through the Web-based reporting system. It does not include data from American Samoa and the Northern Marianas, which used a different version of the reporting form that did not contain all of the same data elements.

Several mechanisms are in place to improve the consistency and quality of data that states report through the Web-based system. States use a uniform reporting instrument, developed in 2000–01, which consists primarily of closed-ended items (although the instrument also includes some open-ended items). An online instruction manual presents numerous examples of the types of information that should be included in narrative responses. Each section of the reporting form also contains links to important definitions and instructions so that states can quickly obtain pertinent information without having to review the entire instruction manual. During the early stages of system implementation, RTI made presentations at the annual state AT directors' conference to familiarize administrators with each item in the form. RTI staff is available year-round to provide states with technical assistance on data collection and reporting issues via either e-mail or telephone.

There are limitations to the data collected through the Web-based system, however. The primary limitation is that the data collected focus on activities and outputs rather than outcomes (although states may provide outcome data in the some narrative responses). It is also possible, in some instances, for states to enter information that is not mathematically correct (e.g., a total that does not match the sum of entries in individual categories), because the system was not designed to identify all such miscalculations. In addition, the type of data that the system collects (e.g., reporting of total numbers of individuals participating in specific activities, rather than individual records) does not lend itself to analysis of validity.

Reliance on aggregate, or summary, data also severely limits the types of analyses that can be conducted. For example, the system cannot produce an unduplicated count of individuals served

⁹ Grantees reported on required and discretionary activities funded either fully or in part by Title I funds.

by the program, create new subsets or carry out cross-tabulations that involve two variables. Moreover, assessment of data quality is beyond the scope of the grant under which RTI assists RSA in its data collection efforts. For purposes of this report, it is assumed that data reported by states are accurate and that those data are an adequate representation of program performance.

C. Funding

As shown in *Table 3*, 50 states and four other grantees received a total of \$20,035,863 in State Grants for AT (Title I) funds in FY 2004. For 21 state projects the State Grants for AT were their sole source of funding. Thirty-three (61 percent) of the 50 states and four other grantees reported obtaining an additional \$18,400,600 from other sources. This additional funding brought the total dollars received by the 33 states to \$30,944,835; the total for all states was \$38,436,463. Other funding accounted for 59 percent of the fiscal resources available to the 33 states. Both grant funds and funds from other sources were used to support the required and discretionary activities described in the following sections.

Table 3. Amount of Funding and Percentage of Total Funding, by Source: All States and States Receiving Other Funding, FY 2004

Funding Source	All States (n=54)		States Receiving Other Funding (n=33)	
	Amount	Percentage of Total	Amount	Percentage of Total
Title I	\$20,035,863	52	\$12,544,235	41
Other	\$18,400,600	48	\$18,400,600	59
Total	\$38,436,463	100	\$30,944,835	100

D. Data on Required Activities

Under the *AT Act of 1998*, states conducted four required activities: (1) technical assistance and training, (2) public awareness, (3) interagency coordination and (4) outreach.

Technical Assistance and Training

States were required to carry out technical assistance and training activities directly or through public or private entities. These activities included:

- technical assistance or training in developing and implementing laws, regulations, policies, practices, procedures or organizational structures that promote access to AT devices and services;
- developing training materials and conducting training in the use of AT devices and services;
- providing technical assistance concerning needs for AT devices and services to federal and state programs that serve individuals who are disabled;
- providing technical assistance concerning the rights of individuals with disabilities to AT devices and services;

- increasing consumer participation in the process of identifying, using and evaluating AT devices and services; and
- enhancing the AT skills and competencies of individuals who work with persons with disabilities (including insurers and managed care providers), educators, technology experts such as engineers, health and allied health professionals, employers, and others.

In FY 2004, the 54 programs provided a total of 99,045 individuals with opportunities to increase their knowledge about AT devices and services through 12,477 sessions, including presentations, conference sessions, learning labs, workshops, classroom instruction and distance education. Because not all states were able to categorize participants, analysis of participant types is limited to the 36 states that could do so. These 36 states reported serving a total of 85,271 participants. As shown in **Figure 1**:

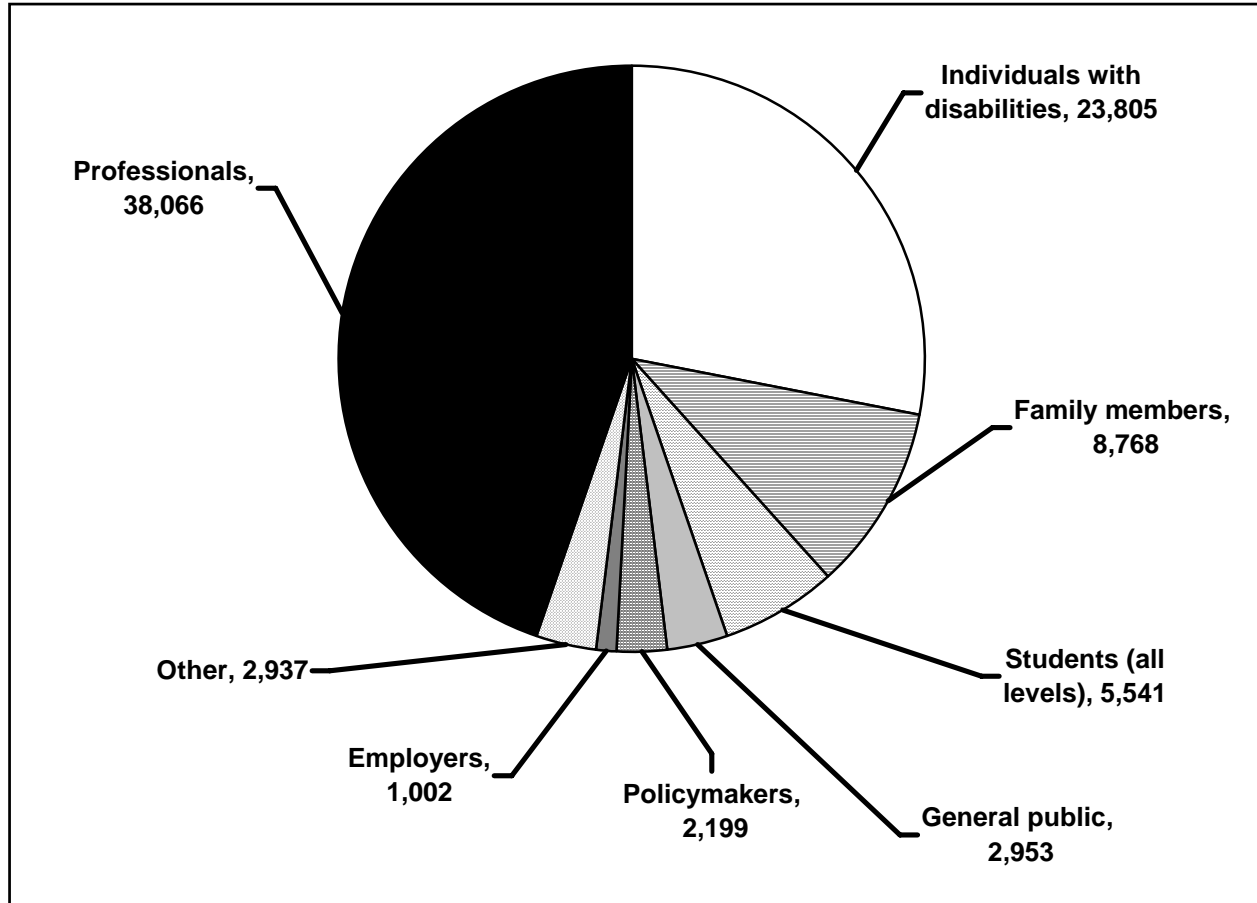
- 38,066 participants were professionals who worked with individuals with disabilities (45 percent of the 85,271 participants);
- 23,805 were individuals with disabilities (28 percent);
- 8,768 were family members, advocates and others who represented persons with disabilities (10 percent);
- 5,541 were students (6 percent);
- 2,953 were members of the general public (3 percent);
- 2,199 were policymakers (3 percent);
- 1,002 were employers (1 percent) and
- 2,937 were individuals classified as “other” (3 percent).

TA or training sessions addressed topics such as:

- AT evaluation, assessment practice, and AT devices (addressed by 51 states);
- funding or acquisition of AT devices and services (50 states);
- advocacy, consumer rights issues, laws, and informed consumer choice (addressed by 49 states); and
- the use of specific devices or modifications to assist an individual with a disability at home, work or school, which includes:
 - environmental modifications for home, work or school (50 states);
 - learning and curricular adaptations (49 states);
 - switch and access devices that enable an individual to control a computer or electronic device (49 states).
 - communication aids and alternative and augmentative communication devices that allow individuals with speech or writing difficulties to communicate through either traditional or alternative methods (49 states);

- computers and computer adaptations (49 states);
- vision aids (48 states); and
- aids for daily living that enable an individual to carry out routine activities for personal hygiene and health and for operating a household (48 states).

Figure 1. Technical Assistance/Training Participants, by Category^a



^a One state did not report conducting TA or training. Only 36 states were able to report the number of participants by category. Those 36 reported serving 85,271 participants whom they were able to categorize, including 2,937 individuals categorized as “other.”

Public Awareness

Under the *AT Act of 1998*, public awareness activities provided interested individuals with information about the availability and benefits of AT devices and services. Activities included development and dissemination of information about the nature, cost, availability and benefits of AT; development of procedures for communication between individuals with disabilities and AT providers; and development and dissemination of information about state efforts related to AT.

As shown in **Table 4**, states used an array of public awareness methods and approaches to reach these audiences.

Table 4. Methods Frequently Used to Increase Public Awareness and Disseminate Information

Method	Number of States Using Method
Informational fact sheets/flyers for public	53
Web site	53
Exhibits/fairs in public areas	52
Telephone calls	52
Drop-ins to office and/or demonstration center	51
E-mail information requests from the public/professionals	50
Articles/notifications in other agency publications	49
Mailings	49
Manuals/guides/booklets	49
Presentations	48

As shown in **Table 5**, State Grants for AT programs provided nearly 474,000 individuals with information through newsletters (209,367 individuals), toll-free telephone calls (168,072 individuals), presentations (90,841 individuals), and public forums (4,929 individuals).

Examples of public awareness activities undertaken by states include:

- **Connecticut’s** program produced a video called *All Things Are Possible*, which showed how individuals with disabilities could acquire and maintain employment with the help of AT. The video was aired on public access TV.
- **Illinois’** program used a “storefront” window display in its Springfield office to attract the attention of government employees on their way to work or lunch and others sightseeing near the Old State Capitol Building. The display attracted many individuals to the demonstration center, where they learned more about AT and about the program.
- **Minnesota’s** program used multimedia streaming technology to create *Where It’s AT*, a live, interactive Internet radio program with real-time text captioning that discussed AT devices and services. The program was hosted by an adaptive technology specialist from the University of Minnesota.
- **Tennessee’s** program worked with the state’s AgrAbility Project, a cooperative effort of the University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service and Easter Seals, to

increase awareness about AT devices and services among farmers, farm workers and their family members.

Table 5. Number of Individuals Receiving Information from Selected Public Awareness Activities

Method	Number of Consumers and Family Members Served	Number of Other Individuals Served ^a	Total Number of Individuals Served
Newsletters	50,160	159,207	209,367
Toll-free telephone calls ^b	Not available		168,072
Presentations ^c	26,388	64,453	90,841
Public forums	2,969	1,960	4,929
Total^d	79,517	393,692	473,209

NOTE: Counts may be duplicated, particularly for toll-free telephone calls.

^a Targeted individuals, as outlined in the *AT Act of 1998*, include not only individuals of all ages with disabilities and their family members or guardians but also individuals who work for public or private entities that have contact with individuals with disabilities, educators and related services personnel, technology experts, health and allied health professionals, and employers.

^b States were not asked to provide a breakdown by consumers and family members for toll-free calls.

^c Presentations for the purposes of public awareness differ from presentations for the purpose of training or TA. Presentations for training and TA teach skills and increase competence about AT, rather than simply making an individual aware of AT.

^d States were asked to report the total number of individuals served by selected public awareness activities, and then to provide a breakdown by consumers and family members and others in all categories except toll-free telephone calls. Because some states were unable to provide the requested breakdowns, the total number of individuals served exceeds the total by category. In some cases, figures for consumers and family members and others may not match the reported total.

Interagency Coordination

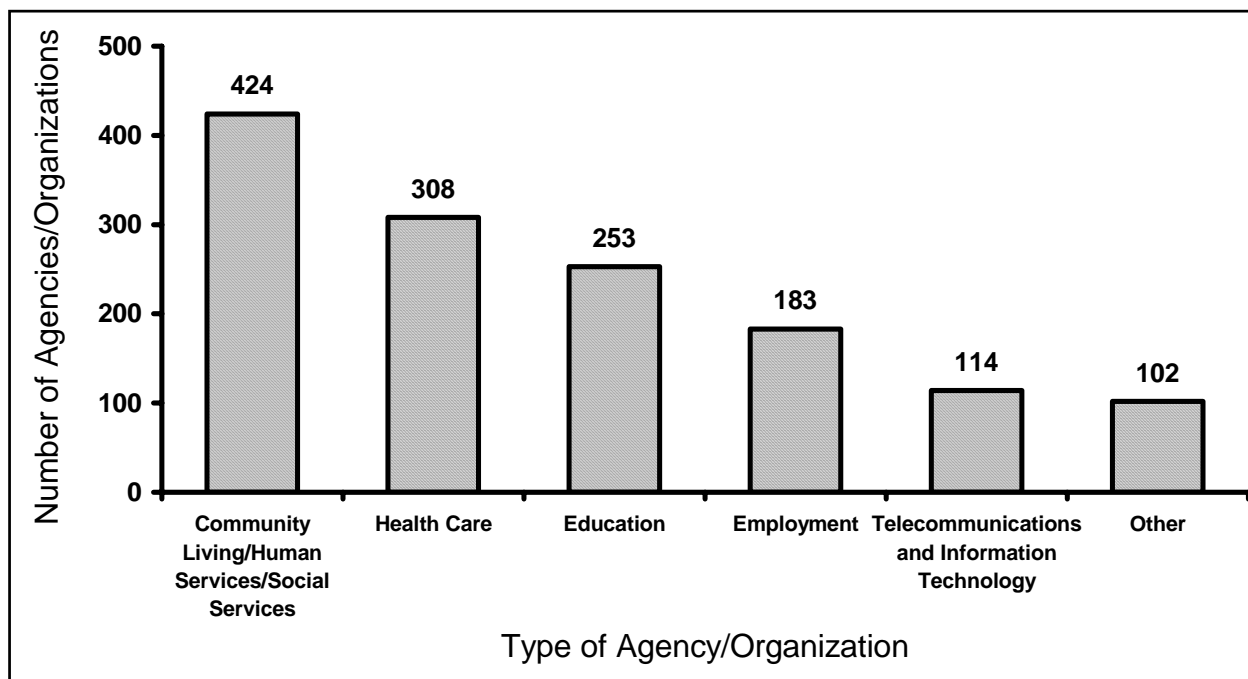
The third required activity that states undertook was interagency coordination, defined in the *AT Act of 1998* as “activities to develop and promote the adoption of policies that improve access to AT devices and services for individuals with disabilities of all ages and that result in improved coordination among public and private entities that are responsible for, or have the authority to be responsible for, policies, procedures, funding or provision of AT devices and services.” Interagency coordination included support for:

- policies that improve coordination in the application of federal and state policies, use of resources and services relating to provision of AT devices and services, and improvement of access to AT devices and services for individuals of all ages with disabilities;
- convening interagency work groups to identify, create or expand funding options and coordinating access to fund for AT devices and services; and
- documenting and disseminating information on interagency activities that promote coordination.

State Grant for AT programs conducted interagency coordination with more than 1,300 agencies and organizations. As shown in **Figure 2**:

- 424 were in the community living, human services and social services area (e.g., entities serving senior citizens, disability-related nonprofits and independent living centers and councils);
- 308 were entities involved in health care, such as Medicaid agencies or organizations serving persons with mental retardation or developmental disabilities;
- 253 agencies and organizations were involved in the area of education;
- 183 were involved in employment organizations (including vocational rehabilitation agencies and one-stop centers);
- 114 agencies were involved in the area of telecommunications and information technology (such as state information services and state purchasing offices); and
- 102 “other” organizations—including financial institutions, legislative bodies and city/county governments—were also involved in coordination activities.

Figure 2. Number and Type of Agencies/Organizations Involved in Interagency Coordination Activities^a



^a A total of 50 states and two other grantees reported conducting interagency coordination activities.

Working with these agencies and organizations, states tried to improve policies and coordination in order to help persons with disabilities obtain financing for AT devices and services, train personnel to assist individuals with disabilities in the use of AT, and disseminate information about the availability and potential of AT. Interagency activities were also designed to change systems in order to ensure the timely acquisition and delivery of AT devices and services, increase programs' capacities to provide technology-related assistance, and improve the accessibility of computer information technology (IT) for persons with disabilities. States' reports for FY 2004 provide numerous examples of interagency coordination in the areas of health care, education, employment, telecommunications and information technology, and community living, including the following:

- **Arizona's** project helped ensure that the state's emergency preparedness plan included plans for persons with disabilities. The new guidelines are designed to make emergency officials aware of the AT needs that persons with disabilities may have during evacuation, shelter and possible long-term dislocation from community.
- **Arkansas'** project provided funding to the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville's School of Architecture to develop universal design guidelines for incorporation into the standards for affordable housing construction in the state. The State Grant Program collaborated with the Governor's Task Force on Supported Housing in this effort.

- **California's** project implemented a new initiative on the issue of accessible transportation to address issues such as the lack of lift-equipped taxis in the state, accessible transportation options for California's aging population, the use of AT in transportation and transportation planning and design, and accessible commuter services.
- **Oklahoma's** project played a key role in implementation of the state's electronic and information technology accessibility law. The statute, enacted in 2004, requires state agencies and postsecondary institutions to comply with Section 508 of the *Rehabilitation Act* by developing, procuring and maintaining electronic and information technology that is accessible to persons with disabilities. The State Grant Program is statutorily charged with providing training and technical assistance on a statewide basis to all entities covered by the legislation. Project staff led the advisory committee that developed the state's technical standards and created rules governing procurement and accessibility.
- **Oregon's** project worked with other agencies to make AT available in seven one-stop career centers. The project provided the one-stop centers with technical support and training on use of the equipment, which was purchased with funds from a Work Incentive Grant through the Department of Labor. As a result, Oregon citizens who have disabilities can use the AT either independently or with the help of career center staff.

Outreach

States also were required to conduct outreach activities, which support statewide and community-based organizations that provide AT devices and services or that assist individuals in using AT devices and services. Through these activities (which reporting instructions allowed states to combine with technical assistance or training, interagency coordination or legislative or policy change activities),¹⁰ State Grant for AT programs focused their outreach efforts on underrepresented populations as identified in the *AT Act*. As presented in **Figure 3**, those populations include:

- persons from rural areas (44 states);
- older individuals and poor persons (43 states each);
- persons with low-incidence disabilities¹¹ (40 states);
- minorities (38 states); and
- persons with limited English proficiency (26 states).

¹⁰ All grantees reported conducting some type of outreach activity.

¹¹ As defined in the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*, Section 662(c)(3) (and adapted by RSA to include the general population, rather than limited to elementary and secondary school students), persons with low-incidence disabilities are individuals who have: (a) a visual or hearing impairment, or simultaneous visual and hearing impairments; (b) a significant cognitive impairment; or (c) any impairment for which a small number of personnel with highly specialized skills and knowledge are needed in order for (persons with disabilities) with that impairment to receive (services).

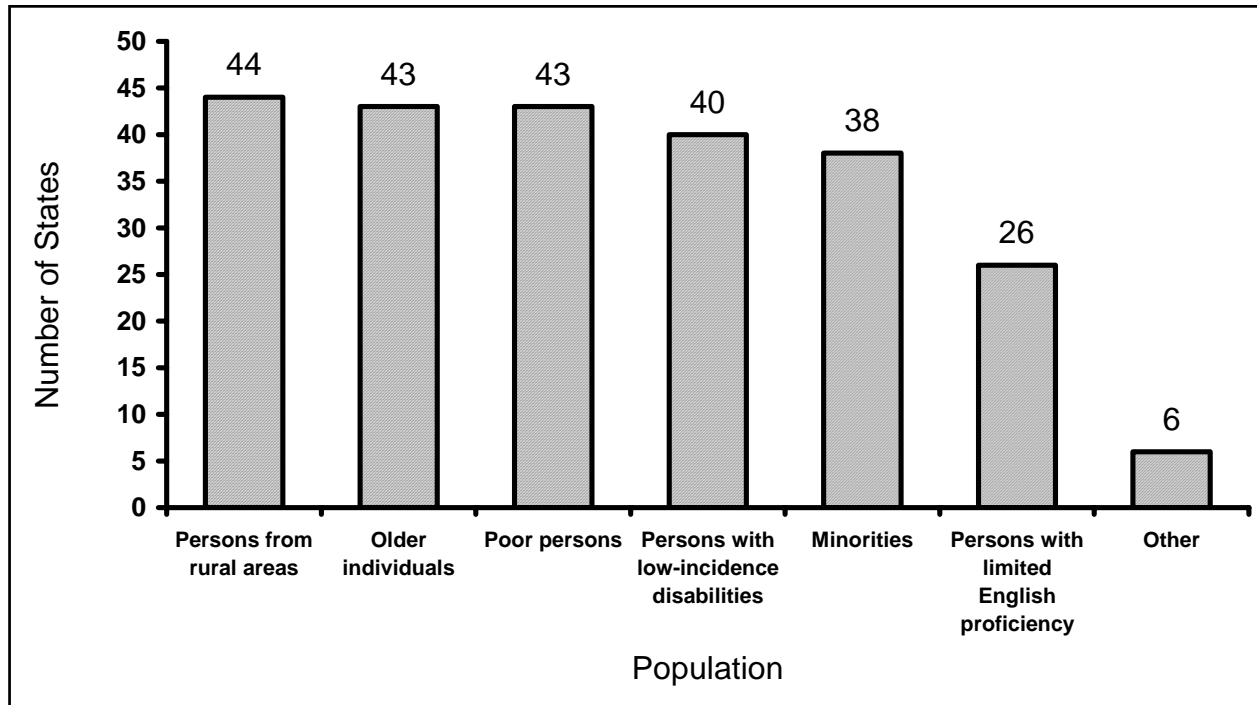
Examples of outreach to older individuals include:

- **Maine's** project conducted outreach to senior citizens. In collaboration with the University of Maine's Center on Aging and Senior College and a technical school, the project supported work on maintaining independence using assistive technology, simple home adaptations and telephone technology for elders.
- **North Dakota's** project conducted outreach to senior citizens. Senior citizens often face the decision to remain at home or move to a care facility due to safety issues. The project implemented the Senior Assistive Technology Safety program via video-conferencing, working through established health care networks Preliminary outcomes indicate that the equipment and services people received from this program helped them to remain in their current home.

Examples of outreach to persons from rural areas include:

- **Iowa's** project collaborated with the Iowa Easter Seals Rural Solutions Program (Iowa's AgrAbility project) to conduct outreach, awareness and training to rural populations and service providers. Regional family support groups provided information about AT to farm families experiencing new disabilities.

Figure 3. Underrepresented Groups Targeted by Outreach Activities^{a, b}



^a Counts are duplicated because states could focus on more than one type of population.

^b Figure shows number of states focusing on various populations with outreach activities conducted alone or in combination with technical assistance, training or interagency coordination activities. States did not report the populations targeted by outreach activities conducted in combination with legislative or policy change activities.

- **Oklahoma’s** project, with the state’s AgrAbility program and Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Services, provided outreach to persons with disabilities who reside in rural Oklahoma, including targeted outreach to minority farmers and ranchers.
- **Utah’s** project conducted outreach to persons from rural areas in a collaborative effort with rural centers for independent living and the statewide AgrAbility program. These efforts made AT information about devices and funding available to farm and ranch families in rural and remote areas of Utah.

Examples of outreach to minorities and persons with limited English proficiency include:

- **New Jersey’s** project conducted outreach to the Latino community by co-sponsoring a Latino Outreach Conference titled “The Latino Community and Disabilities: Confronting the Barriers.”
- The major focus of **South Dakota’s** project continued to be directed to Native Americans. This included efforts to attract more Native American individuals to attend the annual Native American Disability Summit, which is a significant vehicle for introducing Native Americans to information related to assistive technology devices and services available across South Dakota and on the Native American nations.

- **Utah's** main focus was outreach to the Hispanic population in Utah. Further, they provided information to the Navajo Nation in collaboration with Arizona's *Tech Act* project.

E. Data on Discretionary Activities

The *AT Act of 1998* authorized states to use their funds for discretionary activities in addition to the required activities already described. Among the discretionary activities that states could conduct were the development of Alternative Financing Programs, demonstrations of AT devices, interstate activities, partnerships and cooperative initiatives, paying for expenses to ensure access to their programs, and advocacy. The *AT Act of 1998* does not require the secretary of education to provide data on the discretionary activities to Congress. However, data on many of these activities were collected for purposes of administering the act. This report includes selected data that align with activities that will continue under the *AT Act*, as amended in 2004, because inclusion of these data will allow for comparison of activities under the *AT Act* of 1998 and revised *AT Act* in future years. It also describes the consumer satisfaction surveys conducted by states.

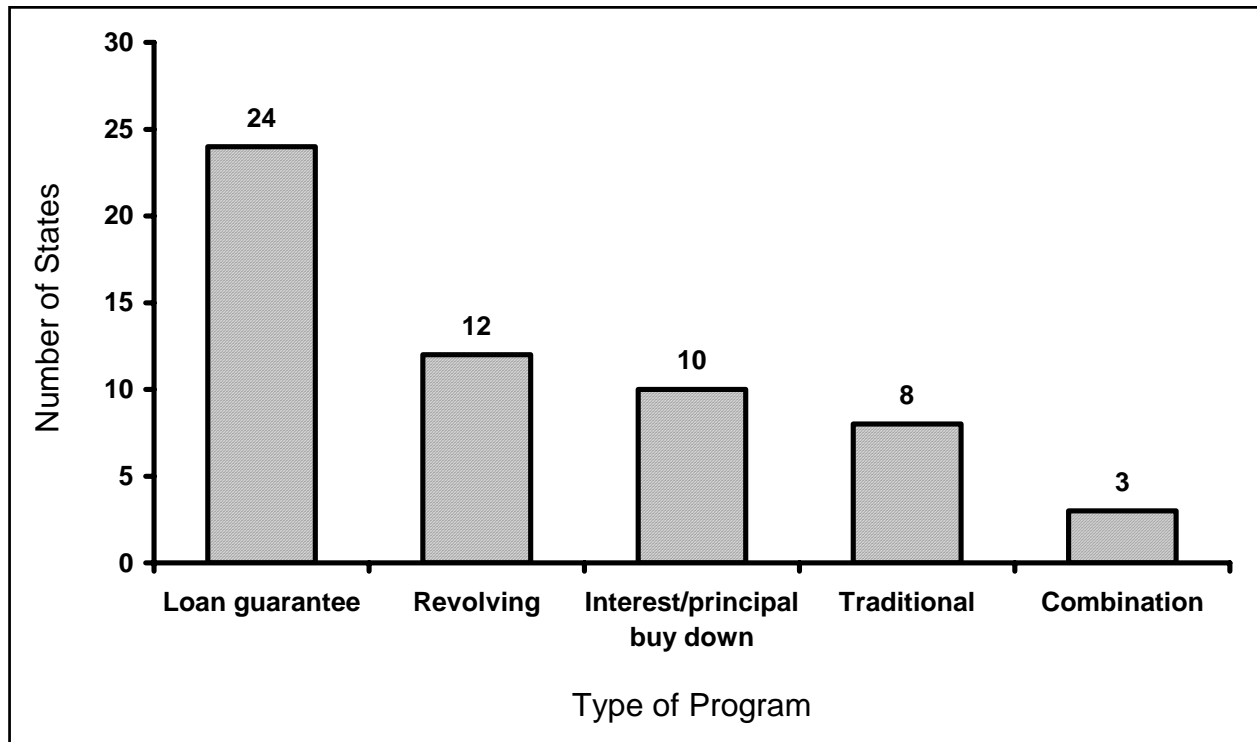
Alternative Financing

States were allowed to support publicly or privately funded AFPs to provide funding for AT devices and services. States operating AFPs under Title I of the *AT Act of 1998* were subject to different requirements than those operating them under Title III, in terms of composition and operation. However, both types of AFPs generally provide the same services to individuals with disabilities. Information about AFPs supported under Title III of the *AT Act* is featured in **Part II** of this report.

In FY 2004, 32 states reported alternative financing activities supported under Title I of the *AT Act of 1998*, with 28 programs operational and four still in development.¹² Alternative Financing Programs included traditional loan funds, loan guarantees, revolving loan funds, interest or principal buy-down programs and models that combined these features (see **Table 1** for descriptions of the various loan program models). As **Figure 4** shows, loan guarantee programs (operated by 24 states) were the most common, followed by revolving (12 states), interest or principal buy-down (10 states) and traditional programs (eight states). Three states reported use of combination programs: Minnesota's program combined non-guaranteed and low interest loans, Oklahoma combined interest buy down and loan guarantees, and Louisiana offered both guaranteed and non-guaranteed loans.

¹² Grantees reported on alternative financing activities operated wholly or in part with Title I funding (not programs in their states that were operated solely with Title III funding). States did not report what proportion of funds Title I provided or whether Title III funds are also used.

Figure 4. Number of States Offering Various Types of Alternative Financing Programs^a



^a Thirty-two states reported conducting alternative financing activities using Title I funds. Counts are duplicated because states may offer more than one type of program. Counts include programs in development.

Collectively, the 32 AFPs received a total of 1,145 applications for financing and approved 800 of them (70 percent). The states provided or guaranteed \$5,995,974 in loans, for an average loan of \$7,495. The loan programs experienced 49 defaults, for a loss of \$238,745 (or 4 percent of the amount loaned, 6 percent of approved loans), an average of \$4,872 per default.

Demonstrations

Also among the discretionary activities that AT states were allowed to conduct were demonstrations that provide individuals the opportunity to examine and try out AT devices, receive information about them or obtain referrals to other sources. Ideally, demonstrations are conducted in settings in which consumers can learn about the devices from personnel familiar with them and their applications.

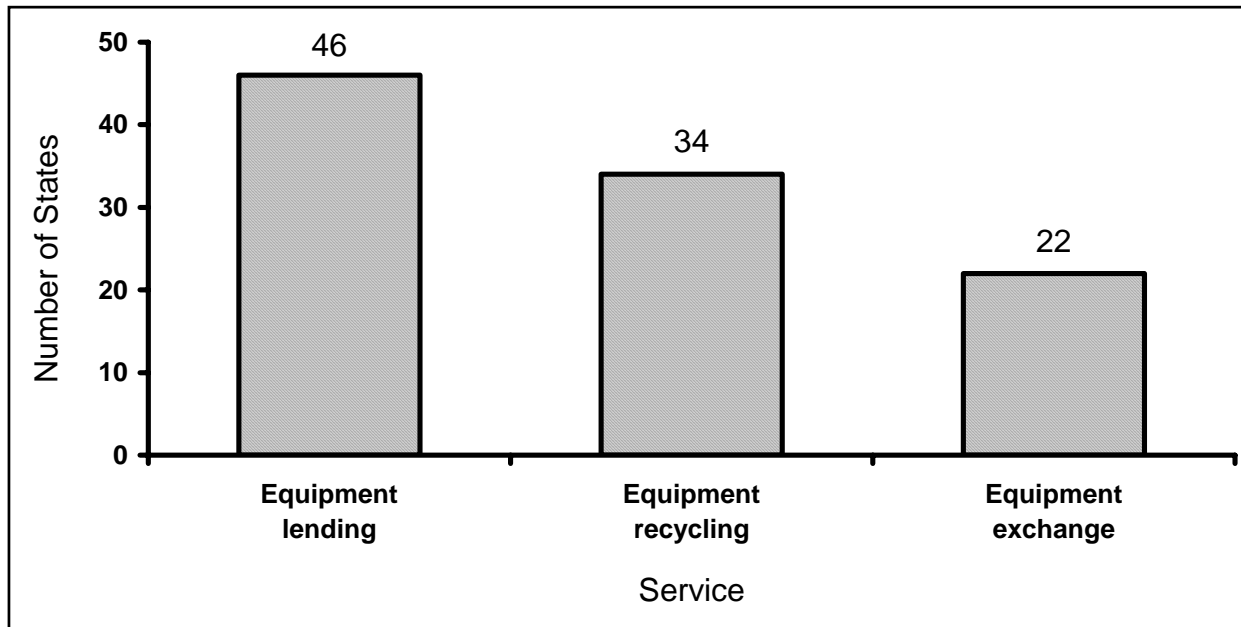
Fifty (93 percent) of the 54 grantees conducted demonstrations of AT. These demonstrations took place in 221 settings,¹³ such as at regional AT centers; at conferences, expos, fairs and exhibits; at meetings of nonprofit organizations; and on university, college or community college campuses.

¹³ A setting may include a demonstration center, a community location at which the grantee conducted demonstrations, or a mobile van unit that traveled to multiple destinations. Grantees were instructed to count each demonstration location as a setting, with the exception of a mobile van unit, which was counted as one setting.

Among the services that demonstration sites offered were AT equipment lending, AT device recycling programs and AT equipment exchange services. As **Figure 5** presents, among the 50 grantees that conducted demonstrations:

- 46 offered equipment lending services in at least one site, allowing individuals with disabilities to borrow AT devices for extended periods of time and to try them out at home, work, school or in other environments. Loans are also provided to cover temporary loss of equipment due to repairs or other factors.
- 34 provided device recycling services in at least one site. These services accept used AT devices that consumers no longer need and redistribute them to consumers who do need them. Sometimes device recycling programs also repair or refurbish these devices.
- 22 settings offered equipment exchange services in at least one site. Exchange services help to connect consumers who have used AT to donate with consumers who are looking for AT.

Figure 5. Number of States Offering Equipment Lending, Equipment Recycling or Equipment Exchange Services in at Least One Site^a



^a Total number of demonstration sites was 221. Counts are duplicated because states may offer more than one service.

F. Consumer Satisfaction

In addition to data on required and discretionary activities, states collected data on consumer satisfaction with State Grants for AT programs. States used a variety of methods to gather these data. The most popular method was to survey participants with a preprinted survey at sponsored events. Other methods, listed in descending order of popularity, included surveys by mail, personal interviews or focus groups, telephone surveys, Web-based or e-mail surveys, and mail or phone survey combinations. Collectively, AT programs distributed questionnaires to, or attempted to conduct interviews with, 59,653 consumers during FY 2004 and obtained 19,571 completed questionnaires and interviews.

In FY 2004, 47 states (87 percent) collected satisfaction data from consumers, including individuals with disabilities, family members, guardians and advocates. Collectively, 47 states conducted a total of 167 consumer satisfaction surveys (an average of 3.6 per state). The most commonly collected data by states were on the topics of training (35 states), technical assistance (29 states), and information and awareness activities (27 states). In general, consumers reported high levels of satisfaction with the topics in the surveys: For 132 of the 167 surveys, states indicated that at least 90 percent of consumers were satisfied with the product, service or training in question or would recommend it to others.

States planned to use the results of consumer satisfaction surveys to improve their programs in a variety of ways, including strategic planning, identifying training topics, updating

Web sites, changing office procedures and staffing patterns, planning conferences and identifying equipment to add to their inventories.

G. Legislative and Policy Changes

Given the purpose of the *AT Act of 1998*, NIDRR determined that state performance would be assessed by collecting information about the legislative and policy changes they helped to facilitate in order to reduce barriers to AT availability in the areas of community living, education, employment, health care, telecommunications and IT. This section reports on the number of legislative and policy changes that states achieved in FY 2004 and the areas addressed by those changes.

Number of States Achieving Legislative and Policy Changes and Areas Addressed

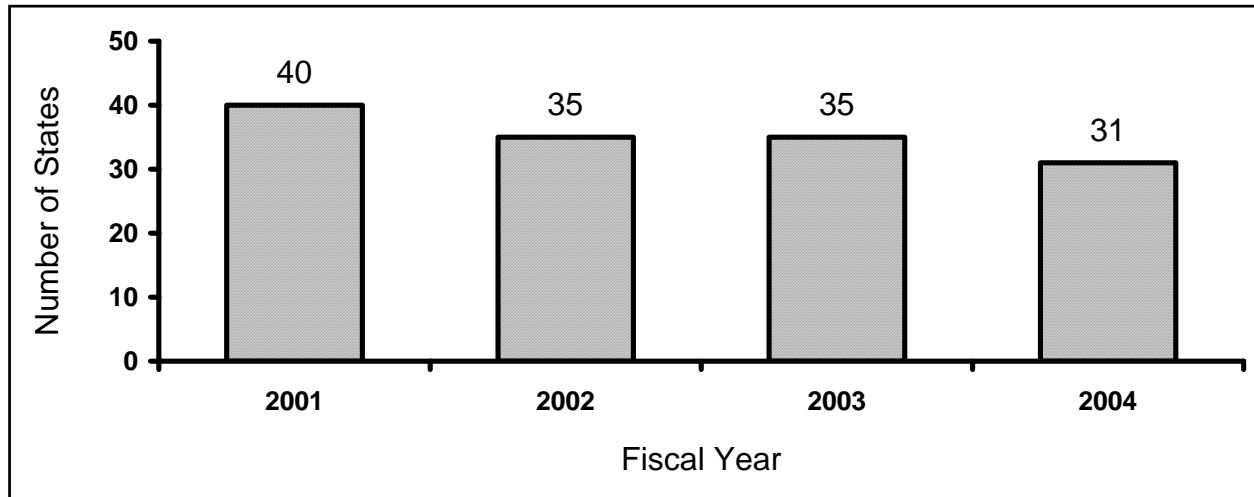
In FY 2004, 31 (57 percent) of the 54 grantees reported achieving either legislative changes, policy changes or both related to reducing barriers for people with disabilities to acquiring AT devices or services.¹⁴ As shown in **Figure 6**, the number of states achieving legislative or policy changes in FY 2001 was 40; in FYs 2002 and 2003, it was 35.

States reported achieving a total of 45 legislative changes and 85 policy changes in the five goal areas of community living, education, health care, telecommunications and information technology and employment, as identified in Section 101 (e)(1) (A) of the *AT Act of 1998*. As shown in **Figure 7**, 18 of the 45 legislative changes were intended to reduce barriers to acquiring AT devices and services in the area of community living and nine were related to education. The areas of health care and telecommunications and information technology each accounted for five changes. Two fell into the category of employment, and six were classified as “other.”

Community living was also the major focus of the 85 policy changes (22 changes). Sixteen policy changes were in the area of employment, while 15 changes addressed education issues, and an equal number focused on telecommunications and information technology issues. Eleven policy changes fell into the health care category, and six were classified as “other.”

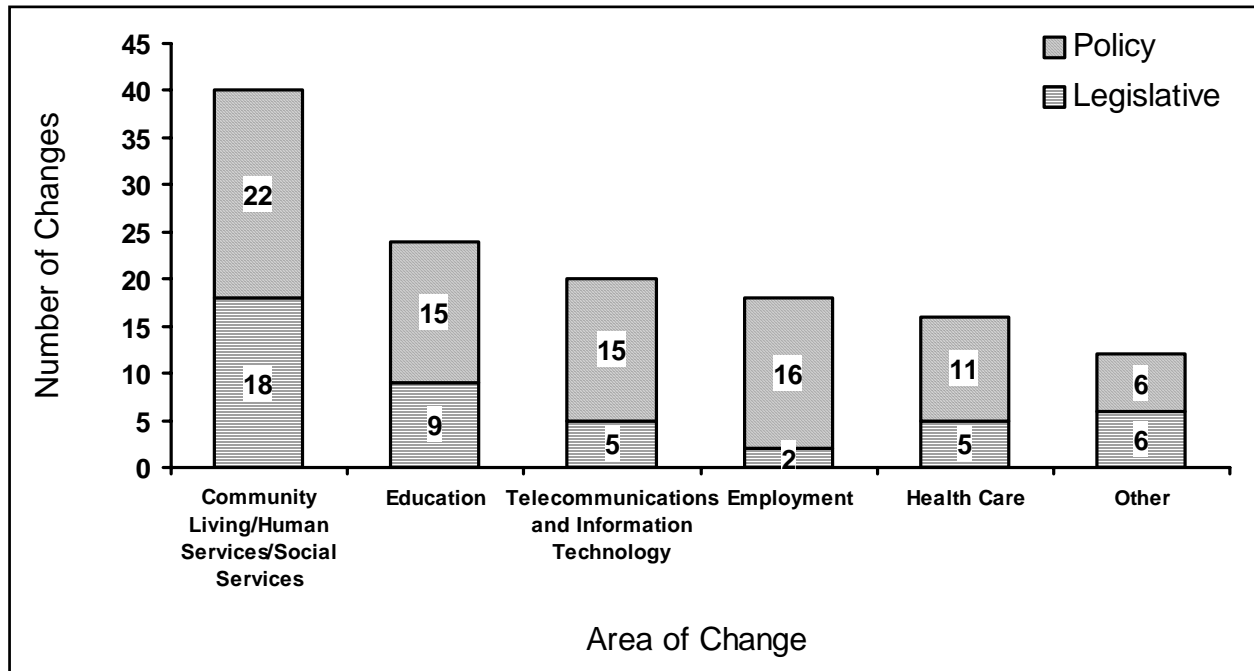
¹⁴ A legislative change, as defined by RSA, results in new laws or amendments to existing laws relating to reducing barriers to acquiring assistive technology devices and services. A policy change results in a practice, procedure or course of action sanctioned or adopted by a state government agency to reduce barriers to acquiring AT devices and services.

Figure 6. Number of States Achieving Legislative or Policy Changes in Fiscal Years 2001 through 2004^a



^a Figure shows number of states reporting through the Web-based system that cited legislative or policy changes. In FY 2001 (the first year of implementation, when use of the Web-based system was not mandatory), the number of grantees using the Web-based system was 51. In FY 2002 and FY 2003, the number was 56; in FY 2004, the number was 54.

Figure 7. Legislative and Policy Changes, by Area^a



^a Counts are duplicated, as states could report more than one legislative change. In FY 2004, states reported a total of 45 legislative changes and 85 policy changes.

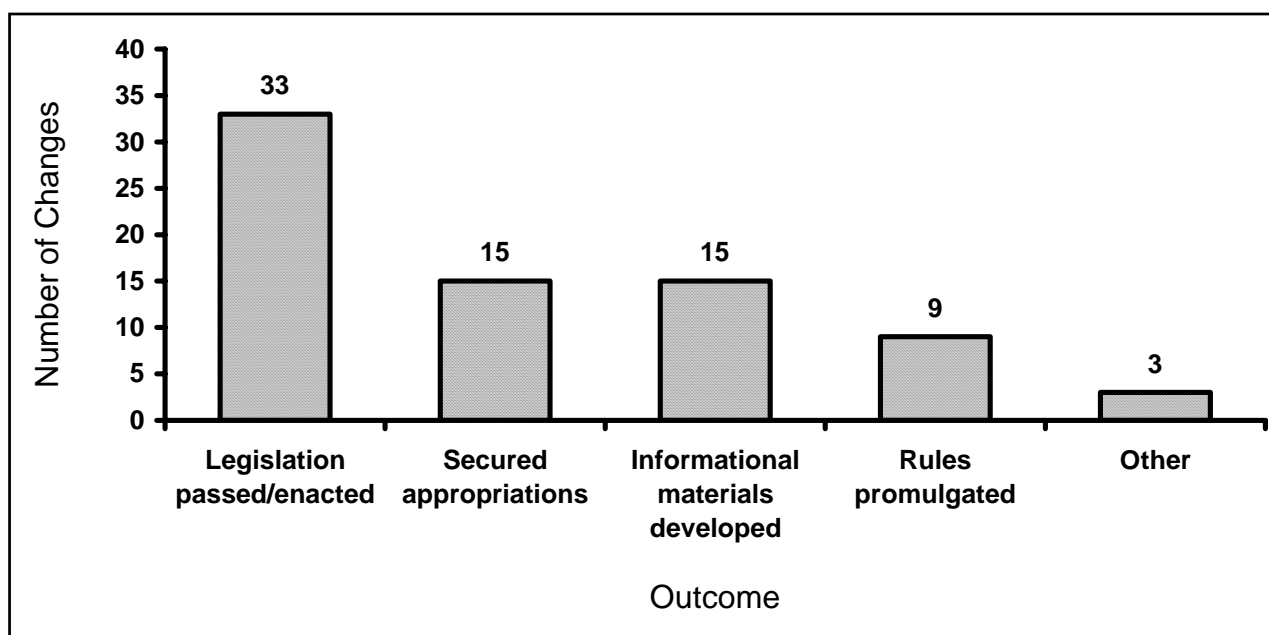
Outcomes Associated with Legislative Changes

States that reported legislative changes were asked to cite the outcomes associated with each change (see *Figure 8*). In FY 2004, of the 45 efforts aimed at legislative change, 33 resulted in the passage of new legislation. Fifteen legislative changes led to secured appropriations, and an equal number resulted in developing informational materials. Nine legislative changes had the outcome of having rules promulgated.

Examples of legislative and policy changes achieved by states include:

- **Arizona’s** project worked with the many organizations to draft and secure the passage of the Arizona Accessible Textbook Bill that will provide accessible textbooks to students with disabilities in a timely manner. The project also was involved in drafting legislation to secure the passage of the Arizona Accessible Information Technology Law requiring state agencies and the Supreme Court to purchase accessible information products and make Web sites more accessible.
- **Indiana’s** project helped prepare a state rule providing instructions to bring government Web sites into compliance with state laws requiring their accessibility.
- **Kansas’** project worked on a revision of Kansas Adult Medical Policy to increase optimal use of alternative and augmentative communication devices purchased with Medicaid funds. The policy was revised to require a minimum number of training hours to be provided by qualified professionals so consumers become familiar with their communication systems.

Figure 8. Outcomes Associated With Legislative Changes^a



^a Counts are duplicated, as states could report more than one legislative change. In FY 2005, states reported a total of 45 legislative changes.

- **Massachusetts'** project successfully worked to restore Medicaid funding for alternative and augmentative communication devices.
- **Nevada's** project helped draft legislation, and will promulgate the regulations, allowing people with disabilities to use a signature stamp as a legally approved assistive device. Many people with disabilities with motor impairments were precluded from voting and other vital activities because they could not physically sign their name and the use of a signature stamp was not authorized.
- **North Carolina's** project provided information and technical assistance to state agencies on preventing unnecessary placement of people with significant disabilities in institutions such as nursing homes; the decision by the state's Vocational Rehabilitation Agency to cover the Medicare co-pay for durable medical equipment for clients; the broadening of alternative and augmentative communication services covered under a proposed Medicaid waiver for people with mental retardation and developmental disabilities; and the purchase devices for people who have speech communication disorders along with complex physical disabilities through a Telecommunication Equipment Distribution Program.
- **Tennessee's** project worked with the Tennessee Regulatory Authority to implement a change to the Telecommunications Devices Access Program to allow the program to provide services to those with disabilities other than hearing loss. This change increases access to telecommunications services to people of all ages who have disabilities that make using such services independently difficult or impossible without assistive technology.

H. Conclusion

FY 2004 was the final year that capacity-building activities such as outreach, technical assistance, and interagency coordination were emphasized under the State Grants for AT Program. The focus of the *AT Act*, as amended in 2004, is on those activities considered discretionary under the *AT Act of 1998*: alternative financing, device demonstration, device loan and device reutilization. States will target a majority of resources to these activities, while using fewer resources to continue providing training and technical assistance, public awareness, and coordination. States will change and expand their activities to meet the requirements of the *AT Act of 2004*.

Consequently, future reporting on the act will differ significantly from past and current reports. It will be difficult to draw comparisons between the activities conducted prior to FY 2005 and those conducted after FY 2005, because the nature of those activities will differ. The next section of this report, ***Implementation of Section 4 of the AT Act, as amended in 2004***, provides the first information available on the revised *AT Act*.

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION 4 OF THE *AT ACT*, AS AMENDED IN 2004

A. Background

During FY 2005, the State Grants for AT Program was administered under the *AT Act of 1998*, as amended by Public Law 108-364. That year marked a transition from the discretionary State Grants for AT Program authorized under Title I of the *Assistive Technology Act of 1998* to the formula grant authorized under Section 4 of the revised *AT Act*. The activities conducted during this year primarily involved assisting states to plan for implementation of the four State-level and three State Leadership Activities beginning in FY 2006.

Under the revised *AT Act*, the secretary of education is required to annually provide to Congress:

- (A) a compilation and summary of the information provided by the states in annual progress reports; and
- (B) a summary of the state applications and an analysis of the progress of the states in meeting the measurable goals established in state applications under Section 4(d)(3).

As states planned their Statewide AT Programs in FY 2005, they did not have activities on which to provide annual progress reports. What follows describes the process of creating state applications, called State Plans for AT, the outcomes of that process, the process of identifying and implementing measurable goals for the program, and information on other important activities during FY 2005. A summary of the State Plans for AT is provided in **Section B, Implementation of State Plans** and abstracts of the State Plans are provided in **Appendix B**. A description of the measurable goals is provided in **Section D**.

B. State Plans for AT

Development of State Plans

The revised *AT Act* required that states submit an application in order to receive funds under the State Grants for AT Program. RSA required this application to be in the form of a three-year State Plan for Assistive Technology (State Plan for AT or State Plan), covering the period Oct. 1, 2005, to Sept. 30, 2008. During this three-year period, a state may be required to submit amendments and will be required to submit data, progress reports and annual budgets.

In accordance with Section 4 of the *AT Act of 2004*, State Plans for AT describe how each state will implement a Statewide AT Program that is comprehensive, meaning equally available to all individuals with disabilities residing in the state, regardless of the nature of their disability, age, income level or location of residence in the state, or the type of AT device or service required.

Specific requirements of the State Plan include a description of:

- the entities responsible for implementing the Statewide AT Program;
- the state’s advisory council;
- activities to be conducted;
- State-level Activities the state has elected not to conduct;
- measurable goals to be achieved by the Statewide AT Program’s activities;
- the involvement of public and private entities in the Statewide AT Program;
- support for the Statewide AT Program provided by the state; and
- the proposed allocation and utilization of grant funds.

Appendix A presents the complete requirements for State Plans.

During FY 2005, RSA developed specifications for the plan and provided training related to the plan, states completed and submitted their plans and RSA reviewed and approved the plans.

RSA made ongoing efforts to involve states and stakeholders in general in the implementation of the *AT Act* and State Plan process, including:

- sponsoring quarterly meetings with stakeholders;
- sponsoring frequent conference calls with program directors;
- meeting with program directors at two two-day conferences on the *AT Act*;
- consulting with the association representing *AT Act* program directors on a biweekly basis;
- consulting with the technical assistance provider (RESNA) on a biweekly basis; and
- consulting with the entity responsible for data collection and reporting (RTI) on a regular basis.

As part of the process, RESNA and RTI sponsored a two-day meeting to discuss options for establishing measurable goals for the State Grant Programs. This meeting included representatives from Statewide AT programs and Alternative Financing Programs and stakeholders from the fields of education, employment, community living, telecommunications and information technology. Input from these representatives and stakeholders was ultimately incorporated into the State Plan requirements related to measurable goals (see **Section 2D**).

Together with RESNA, RSA planned and participated in two two-day training sessions about State Plans. During these conferences, held in Washington, D.C., and Albuquerque, N.M., 52 of the 56 program directors had the opportunity to review the proposed State Plan requirements, ask questions and provide suggestions for changes. The majority of revisions suggested at these conferences were included in the final version of the State Plan requirements.

Approval of State Plans

States prepared and submitted their plans between July 18, 2005, and Aug. 26, 2005, and RSA completed its review of the plans by Sept. 29, 2005. Based on the content of the plan submitted, each state was granted either a full approval or a conditional approval of its plan.¹⁵ As shown in **Table 6**, 43 of the 56 plans were fully approved and 13 were conditionally approved.

Implementation of State Plans

States began implementing their State Plans for AT as of Oct. 1, 2005, the first day of FY 2006. A review of the plans shows how many states will implement the four State-level Activities and how they will do it.

State-level Activities

State Financing. State financing activities are activities that increase access to and funding for AT devices and AT services. While many activities may increase access to and funding for AT devices and services, the predominant form of state financing that will be offered to consumers is alternative financing. Some form of Alternative Financing Program (AFP) will be available in 46 of the 56 states and outlying areas. Of the ten states and outlying areas without an alternative financing program, eight will spend the first year of their State Plan conducting a feasibility study to determine the appropriateness of an AFP.

Of the 46 AFPs available, 36 will receive some form of support from the Statewide AT Program.¹⁶ Only ten states will not use state grants for AT funds to support state financing because comparable nonfederal support for an AFP already exists in their state.

In addition to AFPs, 18 states will support Telework Programs as part of their state financing activities. Telework Programs provide loans for computers and other equipment (including AT) required for telework. Other state financing activities that states will support include cooperative buying programs that reduce the cost of AT by purchasing in bulk; administration of nonfederally funded last resort funds that provide funding for AT when other funding sources are exhausted; individualized case management to assist individuals in accessing funding; and administration of programs that coordinate state funding sources.

¹⁵ Conditional approval was given to states whose plans did not demonstrate their ability to fully comply with the *AT Act* as of Oct. 1, 2005. RSA will work with those states during the first year of the State Plan period to address deficiencies and ensure that they receive full approval by Sept. 30, 2006.

¹⁶ These programs will be supported, at least in part, with Section 4 funds, though they may be continuations of programs previously funded by Title I, Title III or another source.

Table 6. State Plan Approval Status¹⁷

Full Approval		
Alabama	Maryland	Pennsylvania
Arkansas	Maine	South Carolina
Arizona	Michigan	South Dakota
Connecticut	Mississippi	Texas
Colorado	Missouri	Utah
Delaware	Montana	Vermont
Florida	North Carolina	Virginia
Georgia	Nebraska	Washington
Iowa	New Hampshire	Wisconsin
Illinois	New Jersey	Wyoming
Indiana	New Mexico	Puerto Rico
Kansas	Nevada	Guam
Kentucky	New York	U.S. Virgin Islands
Louisiana	Ohio	
Massachusetts	Oklahoma	
Conditional Approval		
Alaska	North Dakota	District of Columbia
California	Oregon	American Samoa
Hawaii	Rhode Island	Northern Mariana Islands
Idaho	Tennessee	
Minnesota	West Virginia	

Device Reutilization. Over the next three years, many states will support more than one device reutilization program, resulting in 87 device reutilization programs being available. Forty-eight states will support device exchange programs that will connect owners who no longer need AT devices with individuals seeking used devices. Thirty-nine states will support device recycling or refurbishment programs that directly accept and redistribute used AT devices.

Device Loans. Over the next three years, 55 grantees will support device loan programs. Thirteen states will implement new programs, while 42 will continue existing programs. One state has opted not to support device loans.

¹⁷ This table reflects the approval status as of Oct. 1, 2005. At the time of this report's publication, Alaska, Idaho, Minnesota, North Dakota, Rhode Island and West Virginia have amended their plans to receive full approval.

Device Demonstration. Over the next three years, 55 grantees will support device demonstration programs, with some supporting more than one. Fourteen states will implement new programs, while 41 will continue or improve existing programs. One state has opted not to support device demonstrations.

Device demonstrations will be provided in many ways, and some states will provide demonstrations via more than one method. The majority of states (39) will make device demonstrations available through regional centers. At least 11 states will work with the existing device demonstration network in the state to provide better coordination of activities. Nine states will offer “virtual” device demonstrations over the Internet or some other electronic medium, and three will develop mobile demonstration vans. The latter two types of demonstrations are especially important in large states that are sparsely populated.

Specific data on these activities, and information on the benefits of these activities for individuals with disabilities and others, will be available in future years in accordance with the reporting requirements of the revised *AT Act*.

State Leadership Activities

Public Awareness. All states will support activities that increase public awareness of AT and provide information and referral. This is done through many methods, including Web sites, listservs and other electronic means; information and referral services such as 1-800 numbers; attendance and presentations at local, state and national conferences; publication and dissemination of written materials; advertisements and public service announcements; media coverage on television and in newspapers; and other means.

Coordination and Collaboration. All states will improve access to AT devices and services by coordinating activities among public and private entities that are responsible for policies, procedures or funding for AT. The types of coordination and collaboration are state-specific, but some illustrative examples include:

- **Arkansas’** Statewide AT Program will collaborate and coordinate with the Governor’s Task Force on Supported Housing with a focus on universal design and accessibility, and with the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and Area Agencies on Aging to sponsor an effort to develop universal design guidelines for new construction of all affordable housing in the state.
- **Colorado’s** Statewide AT Program will continue to collaborate with Colorado’s Public School Assistive Technology Teams, a network of more than 550 trained AT personnel working in Colorado’s schools, to enhance service provision to infants, toddlers, children and youths with disabilities who need AT.
- **Indiana’s** Statewide AT Program will collaborate with the University of Indianapolis to develop a certification program for homebuilders and service providers of home modifications.
- **Michigan’s** Statewide AT Program will participate in the Department of Community Health Consumer Task Force that provides oversight to all New Freedom Initiative grants from the federal government.

- **Puerto Rico's** Statewide AT Program will collaborate with the University of Puerto Rico, the Department of Justice, the Department of Housing, and the Department of Consumer Affairs to implement the legal safeguards provided to persons with disabilities on all matters related to AT contained in the regulations under local Law 238, *The Act for Persons with Disabilities in Puerto Rico*.
- **Virgin Islands'** Statewide AT program will coordinate and collaborate with the Board of Elections under the *Help America Vote Act* to assure accessible voting.

Training and Technical Assistance. Over the next three years, all states will provide training and technical assistance that enhance the AT knowledge, skills and competencies for individuals with disabilities and professionals in areas such as education, employment, community living, information technology and telecommunications. Because training and technical assistance must be responsive to state-specific needs, the topics of and venues for training and technical assistance differ from state to state.

Some illustrative examples of training include:

- **Alaska's** Statewide AT Program will overcome the challenges of vast distances to providing regular training to education professionals linked through the statewide videoconference system.
- **California's** Statewide AT Program will collaborate with the state's chief information officer to train state government IT professionals regarding accessible information technology.
- **Connecticut's** Statewide AT Program will collaborate with the Chamber of Commerce to train employers how to successfully integrate AT in the workplace to support persons with disabilities.
- **Vermont's** Statewide AT Program will train staff at the state's 12 One-Stop Career Resource Centers to provide them with a basic understanding of AT, using AT in the workplace and how to use AT software installed on computers in their centers so individuals with disabilities can access job listings, resume writing programs and other resources.

Some illustrative examples of technical assistance include:

- **Delaware's** Statewide AT Program will provide technical assistance to the Arc of Delaware as the Arc works to increase the accessibility of more than 60 community residences. The program will assist with determining the accessibility modifications to be made, the products to be used and the vendors to conduct the work.
- **Iowa's** Statewide AT Program will provide technical assistance to the Iowa secretary of state regarding the implementation of the State Plan for the *Help America Vote Act*, including technical assistance on the purchase of accessible voting machines and training for poll workers.
- **Maryland's** Statewide AT Program will assist the Department of Budget and Management with implementation of Maryland's Information Technology Non-

Visual Access Policy, which requires state agencies to procure information technology products and provide Web sites that are accessible to, and compatible with the AT used by, individuals who are blind or have low vision.

States also are required to provide training and technical assistance specifically related to transition. Information about these activities is provided in the following section. A summary of each state's plan, describing both their State-level and State Leadership Activities in more detail, is provided in *Appendix B: State Profiles*.

C. Training and Technical Assistance for Transition

The revised *AT Act* requires that states use no less than 5 percent of the funds they dedicate to State Leadership Activities for the specific purpose of providing transition assistance to individuals with disabilities. These funds must be used to develop and disseminate training materials, conduct training, facilitate access to AT, and provide technical assistance to students with disabilities who receive transition services and adults who are maintaining or transitioning to community living.

In their State Plans, states were required to describe how they would provide this transition assistance over the next three years. According to their plans, the majority of states will develop new training modules focused on AT needs for students and adults who are transitioning that will be delivered to a variety of professionals and service personnel in addition to parents, individuals with disabilities and guardians. Other states already have specific activities to implement and the highlights of such activities are presented below.

Assistance for Students with Disabilities Who Are in Transition

In **Connecticut**, a peer technical assistance program will be developed in coordination with Southern Connecticut State University or other universities or independent living centers. College students or adults using adaptive technology will be matched with students in transition to provide one-on-one assistance from someone with real life experience regarding the integration of AT into the transition process. This technical assistance will be coordinated with other activities, including the device loan program.

Delaware's Statewide AT Program has requested the assistance of the Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative to assist in the transition of students with autism from the public schools into employment training and work settings. The first step in this process will be training for educators, employment specialists and advocates relative to technologies with potential to support students in organization, completion of work tasks and communication. It is anticipated that this initial training will be followed by provision of technical assistance for school programs, transition specialists, employment facilitators and employers.

Florida's Statewide AT Program will participate on the state's Partners in Transition Initiative, which is a statewide program established to develop a framework for improving the

transition outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities in Florida. The program is assisting the Department of Education in developing the interagency agreements necessary to enforce a new law that allows students to keep AT when they transition to postsecondary education or employment and will be developing a handbook for parents, students and educators explaining how the new law will affect the transition process. The program was involved in the original passage of this law.

Georgia's Statewide AT Program will expand its collaboration with the Department of Labor's High School High Tech (HSHT) program, which exposes high school students with disabilities to AT devices and resources. The program will expose the HSHT State Leadership Team to educational adaptive software and identify areas of AT-related training and technical assistance to assist transitioning high school students. In addition, the program will collaborate with the Department of Education, Department of Labor and Centers for Independent Living on a biannual statewide AT conference called "Touch the Future and Transition Conference." This conference will increase knowledge and skills for assisting Georgians with disabilities through smooth transitions from school to work, from school to college, or from institutions to community living. A similar conference will take place in **Idaho**.

In **Louisiana**, the Statewide AT Program will provide technical assistance to school districts, the state rehabilitation service and other adult settings in the development of interagency agreements to facilitate students who are transitioning to retain the AT they are using when moving from the school environment to employment, postsecondary education or community living.

In **Maine**, the Committee on Transition, the Northeast Technical Assistance Center, Alpha One, the independent living center and the Maine Parent Federation have each developed curriculum modules that can be adapted to the needs of professional educators, VR counselors, and families and students involved in transition to provide the skills and knowledge they need to successfully include AT in all transition planning. The Statewide AT Program will bring together representatives from these groups with students who use AT to review the materials developed, adapt and pilot the curriculum modules to specific groups for delivery over Maine's distance learning networks, and establish a protocol so that the modules can be used statewide at any time and anywhere.

Missouri will offer a strand on transition at its annual Power Up conference that will include *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)* students transitioning to postsecondary activities and adults transitioning into community living.

The Statewide AT Program for **Oklahoma** will collaborate with the Department of Rehabilitation Services and Department of Education, Special Education Division, to provide training and demonstration on specific AT devices at a Summer Transition Camp. Summer Transition Camps are offered to high school students with disabilities for the purpose of enhancing transition planning and services from school to secondary education or work. During

the camp, youths develop career goals, job readiness skills and work experience to help them better prepare for transition to postsecondary education or employment. A similar program will be available in **Minnesota**.

Nebraska will offer two summer academies for in-depth instruction on AT. One academy will focus on high school juniors with reading and writing disabilities to build skills to be used in high school and in higher education, and the second academy will target students who are blind or visually impaired and who use Braille technologies.

The **North Dakota** Statewide AT Program will serve on the Southwest Area on Transition (SWAT) Task Force that is made up of consumers and professionals who work in education, vocational rehabilitation, protection and advocacy, and independent living. The representatives will identify resources for students in the southwest region of the state in transition to a postsecondary school setting or those who are entering into the community or who wish to remain in their homes. In addition, the SWAT Task Force will work with a state university to create a college orientation strand regarding transition.

Rhode Island's Statewide AT Program has an agreement with three public institutions of higher education to ensure that individuals with disabilities have equal access to academic programs and receive the accommodations they require, including assistive technology. In addition, the Statewide AT Program will participate in "Youth in Transition," a program designed to support the identification and inclusion of appropriate AT during transition from school to work.

The **South Dakota** Statewide AT Program plans to collaborate with the Transition Services Liaison Project that hosts two major events for students with disabilities each year. The Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities is a career leadership-training program for high school juniors and seniors in which they serve as delegates from their communities. The second event is a "Catch the Wave" conference that is designed specifically for high school students who have a disability and are considering postsecondary education (either college or technical institutions). The program will offer training regarding the AT resources that are available for students who are transitioning.

The **Washington** Statewide AT Program will develop two AT funding guides related to transition. One guide will provide information about funding sources and strategies to meet the AT service delivery needs of students with disabilities who are transitioning from the K–12 school system and the second will provide information for adults transitioning to community living.

The **West Virginia** Statewide AT Program is planning to include a full-day workshop revolving around transition at its annual conference "Celebrating PATHS to Real Choice."

Assistance for Adults Who Are Maintaining or Transitioning to Community Living

The **Delaware** Statewide AT Program will support the transitioning of individuals with developmental disabilities from restrictive institutional settings into community placements. The program developed a 12-module training series for the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services' case managers that has a direct impact on this population as does the technical assistance provided by program staff to residential and rehabilitation service providers in the community.

The **Georgia** Statewide AT Program will support a combined team of four certified assistive technology practitioners who provide one-on-one technical assistance to individuals. These professionals will provide information and in-depth knowledge of AT solutions that create opportunities in the community and can ultimately diminish some of the need for costly personal attendant services. These AT professionals will assist individuals transitioning from nursing homes into community living environments and students transitioning in educational environments with technical assistance in the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process.

The **Guam** Statewide AT Program will provide training and technical assistance to Guam Memorial Hospital and other health care facilities staff on the selection, use and acquisition of assistive technology devices or services. As a result, participating health providers will be knowledgeable about the AT needed to transition clients as they exit the health care facility and return to their places of residence or to work. Elements of both training modules will be infused into preservice training for human service professionals.

The **Iowa** Statewide AT Program will contract with AT clinicians from the Center for Disabilities and Development to provide training and technical assistance to the staff of an intermediate care facility for mental retardation. The goal of the training is to identify and provide better supports for residents moving from institutional to community settings.

Staff of the **Illinois** Statewide AT Program will serve on the Governor's Disability Services Advisory Committee and provide ongoing assistance about the types of AT devices and services that may make a difference for individuals who are living in institutions and who wish to transition into the community.

The **Louisiana** Statewide AT Program will utilize its AT for an Aging in Place module to train older individuals who want to remain in community settings and their caregivers and service providers, as well as individuals who want to transition out of institutions into the community. Hospital discharge planners will be one population of focus to receive this transition training and any technical assistance needed. The program will provide technical assistance to the Long Term Services and Supports Task Force for the development of an AT component to be used with the federal Medicaid assessment tool for assessing the functional abilities of people transitioning to community settings from nursing homes and other institutional settings.

The **Nebraska** Statewide AT Program will provide technical assistance for the development of a Web-based resource to provide transition assistance to adults with disabilities who are transitioning to community living. An existing Web-based search engine to identify affordable accessible housing, community supports and resources including AT will be used. It is expected that tracking and using already modified housing will speed up the process of transition and make the best use of resources.

The **North Carolina** Statewide AT Program will assist with community living by going out to senior centers, nursing homes, assisted living facilities or an individual's home to demonstrate how to use AT and how it can assist in maintaining or increasing independence. In addition, the program will be an active member of ongoing statewide initiatives such as the Rebalancing and Nursing Home Transition and Real Choice Grants, which focus on community living transition.

In **Wisconsin**, the governor has proposed an initiative to allow as many as 1,440 seniors and persons with physical disabilities the opportunity to relocate from nursing homes. The statewide AT Program and its contract agencies will provide input regarding AT access and acquisition as part of the planning and implementation of the relocation effort.

D. Measurable Goals for the *AT Act*

The *AT Act* requires that states set measurable goals for addressing the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities in the state within the domains of education, employment, telecommunications and information technology, and community living. In order to receive a grant, states must describe their goals, provide a timeline for meeting the goals, and indicate how the state will quantifiably measure the goals to determine whether they have been achieved. Therefore, it was necessary for applicants to include this information in their State Plans.

RSA determined that all states needed to use, at a minimum, a set of the same measurable goals in order to provide a meaningful picture of the program's success in meeting the AT needs of individuals with disabilities.¹⁸ Use of common goals provides RSA with a national picture of program performance and permits comparisons of performance among states. As indicated earlier, stakeholders provided input on performance measures, and measurable goals based on this input were incorporated into the State Plan requirements. The input was consistent with the findings and purposes of the *AT Act*: The goal of Statewide AT Programs is to improve access to and acquisition of AT for targeted individuals and entities as defined under the *AT Act*. (See the *Glossary* for a definition of targeted individuals and entities.) Therefore, it was decided that the measurable goals established for the program should focus on access and acquisition.

Discussions with stakeholders also indicated that the four State-level Activities (state financing, device reutilization, device demonstration and device loan) were most likely to

¹⁸ States may adopt additional goals if they so desire.

improve access and acquisition directly. More specifically, device demonstration programs and device loan programs were most likely to improve access to AT, while state financing and device reutilization were most likely to improve acquisition of AT.

To be consistent with the requirements of the revised *AT Act*, it was concluded that all states should be required to set one goal for improving access to AT and one goal for improving acquisition of AT for individuals with disabilities for use in education, employment, community living, and information technology and telecommunications. The result is seven measurable goals—four “access goals” and three “acquisition goals”¹⁹—as described below.

Goals for Improving Access to AT

Device demonstrations and device loans improve access to AT because they provide individuals with information and experiences that enable them to make informed decisions about AT. Therefore, an appropriate goal is that targeted individuals and entities make a decision about an AT device or service based on the information they receive from a device demonstration or device loan program. A way to measure improvement in access to AT, then, is through an increase in the percentage of appropriate individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service as a result of the assistance they received. The access goals are as follows:

1. An increase in the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service *for educational purposes* as a result of the assistance they received.
2. An increase in the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service *for employment purposes* as a result of the assistance they received.
3. An increase in the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service *for community living* as a result of the assistance they received.
4. An increase in the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service *that meets an information technology/telecommunications need* as a result of the assistance they received.

¹⁹ States are not required to set goals related to acquiring AT that meets an information technology or telecommunications need. Once an individual acquires AT that improves access to information technology or telecommunications, it is actually used for employment, education or community living purposes.

Goals for Improving Acquisition of AT

State financing systems and device reutilization programs are most likely to improve acquisition, because they reduce cost barriers that prevent individuals from obtaining AT. As a result, individuals and entities obtain AT devices or services from state financing systems or device reutilization programs despite the otherwise prohibitive cost of such devices or services. A way to measure improvement in acquisition of AT, then, is through an increase in the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from state financing activities or reutilization programs who would not have obtained the AT. The acquisition goals are as follows:

5. An increase in the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from state financing activities or reutilization programs *for educational purposes* who would not have obtained the AT device or service.
6. An increase in the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from state financing activities or reutilization programs *for employment purposes* who would not have obtained the AT device or service.
7. An increase in the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from state financing activities or reutilization programs *for community living purposes* who would not have obtained the AT device or service.

All states were required to include these seven measures in their State Plans. States will establish baselines during the first year of their plan, using a data collection instrument and procedures to be developed by RSA and disseminated to all states. Once a baseline has been established, states will be required to identify long-term goals to be achieved by the end of the third year of the State Plan period. States also must set annual goals that show progress toward the long-term goal.

E. Conclusion

As is indicated in this report, states planned their Statewide AT Programs during FY 2005, and will begin to implement those programs in FY 2006. In response to the changes made by the *AT Act of 2004*, Statewide AT Programs are evolving, and will continue to evolve, over the next few years.

PART II.
ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAMS (AFPs)

1. IMPLEMENTATION OF TITLE III OF THE *AT ACT OF 1998*

A. Background

Alternative Financing Program (AFP) grants respond to the need for resources to finance AT by paying for the federal share of the cost to establish, expand and administer state-based loan programs that assist individuals with disabilities in purchasing AT. Individuals with disabilities and their family members with insufficient financial resources to purchase AT or to qualify for conventional bank loans often can obtain financing through affordable loans offered by AFPs.

Congress first authorized grants for AFPs in 1994 under Title III of the *Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1988*, as amended (Pub. L. No. 103-218). AFP grants continued to be authorized under Title III of the *Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (AT Act of 1998)* for FY 2005 through a special rule in Section 4 the *AT Act*, as amended in 2004.

From FY 2000 through FY 2004, the AFP program was administered by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research in the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS). In December 2004, the administration of the program was transferred to the Rehabilitation Services Administration, also located within OSERS. In both FY 2004 and 2005, AFP grants were administered under Title III of the *AT Act of 1998*. Therefore, unlike the structure in *Part I* of this document, these fiscal years are not reported separately.

Title III of the *AT Act of 1998* requires the secretary to report to Congress on the progress of each AFP. *Table 7* presents the legislative reporting requirements and the sections of this document that address them.

Sections B through *F* present these data and additional data not designated in the previous paragraphs—(A) through (D). A review of the data collection process, describing quality and limitations of data, is presented in *Section B*. The amount of federal and nonfederal funding available for AFPs is detailed in *Section C*. *Sections D* through *F* provide information on the structure and features of AFPs, loan activities of AFPs, the type of individuals using AFPs and the types of AT provided by AFPs. *Part II* of this report concludes with examples of the ways AFPs have improved the lives of individuals with disabilities who received loans and their families.

Table 7. Reporting Requirements for the AT Act of 1998, Title III

Reporting Requirement	Addressed by
(A) the number of grant applications received and approved, and the amount of each grant awarded	Section C (page 51)
(B) the ratio of funds provided by each state for the Alternative Financing Program of the state to funds provided by the federal government for the program	Section C (page 51)
(C) the type of alternative financing mechanisms used by each state and the community-based organization with which each state entered into a contract, under the program	Section D—Table 11 (page 56) and Table 12 (page 59)
(D) the amount of assistance given to consumers through the program (who shall be classified by age, type of disability, type of assistive technology device or assistive technology service financed through the program, geographic distribution within the state, gender, and whether the consumers are part of an underrepresented population or rural population).	Section D—Loan Activity (page 62) and Consumers Who Use AFPs (page 64)

B. Data Collection and Limitations

Data Collection. AFPs must collect and report data about the loans they provided directly or supported through lending institutions. Two types of data are reported by AFPs:

- The first type is “program data” that provide summary information about state programs, including program partners, program features and the performance of the loans that they supported or provided.
- The second type of data is “individual applicant data,” which is data on individuals seeking loans to purchase AT. (A random identification code is generated for each applicant’s data to protect the individual’s privacy.) These data include:
 - data collected during initial surveys of applicants for loans, including applicant demographics and assistive technology request information, and
 - data collected from follow-up surveys with applicants, including outcomes.

Program data are submitted annually by all state AFP grantees to the Alternative Financing Technical Assistance Project (AFTAP), which is operated by the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA). Individual applicant data are submitted to a Web-based reporting system operated and maintained through the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Occupational Therapy Department under a subcontract with RESNA.

Tables for this report were created using the Web-based outcomes reporting system at UIC and the annual program data survey. Sources for the data are noted on each data table.

Data Limitations. For this FY 2004 to 2005 report, the FY 2005 data are incomplete. To meet publication deadlines, the FY 2005 annual program information needed to be collected by

Oct. 28, 2005. Some states did not have full information from their lenders concerning their outstanding loans, defaults and net losses. Similarly, the FY 2005 applicant data needed to be entered into the UIC system by Oct. 1, 2005, for it to be downloaded on Oct. 2, 2005. Thus, the FY 2005 data are preliminary, as some applicant data may not have been available and entered to meet those timelines, which were near the end of the AFPs' fiscal year, Sept. 30, 2005.

Also, the individual applicant data collection system was not available from November 2004 to February 2005 while in the process of approval by the OMB. Consequently, states could not enter applicant data and some records may not have been entered when the system was reopened.

In addition, some data are missing from individual applicant records. Applicants always have the right to refuse to answer survey questions and some programs do not ask all questions because of their particular structure and application process.

Additionally, variations in the processes used across the states for collecting information affect the reliability of the data. These variations are a function of program structure, human resources availability and relationships with banks or other financial institutions. Some states collect data at the time of application while others collect it later and, therefore, may be more subject to recall bias.

C. Funding

Total federal funding of the AFP from FY 2000 to FY 2005 was \$57.2 million. Funding provided by nonfederal sources during the same period totaled \$21.1 million, for a combined total of \$78.3 million invested in the loan programs (see *Table 8*).

Federal funding of AFPs was started with \$3.8 million awarded in FY 2000 to six states: Kansas, Maryland, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Utah and Virginia. These states matched the federal amount dollar for dollar, with an additional \$3.8 million in nonfederal funds. The six states began to implement their AFP grants in FY 2001

In FY 2001, the match requirement was changed from one state dollar for every federal dollar to one state dollar for every three federal dollars: \$13.6 million in federal funds was awarded, with an additional \$4.6 million contributed by states in matching funds, one state dollar for every three federal dollars. Fourteen states received FY 2001 AFP grants. Of these states, 10 started AFPs for the first time and four states used the FY 2001 grants to expand their existing loan programs. States receiving new AFP grants in FY 2001 were Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Nevada, Oklahoma and Wisconsin. States receiving an additional AFP grant in FY 2001 were Maryland, Pennsylvania, Utah and Virginia. No funds to support additional AFP grants were awarded in FY 2002.

Table 8. Funding for AFPs from FY 2000 to FY 2005

Fiscal Year	Number of Grants	Federal Funds	Nonfederal Match	Total Program
2000	6	\$3,792,576	\$3,792,576	\$7,585,152
2001	14	\$13,633,286	\$4,636,876	\$18,270,162
2002	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2003	26	\$35,859,229	\$11,428,487	\$47,287,716
2004	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2005	8	\$3,942,109	\$1,314,703	\$5,256,812
Totals ^a	54	\$57,227,200	\$21,172,642	\$78,399,842

^a The total number of grants does not equal 54 AFPs because some states received multiple AFP grants.

Source: Annual Program Data and Rehabilitation Services Administration.

A total of \$35.8 million in federal funds was awarded to states and outlying areas (U.S. territories) in FY 2003. States contributed \$11.4 million to match one state dollar for every three federal dollars. Twenty-six states submitted applications for FY 2003 and all received AFP grants (see *Table 9*).

Fifteen states and outlying areas that received FY 2003 grants began establishing AFP loan programs for the first time. These states are Delaware, Georgia, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Carolina, Vermont, Washington, Wyoming, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Eleven states that received FY 2003 grants had received AFP grants in prior years and used the new funds to expand their existing AFP programs. These are Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Utah, Virginia and Wisconsin.

No funds to support additional AFP grants were awarded in FY 2004. However, AFPs that received grants from FY 2000 through FY 2002 continued to operate and provide data on their activities. Additionally, states that received new AFP grants in FY 2003 began to implement their grants in FY 2004. Those data are featured in this report for FY 2004.

In FY 2005, \$3.9 million was awarded for AFP grants, and the states matched the FY 2005 federal awards with \$1.3 million. Priority for the grants was given to those states that did not have existing AFP programs. Priority also was given to states that had received less than \$1 million in federal funds for the operation of an AFP and to states that applied with a commitment of match in-hand.

Eleven states submitted AFP applications for grants, and grants were awarded to eight states (see *Table 10*). The state match was again one state dollar for every three federal dollars. Two of the eight states, Alabama and Maine, started AFPs for the first time. The six remaining

states that received FY 2005 grants had received AFP grants in prior years and used the new grant funds to expand existing programs. The states were Illinois, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and Utah. States that received FY 2005 grants will begin to implement those grants during FY 2006.

From FY 2000 to FY 2005, a total of 30 states and three outlying areas received AFP funds. These are Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Appendix D provides a list of state AFPs with detailed contact information.

Table 9. Funding for AFPs—FY 2003^a

State	Federal Grant	State Match	Total Program
Delaware	\$905,756	\$301,918	\$1,207,674
Florida	\$1,270,981	\$423,660	\$1,694,641
Georgia	\$1,563,307	\$521,103	\$2,084,410
Illinois	\$3,228,292	\$1,076,098	\$4,304,390
Iowa	\$482,973	\$175,000	\$657,973
Kansas	\$7,343,450	\$2,447,816	\$9,791,266
Kentucky	\$142,350	\$47,450	\$189,800
Maryland	\$1,270,981	\$423,660	\$1,694,641
Massachusetts	\$1,694,641	\$564,880	\$2,259,521
Michigan	\$635,491	\$211,830	\$847,321
Minnesota	\$1,270,981	\$423,660	\$1,694,641
Nebraska	\$635,490	\$211,830	\$847,320
New Mexico	\$1,270,981	\$423,660	\$1,694,641
North Dakota	\$1,293,937	\$431,312	\$1,725,249
Oklahoma	\$597,361	\$199,120	\$796,481
Pennsylvania	\$1,270,981	\$423,660	\$1,694,641
South Carolina	\$406,714	\$135,571	\$542,285
Utah	\$254,196	\$84,732	\$338,928
Vermont	\$635,490	\$212,163	\$847,653
Virginia	\$4,941,575	\$1,647,192	\$6,588,767
Washington	\$635,491	\$211,830	\$847,321
Wisconsin	\$2,287,766	\$762,589	\$3,050,355
Wyoming	\$167,770	\$55,923	\$223,693
Guam ^b	\$508,392	\$0	\$508,392
Northern Marianas ^b	\$508,392	\$0	\$508,392
U.S. Virgin Islands ^b	\$635,490	\$11,830	\$647,320
FY 2003 Total	\$35,859,229	\$11,428,487	\$47,287,716

Source: Annual Program Data FY 2003.

^a AFP grants awarded in fiscal year 2003 were implemented in fiscal year 2004. There were no AFP grants awarded in FY 2004.

^b The three AFP grantees from outlying areas—Guam, Northern Mariana Islands and U.S. Virgin Islands—used the match waiver afforded through the *Omnibus Territorial Act* (Pub. L. No. 96-597), which waived the first \$200,000 of match funds for grants to territories.

Table 10. Funding for AFPs—FY 2005

State	Federal Grant	State Match	Total Program
Alabama	\$1,500,000	\$500,000	\$2,000,000
Illinois	\$191,940	\$63,980	\$255,920
Maine	\$750,000	\$250,000	\$1,000,000
Massachusetts	\$375,000	\$125,000	\$500,000
New Mexico	\$100,000,	\$34,000	\$134,000
Oklahoma	\$485,169	\$150,000	\$600,000
Pennsylvania	\$450,000	\$150,000	\$600,000
Utah	\$90,000	\$30,000	\$120,000
FY 2005 Total	\$3,942,109	\$1,314,703	\$5,256,812

Source: Rehabilitation Services Administration.

D. Data on Alternative Financing Programs

Program Features

As shown in *Table 11*, state AFPs in FY 2004 and FY 2005 offered one or more alternative financing mechanisms for consumers. The range of loan amounts available through state AFPs was typically \$500 to \$50,000, with a few programs having no specified minimum or maximum loan amount. The range of interest rates charged to borrowers in each state varied considerably, from a low of 0 percent to a high of 10.75 percent. Repayment terms for loans varied by state, with many states offering a repayment period between five and 10 years. Loan guarantee requirements also varied widely by state. Lending institutions in about one-half of the states required AFPs to set aside 100 percent of the total amount loaned to cover possible loan defaults by consumers.

Table 11. AFP Program Features in FY 2004 and FY 2005

State	Loan Models	Range of Loan Amounts	Interest Charged to Borrower	Repayment Terms	Loan Guarantee Requirements
Arizona	Guaranteed loan	\$500–\$10,000	9% to 10.75%	Up to 3 years	100%
Arkansas	Revolving loan	\$500–\$50,000	Prime	Up to 20 years	n/a
Delaware	Guaranteed loan, interest rate buy-down loan, non-guaranteed low interest loan	\$500–\$30,000	3.5% to 5.5%	Up to 10 years	To be determined
Florida	Guaranteed loan, non-guaranteed low interest loan	\$3,000–\$20,000	5.8% to 8.5%	5–6 years	50%–100%
Georgia	Guaranteed loan	Case by case	Depends on lender	1/2–6 years	15% secured, 40% unsecured
Illinois	Guaranteed loan, interest rate buy-down loan, principal buy-down loan	\$500–\$40,000	Up to 3.5%	Up to 20 years	100%
Iowa	Revolving loan, guaranteed loan, interest rate buy-down loan	\$500–\$25,000	Prime plus 1%	1–5 years	Up to 100%
Kansas	Guaranteed loan	\$500–\$50,000	5%	1/2–10 years	100%
Kentucky	Guaranteed loan, interest rate buy-down loan	\$500–\$25,000	4% to 6%	2–8 years	50%–100%
Louisiana	Guaranteed loan, non-guaranteed low interest loan	\$500–\$50,000	Prime plus 1% to prime plus 2%	2–7 years	50%
Maryland	Guaranteed/interest rate buy-down loan, preferred rate non-guaranteed loan	\$500–\$30,000	3% to 1% under prime	1–7 years, up to 20 years for home equity loan	50%
Massachusetts	Guaranteed loan, interest rate buy-down loan	\$500–No maximum	4%	Up to 10 years	100%
Michigan	Guaranteed loan, interest rate buy-down loan	Up to \$30,000	3.5% to 6.75%	1–7 years	100%
Minnesota	Guaranteed loan, interest rate buy-down loan, non-guaranteed low interest loan	\$1,000–\$50,000	Prime to prime plus 2%	Varies based on amount of loan	50%–100%
Missouri	Revolving loan	\$500–\$10,000	2% to 4%	Up to 5 years	n/a
Nebraska	Guaranteed/interest rate buy-down loan	\$1,500–\$50,000	2.75% to 4.5%	2–10 years	100%
Nevada	Guaranteed loan	\$700–\$34,000	4.25% to 6.25%	2–10 years	100%
New Mexico	Guaranteed loan, interest rate buy-down loan, non-guaranteed low interest rate loan	Up to \$20,000	Up to prime plus 2%	1/2–15 years	100%

(continued)

Table 11. AFP Program Features in FY 2004 and FY 2005 (continued)

State	Loan Models	Range of Loan Amounts	Interest Charged to Borrower	Repayment Terms	Loan Guarantee Requirements
North Dakota	Guaranteed/interest rate buy-down loan	\$500–\$50,000	2% under prime to prime	1–7 years	100%
Oklahoma	Guaranteed loan, interest rate buy-down loan, guaranteed/interest rate buy-down loan, non-guaranteed low interest loan	No minimum— No maximum	5% to prime plus 3%	3–5 years	100%
Pennsylvania	Interest rate buy-down loan, guaranteed/interest rate buy-down loan, non-guaranteed low interest loan	\$100–No maximum	0% to 4%	Up to 10 years	50%
South Carolina	Guaranteed loan, non-guaranteed low interest loan	No minimum— \$30,000	5.9% to 9.9%	1–6 years	25%–100%
Utah	Interest rate buy-down loan, guaranteed/interest rate buy-down loan, non-guaranteed low interest loan	\$750–\$50,000	2.75% to 4.35%	2–5 years	0%–100%
Vermont	Revolving loan	\$500–\$50,000	6% to 8%	1–10 years	n/a
Virginia	Revolving loan, guaranteed loan, interest rate buy-down loan, guaranteed/interest rate buy-down loan, non-guaranteed low interest loan	No minimum— No maximum	3% to 5%	3–10 years	50%
Washington	Revolving loan	\$250–\$10,000	Prime to prime plus 2%	1/2–5 years	n/a
Wisconsin	Guaranteed loan	\$1,000– \$50,000	Prime to prime plus 2%	1–10 years	20%
Wyoming	Interest rate buy-down loan	\$500–\$5,000	0%	Up to 5 years	n/a
Guam	Guaranteed loan	\$100–5,000	Prevailing bank reference rate, up to 10%	1–5 years	75%
Northern Marianas	Revolving loan, guaranteed loan	\$500–\$20,000	4% to 8%	1–5 years	100%
U.S. Virgin Islands	Interest rate buy-down loan, guaranteed/interest rate buy-down loan	\$300–\$15,000	4%	1–5 years	100%

Source: Annual Program Data FY 2004 and FY 2005.

Program Partners

The federal government provides seed money through grants to states and outlying areas to establish AFP loan programs. To receive a federal AFP award, a state matches federal funds with state or private monies. An AFP is administered by a community-based organization (CBO) that involves individuals with disabilities in decision-making at all organizational levels. The CBO partners with a lending institution or state financing authority to provide loans. Information provided in **Table 12** shows the entities that formed partnerships with states in FY 2004 and FY 2005.

Table 12. AFP Program Partners in FY 2004 and FY 2005

State	Partners
Arizona	State Agency: Institute for Human Development, Northern Arizona University CBO: Arizona Community Foundation and AzLAT Consortium Lender: Arizona MultiBank Community Development Corp.
Arkansas	State Agency: Arkansas Rehabilitation Services CBO: Technology Equipment Revolving Loan Fund Committee Lender: Arkansas Development Finance Authority
Delaware	State Agency: Delaware Division of Vocational Rehabilitation CBO: University of Delaware, Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative Lender: Pending
Florida	State Agency: Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation CBO: Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology (FAAST) Lenders: AmSouth SunTrust Bank
Georgia	State Agency: Georgia Department of Labor, Vocational Rehabilitation Program, Tools for Life CBO: Tech-Able, Inc., Getting Ahead Association Lenders: MACO Educators Federal Credit Union Gwinnett Federal Credit Union
Illinois	State Agency: Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services CBO: Illinois Assistive Technology Program Lender: Security Bank
Iowa	State Agency: Iowa Finance Authority CBO: Iowa Able Foundation, State Public Policy Group, Abilities Fund Lenders: Bankers Trust, John Deere Community Credit Union
Kansas	State Agency: University of Kansas CBO: Kansas Assistive Technology Cooperative Lenders: Mid-America Credit Union Labette Bank Alliance Bank of Topeka
Kentucky	State Agency: Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation CBO: Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation Lender: Fifth Third Bank of Kentucky
Louisiana	State Agency: Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals CBO: Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network Lender: Regions Bank

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Table 12. cont'd. AFP Program Partners in FY 2004 and FY 2005 (continued)

State	Partners
Maryland	State Agency: Maryland Department of Disabilities CBO: AT Guaranteed Loan Program Board Lenders: SunTrust Bank State Employees Credit Union of Maryland 1st Mariner Bank
Massachusetts	State Agency: Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission CBO: Easter Seals Massachusetts Lender: Sovereign Bank
Michigan	State Agency: Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, Rehabilitation Services CBO: Michigan Disability Rights Coalition Lender: Financial Health Credit Union
Minnesota	State Agency: Minnesota Department of Administration, STAR Program CBO: Assistive Technology of Minnesota Lenders: Bremer Banks, N.A.
Missouri	State Agency: Missouri Assistive Technology Council CBO: Loan Application Review Committee Lender: Missouri State Treasurer
Nebraska	State Agency: Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership CBO: Easter Seals Nebraska Lender: First National Bank of Omaha
Nevada	State Agency: Nevada Office of Community Based Services CBO: CARE Chest of Sierra Nevada Lender: Nevada State Bank
New Mexico	State Agency: New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation CBO: San Juan Center for Independence Lender: Four Corners Community Bank
North Dakota	State Agency: North Dakota Protection and Advocacy CBO: North Dakota Association for the Disabled Lender: Alerus Financial Institution
Oklahoma	State Agency: Oklahoma ABLE Tech CBO: Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation Lender: BancFirst of Stillwater
Pennsylvania	State Agency: Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development CBO: Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation Lender: Sovereign Bank

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Table 12 cont'd **AFP Program Partners in FY 2004 and FY 2005 (continued)**

State	Partners
South Carolina	State Agency: South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department CBO: Foundation for Independence Through Empowerment Lender: South Carolina State Credit Union
Utah	State Agency: Utah State University, Center for Persons with Disabilities CBO: Utah Assistive Technology Foundation Lender: Zions Bank
Vermont	State Agency: Vermont Department of Aging and Independent Living CBO: Opportunities Ventures Lender: Opportunities Credit Union
Virginia	State Agency: Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services CBO: Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority Lender: SunTrust Bank
Washington	State Agency: Washington Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development CBO: Washington Assistive Technology Foundation Lender: Cascadia Revolving Loan Fund
Wisconsin	State Agency: Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services CBO: IndependenceFirst Lender: Marshall and Ilsley Bank
Wyoming	State Agency: Wyoming Institute for Disabilities, University of Wyoming CBO: Wyoming Independent Living Rehabilitation, Inc. Lender: First Interstate Bank of Laramie
Guam	State Agency: University of Guam CBO: Pacific Islands Micro Credit Institute Lender: Bank of Guam
Northern Marianas	State Agency: CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities CBO: CNMI Association of Families with Disabilities Lender: Bank of Saipan
U.S. Virgin Islands	State Agency: University of Virgin Islands CBO: Virgin Islands Assistive Technology Foundation Lender: Banco Popular De Puerto Rico

Source: Annual Program Data FY 2004 and FY 2005.

Loan Activity

Number and Dollar Amount of Loans

For FY 2004, which ran from Oct. 1, 2003, to Sept. 30, 2004, 21 AFPs were operating and providing loans. A total of 1,735 applications were received by these AFPs and 1,171 loans—with a total dollar amount of \$11,469,304—were provided to individuals with disabilities for the purchase of AT. Nationally, about 67 percent of the applications were approved.

For FY 2005, which ran from Oct. 1, 2004, to Sept. 30, 2005, 27 AFPs were operating and providing loans. Preliminary data from these AFPs show that they received 1,895 applications and provided 1,116 loans for a total dollar amount of \$12,045,387. Nationally, about 59 percent of the applications were approved.

Table 13 shows the loan activity by state grantees for FY 2004 and FY 2005.

Table 13. Loan Activity in FY 2004 and FY 2005

	FY 2004			FY 2005		
	Applications Processed (count)	Loans Made (count)	Amount of Loans Made (\$)	Applications Processed (count)	Loans Made (count)	Dollar Amt. Loans Made (\$)
Arkansas	4	4	\$40,378	8	5	\$26,379
Arizona	23	10	\$21,159	19	5	\$10,629
Florida	80	59	\$649,262	104	40	\$460,400
Georgia	a	a	a	9	3	\$35,843
Illinois	107	87	\$1,674,821	112	71	\$1,016,040
Iowa	19	8	\$66,679	35	9	\$44,732
Kansas	152	104	\$1,106,526	183	129	\$1,064,473
Kentucky	106	57	\$365,253	103	56	\$429,583
Louisiana	35	25	\$427,796	50	19	\$451,655
Maryland	170	95	\$1,416,247	172	86	\$1,034,449
Massachusetts	a	a	a	51	35	\$418,540
Michigan	96	39	\$248,896	164	64	\$421,970
Minnesota	1	1	\$7,500	6	4	\$49,785
Missouri	b	b	b	b	b	b
Nebraska	a	a	a	56	27	\$510,723
Nevada	20	15	\$413,467	12	8	\$188,619
North Dakota	a	a	a	b	b	b
Oklahoma	69	61	\$277,331	74	67	\$403,084
Pennsylvania	184	124	\$2,044,692	135	105	\$1,913,417
South Carolina	1	1	\$19,128	33	22	\$194,503

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Table 13 cont'd. Loan Activity in FY 2004 and FY 2005 (continued)

	FY 2004			FY 2005		
	Applications Processed (count)	Loans Made (count)	Amount of Loans Made (\$)	Applications Processed (count)	Loans Made (count)	Dollar Amt. Loans Made (\$)
Utah	466	366	\$1,570,425	220	131	\$734,409
Virginia	42	28	\$444,705	188	136	\$2,008,451
Washington	7	5	\$23,950	27	20	\$59,393
Wisconsin	146	79	\$636,489	121	64	\$530,689
Wyoming	7	3	\$14,600	12	9	\$36,177
Guam	a	a	a	1	1	\$1,444
U.S. Virgin Islands	a	a	a	b	b	b
Totals	1,735	1,171	\$11,469,304	1,895	1,116	\$12,045,387

Source: AFP Outcomes Database and Management System, downloaded Oct. 2, 2005.

Note: Applications processed are those applications for which a decision is made in that particular fiscal year. Delaware, New Mexico, Northern Marianas and Vermont were in the process of establishing their loan programs and had not begun to accept applications by Sept. 30, 2005. Alabama and Maine, both FY 2005 grant recipients, will not begin to operate their AFPs until FY 2006.

^a Georgia, Guam, Massachusetts, Nebraska, North Dakota and U.S. Virgin Islands were in the process of establishing their loan programs and did not accept applications in FY 2004.

^b Data were not submitted to the Web-based system.

Average Dollar Amount of Loans

In FY 2004, the median loan provided to individuals with disabilities was \$5,000. The median loan is the loan amount for which one-half of the approved loan amounts are above and one-half are below. The average dollar amount for a loan in FY 2004 was \$9,811. In FY 2005, the median loan was \$5,128 and the average dollar amount for a loan was \$10,871 (see **Table 14**).

Table 14. Dollar Amount of Approved Loans in FY 2004 and FY 2005

	FY 2004 (N = 1,171)	FY 2005 (N = 1,116)
Median	\$5,000	\$5,128
Average	\$9,811	\$10,871
Minimum	\$204	\$148
Maximum	\$74,925	\$81,000

Source: AFP Outcomes Database and Management System, downloaded Oct. 2, 2005.

Default Rates and Net Loss Rates

The total dollar amount of outstanding loans (loans for which the principal was not yet repaid in full) as of Sept. 30, 2004, was \$16,232,616. This total includes loans that were provided by AFPs, such as direct and guaranteed loans, but does not include interest rate buy-down loans

or non-guaranteed loans provided solely by lending institutions. A total of 80 loans defaulted in FY 2004, with a total dollar amount of \$229,754. Therefore the FY 2004 AFP national default rate was 1.42 percent. The default rate for loan programs is calculated by dividing the total dollar amount of defaulted loans by the total dollar amount of outstanding loans.

As of Sept. 30, 2004, the amount of net losses—the dollar amount of defaulted loans minus the funds collected from collateral—was \$197,481 and the net loss rate for all AFP supported loans for FY 2004 was 1.22 percent. The net loss rate for loan programs is calculated by dividing the dollar amount of net losses by the outstanding loan amounts.

Preliminary program data for FY 2005, collected by Oct. 28, 2005, showed a total of \$19,562,127 in outstanding loans as of Sept. 30, 2005; 99 loans defaulted, with a combined dollar amount of \$475,982. The national default rate was 2.43 percent for FY 2005. The dollar amount of net losses on the loans was \$474,979 for FY 2005. The national net loss rate was 2.43 percent as of Sept. 30, 2005. Net loss indicates the amount of funds actually lost by defaulted loans.

Consumers Who Use AFPs

Characteristics of Borrowers

Demographic information, such as age, sex and race, reported by borrowers for FY 2004 and FY 2005, is shown in **Table 15**. In FY 2004 and FY 2005, data showed that more males than females were borrowers and that the largest percentage of borrowers was between 40 and 69 years of age. Most borrowers indicated that they were white. Looking at the communities where borrowers resided in FY 2004 (suburban, rural and urban areas), a slightly higher percentage of borrowers resided in suburban areas. In FY 2005, data showed that borrowers were almost evenly divided among urban, rural and suburban areas.

Table 15. Demographic Characteristics of Borrowers in FY 2004 and FY 2005

	FY 2004		FY 2005	
	Count	Percentage of 1,171 Approved Loans	Count	Percentage of 1,116 Approved Loans
Sex of AT User				
Male	638	54.5	519	46.5
Female	482	41.2	451	40.4
No response	51	4.4	146	13.1
Total	1,171	100.0	1,116	100.0
Age of AT User				
0–9 years	68	5.8	43	3.9
10–19 years	52	4.4	66	5.9
20–29 years	73	6.2	85	7.6
30–39 years	91	7.8	94	8.4
40–49 years	175	14.9	140	12.5
50–59 years	185	15.8	183	16.4
60–69 years	189	16.1	128	11.5
70–79 years	176	15.0	113	10.1
80–89 years	99	8.5	63	5.6
90–100 years	5	0.4	7	0.6
No response	58	5.0	194	17.4
Total	1,171	100.0	1,116	100.0
Race of AT User				
White	858	73.3	653	58.5
Black or African American	102	8.7	78	7.0
Hispanic or Latino	20	1.7	23	2.1
American Indian, Alaskan Native	10	0.9	12	1.1
Pacific Islander	-	-	1	0.1
Asian	3	0.3	1	0.1
Other	2	0.2	7	0.6
No response	176	15.0	341	30.6
Total	1,171	100.0	1,116	100.0
Community of User				
Primarily urban	284	24.3	294	26.3
Primarily rural	310	26.5	275	24.6
Primarily suburban	388	33.1	268	24.0
Other	114	9.7	244	21.9
No response	75	6.4	35	3.1
Total	1,171	100.0	1,116	100.0

Source: AFP Outcomes Database and Management System, downloaded Oct. 2, 2005.

Types of AT Purchased

Many different types of assistive technology were purchased by borrowers, as shown in **Table 16**. In FY 2004 and FY 2005, the three most frequently purchased types of AT were adapted transportation, hearing aids and mobility equipment.

Functional Areas that AT is Expected to Affect

Table 17 provides information from FY 2004 and FY 2005 loan recipients about the functional areas that the purchased AT was expected to affect. These areas were primarily mobility, social interactions, hearing, and talking or other methods of communicating.

Table 16. Types of AT Purchased by Borrowers in FY 2004 and FY 2005

Assistive Technology	FY 2004		FY 2005	
	Count ^a	Percentage of 1,171 Approved Loans	Count ^a	Percentage of 1,116 Approved Loans
Adapted transportation	437	37.3	520	46.6
Hearing aids	481	41.1	270	24.2
Mobility equipment	109	9.3	111	9.9
Building modifications	80	6.8	103	9.2
Daily living equipment	42	3.6	58	5.2
Computer equipment	42	3.6	66	5.9
Seating and positioning	27	2.3	17	1.5
Visual aids	26	2.2	14	1.3
Computer access	18	1.5	33	3.0
Medical equipment	14	1.2	20	1.8
Social and recreational	7	0.6	9	0.8
Communication	5	0.4	2	0.2
Environmental control	5	0.4	2	0.2
Work or school modifications	5	0.4	5	0.4
Farm equipment modifications	2	0.2	1	0.1
Other needs	7	0.6	27	2.4

Source: AFP Outcomes Database and Management System, downloaded Oct. 2, 2005.

^a Borrowers could purchase more than one piece of AT with a single loan and, therefore, the count column exceeds 1,171 (FY 2004) and 1,116 (FY 2005) if summed. Therefore, the percentages reported were calculated as follows: count of loans for type of technology divided by total approved loans for that year.

Table 17. Functions Affected by AT Purchased by Borrowers in FY 2004 and FY 2005

	FY 2004		FY 2005	
	Count ^a	Percentage of 1,171 Approved Loans	Count ^a	Percentage of 1,116 Approved Loans
AT will affect mobility	591	50.5	715	64.1
AT will affect social interactions	639	54.6	386	34.6
AT will affect hearing	504	43.0	280	25.1
AT will affect talking and communication	485	41.4	210	18.8
AT will affect learning	110	9.4	110	9.9
AT will affect memory	70	6.0	30	2.7
AT will affect handling skills (dexterity)	36	3.1	37	3.3
AT will affect seeing	36	3.1	26	2.3
AT will affect other things	111	9.5	73	6.5

Source: AFP Outcomes Database and Management System, downloaded Oct. 2, 2005.

^a The AT purchased by the borrowers may have multiple functional impacts on the AT user, and therefore the count column exceeds 1,171 (in FY 2004) and 1,116 (in FY 2005) if summed. Therefore, the percentages reported were calculated as follows: count of types of functional impact expected divided by total approved loans for that year.

Successful Outcomes for AT Loan Recipients

With the combined federal-state investment in AFPs during the past several years, the AFPs have begun to serve as a resource for people with disabilities. By providing financing options that assist people with disabilities in purchasing assistive technology, AFPs have helped people with disabilities access all types of assistive technology, including mobility and communication devices, hearing aids, adapted transportation vehicles and high-tech limb prostheses. As evidenced by the success stories below, access to assistive technology through AFPs has provided adults and children who are disabled with an essential means for aiding participation in work, school, home and community settings.

Oklahoma Alternative Financing Program—Meeting a Son’s Needs. An AFP loan from the Oklahoma Alternative Financing Program allowed an Oklahoma father to purchase hearing aids for his 21-year-old son. The father said that the \$2,230 loan for the hearing aids has dramatically improved his son’s quality of life. “It’s made a huge difference in my son’s life. He’s now able to hear and is not so frustrated. I don’t see him acting out like he used to as much,” the Oklahoma father said. “I think he can now hear the world and interact with it, so he doesn’t have as many behavioral problems. Every aspect has improved for everyone around him—his whole life has improved and with that so has ours. It’s helped everyone and we’re not so frustrated in trying to communicate with him. It’s had a huge impact on all of us.”

The AFP was the only program that would fund the hearing aids, the father said. “A lot of AT is really expensive and a lot of people can’t afford it. We gave up on Medicaid and Medicare, and waited forever for them, but this (the AFP loan) came through right away,” he said.

Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation—Raising Hope for a Better Life. An AFP loan from the Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation has enabled a homebound grandmother to become more independent in her daily life. Through a \$1,245 AFP loan the woman purchased a lift chair, which provides independent transfer from the chair to her wheelchair. “It’s embarrassing at 60 years old to have to ask your granddaughter to help you stand so that you can transfer back into your wheelchair,” said the woman. The participant said that before she got the lift chair she would have to stay in her wheelchair if she was home alone, because she could not move from the furniture without assistance.

The woman said she was very pleased with the respect and compassion she received from AFP staff. The feature that she best liked about the AFP was the open communication with the alternative financing staff. She said it was great working with someone who seemed to “get it” and did not make her feel as though she had to plead for assistance, as other programs had in the past. “I have been to other places where they build your hopes but it turns out to be a huge letdown,” she said. She also appreciated the way in which they tailored the repayment plan to meet her individual financial situation. The woman stated that the low interest rate and flexible payment plan meant that purchasing the lift chair gave her “a chance for something that would make my life better.”

Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund—Steering a Rapid Route from Unemployment to Work. In October 2004, a man with a hearing impairment came to the Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund to apply for an AFP loan. He was unemployed and had applied for a job with his local transportation authority but found himself in a Catch-22 situation. To get the job, he had to pass a driver’s test that required him to use a hearing aid. But he did not have money to purchase a hearing aid, which typically cost between \$2,000 and \$5,000. Without a job, he had been turned down by a traditional lending institution. By working with the Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund, however, he was able to get a low-interest loan within 24 hours. He purchased his hearing aid in time to pass his driver’s test and he obtained the job and the means to repay the AFP loan.

E. Conclusion

Like the Statewide AT Programs under Section 4 of the revised *AT Act*, AFPs under Title III of the *AT Act of 1998* continue to evolve. In many states, the Statewide AT Program and Title III AFP are evolving together because the AFP has been incorporated into the State Plan for AT. Over the next few years, new AFPs will be established, while programs with a history will continue to expand to meet the AT needs of individuals with disabilities.

PART III. APPENDICES

**APPENDIX A:
INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETION AND SUBMITTAL OF THE
STATE PLAN FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY UNDER THE
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT
OF 1998, AS AMENDED**

OMB NUMBER: 1820-0664
EXPIRATION DATE: 12/31/2005

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES
REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Instructions for Completion and Submittal of the State Plan for Assistive Technology
under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended**

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1820-0664. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 90 hours per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20202-4651. If you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this form, write directly to: Rehabilitation Services Administration, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Potomac Center Plaza, room 5025, Washington, D.C. 20202-2800.

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Instructions for Completing Part II

Background

The Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended (AT Act) supports State efforts to improve the provision of assistive technology (AT) by providing States with financial assistance to implement programs designed to meet the AT needs of individuals with disabilities.

Section 4 of the AT Act establishes grants to States (AT State Grant Program) to support comprehensive statewide programs (Statewide AT Programs) that conduct activities that improve access to and the acquisition of AT devices and services for individuals with disabilities across the human lifespan and across a wide array of disabilities, and their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives. States receiving these grants must use the funds made available through the grant to carry out State-Level Activities and State Leadership Activities as described in section 4(e) of the AT Act.

States wishing to receive funding under section 4 of the AT Act must submit an approvable three-year State Plan for Assistive Technology (State Plan for AT) to the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). The State Plan for AT describes the activities planned by the Statewide AT Program to meet the AT needs of individuals with disabilities in the State, to achieve the measurable goals described in section 4(d)(3) of the AT Act, and reflects the State's commitment to comply with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements during the three years covered by the plan. The State Plan for AT also will serve as a key element in RSA's subsequent monitoring of a State's performance in carrying out the plan.

Part I of the State Plan for AT consists of attachments in which the State describes the operational and administrative activities to be undertaken to provide a comprehensive Statewide AT Program and to achieve the State's measurable goals related to AT.

Part II of the State Plan for AT is a series of assurances, or statements of compliance, based on legal and regulatory provisions governing Statewide AT Programs and State-administered programs authorized under 34 CFR part 76. Authorized representatives of the State are required to carefully review each assurance and, by means of their signatures, attest to the State's compliance with each.

Definitions

The following are definitions useful for completing this State Plan for AT. Additional definitions related to the AT Act may be found in section 3 of the AT Act.

AT Act means the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended (P.L. 108-364).

Advisory Council means a council that meets the requirements of section 4(c)(2)(B) of the AT Act to provide consumer-responsive, consumer-driven advice to a State for, planning of, implementation of, and evaluation of the activities carried out through the grant, including setting the measurable goals described in section 4(d)(3) of the AT Act.

Alternative Financing Program means a program funded under title III of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 as in effect prior to the enactment of the amendments in 2004.

Assistive Technology means technology designed to be utilized in an assistive technology device or assistive technology service.

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.

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, including the services described in sections 3(5)(A)-(G) of the AT Act.

Commissioner means the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). Any reference to duties of the Commissioner shall be considered a reference to duties to be carried out by the Secretary of Education acting through the Commissioner.

Consumer-Responsive has the meaning given in section 3(8) of the AT Act.

Device Demonstrations means (1) demonstrating a variety of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services (including assisting individuals in making informed choices regarding, and providing experiences with, the devices and services), using personnel who are familiar with such devices and services and their applications and (2) providing to individuals, to the extent practicable, comprehensive information about State and local assistive technology vendors, providers, and repair services in accordance with section 4(e)(2)(D) of the AT Act.

Device Loan Programs means programs that provide short-term loans of assistive technology devices to individuals, employers, public agencies, or others seeking to meet the needs of targeted individuals and entities in accordance with section 4(e)(2)(C) of the AT Act.

Device Reutilization Programs means programs that provide for the exchange, repair, recycling, or other reutilization of assistive technology devices, which may include redistribution through device sales, loans, rentals, or donations in accordance with section 4(e)(2)(B) of the AT Act.

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 the AT Act or for the purposes of the law of the State in which the individual resides.

Implementing Entity means an agency, office, or other entity different from the Lead Agency designated by the Governor to carry out responsibilities under the AT Act through a contract or another administrative agreement with the Lead Agency in accordance with section 4(c)(1)(B) of the AT Act.

Individual with a Disability means any individual of any age, race, or ethnicity who has a disability and 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.

Individuals With Disabilities means more than one individual with a disability.

Institution Of Higher Education has the meaning given such term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)), and includes a community college receiving funding under the Tribally Controlled College or University Assistance Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

Lead Agency means a public agency designated by the Governor of a State to control and administer the funds made available through the grant awarded to the State under section 4 of the AT Act, to submit the State Plan for AT on behalf of the State, to ensure conformance with Federal and State accounting requirements, and to fulfill the duties described in section 4(c)(1)(A)(ii) of the AT Act.

Measurable Goals means goals that the State has set in accordance with section 4(d)(3) of the AT Act, with the advice of the Advisory Council required in section 4(c)(2), for meeting the AT needs of individuals with disabilities in the State related to areas of education, employment, telecommunications and information technology, and community living.

Protection and Advocacy Services means services that are described in part C of title I of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15041 et seq.), the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act (42 U.S.C. 10801 et seq.), or section 509 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 794e) and assist individuals with disabilities with respect to assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.

Public-Awareness Activities means activities designed to provide information to targeted individuals and entities relating to the availability, benefits, appropriateness, and costs of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services, including the activities described in section 4(e)(3)(B)(ii) of the AT Act.

Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) means the Federal entity within the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services that administers the AT Act.

Secretary means the Secretary of Education.

State means each of the 50 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.

Statewide Assistive Technology Program (Statewide AT Program) means a program authorized under section 4 of the AT Act.

State Financing Activities mean activities to increase access to, and funding for, assistive technology devices and assistive technology services (not including direct payment for such a device or service for an individual with a disability but may include support and administration of a program to provide such payment) including through the development of systems to provide and pay for such devices and services for targeted individuals and entities (as described in section 3(16)(A) of the AT Act) in accordance with section 4(e)(2)(A) of the AT Act, which includes:

(1) systems for the purchase, lease, or other acquisition of, or payment for, assistive technology devices and assistive technology services; or (2) State-financed or privately financed alternative financing systems of subsidies (which may include conducting an initial 1-year feasibility study of, improving, administering, operating, providing capital for, or collaborating with an entity with respect to, such a system) for the provision of assistive technology devices in accordance with section 4(e)(2)(A) of the AT Act, such as a low-interest loan fund; an interest buy-down program; a revolving loan fund; a loan guarantee or insurance program; a program providing for the purchase, lease, or other acquisition of assistive technology devices or assistive technology services; or another mechanism that is approved by the Secretary.

State Leadership Activities means those activities described in section 4(e)(3) of the AT Act.

State-Level Activities means those activities described in section 4(e)(2) of the AT Act.

Targeted Individuals and Entities has the meaning given to it by section 3(16) of the AT Act, unless otherwise noted.

Training And Technical Assistance means activities that enhance the knowledge, skills, and competencies of individuals from local settings statewide, including representatives of State and local educational agencies, other State and local agencies, early intervention programs, adult service programs, hospitals and other health care facilities, institutions of higher education, and businesses, including the authorized activities described in sections 4(e)(3)(B)(i)(II)-(III) of the AT Act.

Development of the State Plan for AT

The State Plan for AT must be developed, prepared, and submitted by the Lead Agency designated by the Governor, with the advice of the State Advisory Council. If the Governor designates an Implementing Entity to carry out State activities under the AT Act, the State Plan for AT can be jointly developed and prepared by the Lead Agency and Implementing Entity with the advice of the State Advisory Council, though the State Plan for AT must be submitted by the Lead Agency.

Section 4(d)(3) of the AT Act requires that States, with the advice of the Advisory Council required in section 4(c)(2), set measurable goals for meeting the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities in the State related to education, employment, telecommunications and information technology and community living. The development of the State Plan for AT, and the subsequent implementation of activities based upon the State Plan for AT, should be

driven by meeting the AT-related needs of individuals with disabilities and the achievement of those goals. The material in the State Plan for AT should clearly explain how the activities to be undertaken by the State will be conducted in a manner that is comprehensive and statewide or, if the State initially does not have the capacity to conduct an activity in a statewide and comprehensive manner, clearly explain the State's plan to expand or improve these activities during the three years covered by the State Plan for AT. The State Plan for AT also should reflect not only how the State will conduct its activities, but how the State will collaborate and coordinate with other entities in conducting its activities, if applicable.

Transmittal of the State Plan for AT

All parts of the completed State Plan for AT are to be submitted to RSA no later than August 26, 2005.

The State Plan for AT must be accompanied by a transmittal letter signed by the authorized representatives of the Lead Agency. The transmittal letter addressed to the RSA Commissioner, must include the following:

- 1) Request for approval of the State Plan for AT; and
- 2) Description of the materials transmitted.

The State Plan for AT should be transmitted in the following manner:

- 1) Official copy mailed to the RSA, including signature page(s) and supporting documentation, at the following address:
Rehabilitation Services Administration
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Potomac Center Plaza, room 5025
Washington, D.C. 20202-2800; and
- 2) Electronic copy via email to the AT program specialist at Jeremy.Buzzell@ed.gov.

Responses to all items in Attachments 2-10 must be formatted for 8.5 x 11" paper. If the response is not double spaced, a double space must be placed between paragraphs. All pages must be numbered.

When an Attachment requires the completion of multiple items, States are not required to insert a page break between each item. However, there must be a page break between each Attachment.

No Attachments or items should be left blank, and all items of all Attachments must be included in the State Plan, even when the Attachment or item is not applicable. If an Attachment or item is not applicable, insert a statement that it is not applicable.

State Plan for AT Disposition

The Commissioner is responsible for reviewing and approving the State Plan for AT. The Commissioner may work with the State to make adjustments to the State Plan for AT, if such adjustments are deemed necessary, in order to make the plan approvable.

If, after providing the appropriate technical assistance to the State, the Commissioner determines that the State Plan for AT does not meet the applicable requirements and thus is not approvable, the Commissioner will attempt to informally resolve the disputed issues with State officials. If no resolution has been reached after reasonable efforts to resolve the dispute informally, the Commissioner will provide an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with 34 CFR part 76.202 before the State Plan for AT is disapproved.

State Plan for AT Amendment and Update

The State Plan for AT may be amended during the three-year effective period of the plan if the Commissioner determines that an amendment is essential, such as in the case of a material change in State law, organization, policy or agency operations affecting the information, assurances or administration of the plan.

The Commissioner also may require that States update some information on a yearly basis, particularly budget information, information related to the State's measurable goals, and information related to comparable support for activities.

Instructions for Completing Part I

Part I of the State Plan for AT consists of 11 attachments in which applicants must describe the State's Lead Agency and, if applicable, Implementing Entity, the Advisory Council, measurable goals, activities carried out under section 4 of the AT Act, and financial information. The instructions below specify the information that must be provided for an attachment to be complete.

Applicants are encouraged to respond to each question directly on the electronic version of the State Plan for Assistive Technology, which may be accessed at:

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/atsg/applicant.html>.

The space available for the response to each question will expand automatically as the information is entered. Do not enclose additional official State documents unless expressly required by this State Plan. The completed attachments should not exceed a combined length of 45 pages, not including Attachment 1 or the budget required in Attachment 11.

Please insert the State name in the spaces provided on the top and bottom of each attachment.

Attachment 1: Basic Information

To complete Attachment 1, the State must provide basic contact information for the Lead Agency and relevant employees and Implementing Entity and relevant employees, if applicable.

Attachment 2: Lead Agency and Implementing Entity

Section 4(d)(2) of the AT Act requires that the State identify and describe the Lead Agency referred to in section 4(c)(1)(A) of the AT Act and, if applicable, the Implementing Entity referred to in section 4(c)(1)(B) of the AT Act. To complete Attachment 2, the State must provide the following:

2.1 Identification and Description of the Lead Agency – Identify and describe the Lead Agency referred to in section 4(c)(1)(A) of the AT Act.

2.1A Identification and Description of Lead Agency if an Implementing Entity is not Designated

o If the Governor designates only a Lead Agency to carry out responsibilities under the AT Act, the description of this Lead Agency must --

(a) demonstrate the Lead Agency's:

(i) capacity to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities and their families, guardians, advocates, or other authorized representatives, regardless of their type of disability, age, income level, or location of residence within the State, or the type of assistive technology device or service required;

(ii) expertise in assistive technology;

(iii) capacity to conduct a program addressing the needs of individuals with disabilities in education, employment, telecommunications, and community living;

(iv) ability to coordinate and collaborate with other public and private entities in the field of assistive technology or that serve individuals with disabilities and their families, guardians, advocates, or other authorized representatives throughout the State; and

(v) consumer-responsiveness, as defined in Section 3(8) of the AT Act.

(b) identify and describe any responsibilities of the Lead Agency that will be fulfilled through subcontract or other administrative agreement (other than a subcontract or administrative agreement with an Implementing Entity).

2.1B Identification and Description of the Lead Agency if an Implementing Entity is Designated – In the case that the Governor designates an Implementing Entity to carry out responsibilities under the AT Act as allowed under section 4(c)(1)(B), an identification of the Lead Agency and certification of the assurances in Part I are sufficient for completing item 2.1.

2.2 Identification and Description of the Implementing Entity – Identify and describe the Implementing Entity referred to in section 4(c)(1)(B) of the AT Act, if such an Implementing Entity is designated by the Governor.

- This description must:
 - (a) demonstrate the Implementing Entity's –
 - (i) capacity to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities and their families, guardians, advocates, or other authorized representatives, regardless of their type of disability, age, income level, or location of residence within the State, or the type of assistive technology device or service required;
 - (ii) expertise in assistive technology;
 - (iii) capacity to conduct a program addressing the needs of individuals with disabilities in education, employment, telecommunications, and community living;
 - (iv) ability to coordinate and collaborate with other public and private entities in the field of assistive technology or that serve individuals with disabilities and their families, guardians, advocates, or other authorized representatives throughout the State; and
 - (v) consumer-responsiveness, as defined in Section 3(8) of the AT Act; and
 - (b) identify and describe any responsibilities of the Implementing Entity that will be fulfilled through subcontract or other administrative agreement, including identifying the entities to fulfill these responsibilities.

2.3 Show of Good Cause for Change in Lead Agency or Implementing Entity – If the Governor has chosen to change the Lead Agency or, if applicable, Implementing Entity as allowed in section 4(c)(1)(C) of the AT Act, provide an explanation of good cause for this redesignation.

Attachment 3: State Advisory Council

Section 4(c)(2) requires that the States establish an Advisory Council 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, including setting measurable goals described in section 4(d)(3). Not less than fifty-one (51) percent of the members of the advisory council must be individuals with disabilities that use AT or the family members or guardians of such individuals. To complete Attachment 3, the State must provide the following:

3.1 Membership of the Advisory Council – Identify the members of the Advisory Council and each member's designation as an individual with disabilities who uses AT, a family member or guardian of such individual, or a representative of a State agency or other entity.

3.2 Structure and Operation of the Advisory Council – Describe the structure and operations of the Advisory Council.

- This includes:
 - (a) how and how often the Council will meet;
 - (b) how the Council will be led and organized;
 - (c) the Council's process for decision-making and planning; and
 - (d) the method by which members of the council were solicited or appointed.

Attachment 4: Measurable Goals

Section 4(d)(3) of the AT Act requires that the State include information on the measurable goals, and a timeline for meeting those goals, that the State, with the advice of the Advisory Council required in section 4(c)(2), has set for addressing the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities in the State in the domains of education, employment, community living, and telecommunications and information technology (IT).

- Section 4(d)(3)(A)(i) of the AT Act states that education goals include goals involving the provision of assistive technology to individuals who receive services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.). This includes infants and toddlers receiving early intervention services under Part C.
- Education also includes the provision of assistive technology to individuals who receive services under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.) and individuals in institutions of higher education and vocational education, including community colleges.
- Section 4(d)(3)(A)(ii) of the AT Act states that employment goals include goals involving the State vocational rehabilitation program carried out under title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.).

For both Part A and Part B of this Attachment, the State will establish a baseline during the first year of the grant. This baseline will be established by the State using a data collection instrument and procedures to be determined by RSA and disseminated to all States after the State plan process has been completed. Therefore, the baseline, long-term goal, and short-term goals need not be addressed in this State Plan.

Once the baseline has been established in year one, the State will be required to submit to RSA an amendment to the State Plan to address this Attachment. This amendment will provide the baseline and the long term goal and short-term goals set by the State to improve upon this baseline during years two and three of the State Plan. It is expected that the State will set long term and short-term goals that are both ambitious and attainable. This amendment, and the baseline, long term and short-term goals established in the amendment, are subject to the same review and approval process described in the “State Plan Disposition” section of these instructions.

To complete Attachment 4, the State must state that it will establish a baseline for each of the goals 4.1 through 4.7 during year one of the State Plan and will submit after year one an amendment identifying the long term goal and short-term goals set to improve upon this baseline during years two and three of the State Plan. If the State will establish measurable goals in addition to the goals required in Part A and Part B of this Attachment, the State must address these goals in Attachment 4.8.

Part A

At a minimum, the State must set one goal for improving access to assistive technology for individuals with disabilities in each of the domains of education, employment, community living, and telecommunications and IT. The State will show that it has improved access by increasing the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service as a result of the assistance they received.

States must set a long-term goal (the desired percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs or device loan programs are able to make an informed decision about an AT device or service as a result of the assistance they received) to be achieved by the end of the third year of the State Plan for AT. The State must set annual short-term goals (a yearly increase in the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service as a result of the assistance they received) that show progress toward the long-term goal. The State will establish its baseline during the first year of implementing the State Plan for AT.

4.1 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Education

- Long-term goal: Percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for educational purposes as a result of the assistance they received.
 - Short-term goal for Year 3: Increase in percentage (over Year 2) of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for educational purposes as a result of the assistance they received.
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: Increase in percentage (over Year 1) of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for educational purposes as a result of the assistance they received.
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for educational purposes as a result of the assistance they received.

4.2 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Employment

- Long-term goal: Percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for employment purposes as a result of the assistance they received.
 - Short-term goal for Year 3: Increase in percentage (over Year 2) of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for employment purposes as a result of the assistance they received.

- Short-term goal for Year 2: Increase in percentage (over Year 1) of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for employment purposes as a result of the assistance they received.
- Short-term goal for Year 1: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for employment purposes as a result of the assistance they received.

4.3 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Community Living

- Long-term goal: Percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for community living as a result of the assistance they received.
 - Short-term goal for Year 3: Increase in percentage (over Year 2) of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for community living as a result of the assistance they received.
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: Increase in percentage (over Year 1) of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for community living as a result of the assistance they received.
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for community living as a result of the assistance they received.

4.4 Goal for Improving Access to IT and Telecommunications

- Long-term goal: Percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service that meets an IT/telecommunications need as a result of the assistance they received.
 - Short-term goal for Year 3: Increase in percentage (over Year 2) of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service that meets an IT/telecommunications need as a result of the assistance they received.
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: Increase in percentage (over Year 1) of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service that meets an IT/telecommunications need as a result of the assistance they received.
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service that meets an IT/telecommunications need as a result of the assistance they received.

Part B

At a minimum, the State must set one goal for improving acquisition of assistive technology for individuals with disabilities in each of the domains of education, employment, and community living. The State will show that it has improved acquisition by increasing the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs who would not have obtained that AT device or service.

States must set a long-term goal (the desired percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs who would not have obtained that AT device or service) to be achieved by the end of the third year of the State Plan for AT. The State must set annual short-term goals (a yearly increase in the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs who would not have obtained that AT device or service) that show progress toward the long-term goal. The State will establish its baseline during the first year of implementing the State Plan for AT.

To complete Attachment 4, Part B, the State must provide the following:

4.5 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Education

- Long-term goal: Percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for educational purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.
 - Short-term goal for Year 3: Increase in percentage (over Year 2) of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for educational purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: Increase in percentage (over Year 1) of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for educational purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: Establish baseline of the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for educational purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.

4.6 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Employment

- Long-term goal: Percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for employment purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.
 - Short-term goal for Year 3: Increase in percentage (over Year 2) of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for employment purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.

- Short-term goal for Year 2: Increase in percentage (over Year 1) of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for employment purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.
- Short-term goal for Year 1: Establish baseline of the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for employment purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.

4.7 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Community Living

- Long-term goal: Percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for community living purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.
 - Short-term goal for Year 3: Increase in percentage (over Year 2) of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for community living purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: Increase in percentage (over Year 1) of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for community living who would not have obtained the AT device or service.
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: Establish baseline of the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for community living purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.

4.8 Additional Measurable Goals -- If applicable, describe any measurable goals that the State has set in addition to the goals established in items 4.1 through 4.7 for addressing the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities in the State related to education, employment, community living, and telecommunications and information technology.

In accordance with section 4(d)(3) of the AT Act, this includes describing:

- a timeline for meeting those goals, and
- how the State will quantifiably measure the goals to determine whether the goals have been achieved.

Attachment 5: State-level Activities

Section 4(d)(5)(A) of the AT Act requires that a State describe how it will implement the State-level activities described in section 4(e)(2).

- For 5.1 through 5.4, the description provided by the State should include:
 - (a) how the activity supports the measurable goals set forth by the State;
 - (b) (i) how the activity will be conducted in a statewide and comprehensive manner, meaning how the activity will be implemented to ensure that individuals with disabilities and their families, guardians or other authorized representatives can benefit regardless of

their type of disability, age, income level, or location of residence within the State, or the type of assistive technology device or service required; or

(ii) if the State initially does not have the capacity to conduct the activity in a statewide and comprehensive manner, a plan to expand or improve this activity during the three years covered by the State Plan for AT; and

(c) how the Lead Agency or Implementing Entity will implement this activity in collaboration with other public or private entities, if applicable.

- According to section 4(e)(1)(B) of the AT Act, a State is not required to use a portion of its funds on State-level activities if, in that State, financial support is provided from State or other non-Federal resources or entities for that activity and the amount of the financial support is comparable to, or greater than, the amount of the portion of the funds made available through the grant that the State would have expended for that activity. If the State will not conduct an activity listed in 5.1 through 5.4 because comparable support is being provided from State or other non-Federal resources or entities, the State must indicate this under the corresponding item and complete Attachment 6.
- According to section 4(e)(6) of the AT Act, a State may use its funds to carry out any 2 or more State-level activities. If the State chooses to not carry out each of the activities in 5.1 through 5.4, the State must indicate this under the corresponding item and complete Attachment 7, unless the activity already has been addressed via Attachment 6.

To complete Attachment 5, the State must provide the following:

5.1 State Financing Activities — Describe how the State will implement State financing activities as described in section 4(e)(2)(A) of the AT Act.

- This includes describing:
 - (a) how the State’s activities directly assist with the provision of, or directly reduces barriers associated with the cost of, assistive technology devices and services for individuals with disabilities, in the case that the State implements a State financing activity under section 4(e)(2)(A)(i);
 - (b) if applicable, how the Statewide AT Program will coordinate and collaborate with that State’s Alternative Financing Program established under Title III of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 in planning and conducting its activities; and
 - (c) a plan for the 1-year feasibility study allowed under section 4(e)(2)(A)(ii) if the State chooses to conduct such a study.

5.2 Device Reutilization Program — Describe how the State will implement a device reutilization program as described in section 4(e)(2)(B) of the Act.

5.3 Device Loan Program — Describe how the State will implement a device loan program as described in section 4(e)(2)(C) of the Act.

5.4 Device Demonstration Program — Describe how the State will implement a device demonstration program as described in section 4(e)(2)(D) of the Act.

Attachment 6: Comparable Support

According to Section 4(e)(1)(B) of the Act, a State is not required to use a portion of its funds on State-level activities if financial support is provided from State or other non-Federal resources or entities for that activity and the amount of the financial support is comparable to, or greater than, the amount of the portion of the funds made available through the grant that the State would have expended for that activity. The State will be required to supply to RSA evidence on a yearly basis that this comparable support is continuing. Complete items 6.1 through 6.3 for each State-level activity for which there is comparable support. To complete Attachment 6, the State must provide the following:

6.1 Source and Amount of Support — Identify the State-level activity for which there is comparable support, the source of this support, the amount of the support, and the project year for which this support is being provided.

6.2 Comparability — Demonstrate that this support is comparable in terms of funding and that the activities are comparable in terms of scope.

- This includes demonstrating that the:
 - (a) financial support is equal to or greater than the amount of the portion of the funds made available through the grant that the State would have expended for that activity; and
 - (b) activity for which there is comparable support will be conducted in a statewide and comprehensive manner to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities and their families, guardians, advocates, or other authorized representatives, regardless of their type of disability, age, income level, or location of residence within the State, or the type of assistive technology device or service required.

6.3 Coordination and Collaboration — Describe how the State will coordinate activities and collaborate with the appropriate entity, if the comparable funds are provided to, or the activities are conducted by, an entity other than the Lead Agency or Implementing Entity.

Attachment 7: State Flexibility

According to section 4(e)(6) of the AT Act, a State may use its funds to carry out any 2 or more State-level activities. Complete items 7.1 through 7.4 for each State-level activity that the State chooses not to carry out. To complete attachment 7, the State must provide the following:

7.1 Activity — Identify each State-level activity the State is choosing not to carry out.

7.2 Maintenance of Statewideness and Comprehensiveness — Demonstrate that the Statewide AT Program will continue to be comprehensive without conducting this activity.

- This includes describing how the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities and their families, guardians, advocates, or other authorized representatives, regardless of their type of disability, age, income level, or location of residence within the

State, or the type of assistive technology device or service required will continue to be met without conducting this activity.

- This may include demonstrating:
 - (a) that individuals with disabilities in that State have, and will continue to have, access to similar assistive technology devices, services, or benefits that would result from the activities the State chooses not to conduct, or
 - (b) through an evidence-based, statewide needs assessment that the activity is unnecessary or unwanted in order to meet the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities in the State.

7.3 Achievement of Measurable Goals — Demonstrate that the State can reach its measurable education goals, employment goals, telecommunications and information technology goals, and community living goals without conducting such activities.

7.4 Coordination and Collaboration — Describe how the Lead Agency or Implementing Entity will coordinate activities and collaborate with entities in the State that do conduct this activity, if the State chooses not to conduct this activity because another entity already conducts it.

Attachment 8: State Leadership Activities

Section 4(d)(5)(A) of the AT Act requires that a State describe how it will implement the State-Leadership activities described in section 4(e)(3). To complete Attachment 8, the State must provide the following:

- For items 8.1 through 8.3, the description provided by the State should include information related to:
 - (a) how the activity will be conducted in a statewide and comprehensive manner, meaning how the activity will be implemented to ensure that individuals with disabilities and their families, guardians, or other authorized representatives can benefit regardless of their type of disability, age, income level, or location of residence within the State, or the type of assistive technology device or service required; and
 - (b) how the Lead Agency or Implementing Entity will implement this activity in collaboration with other public or private entities.

8.1 Training and Technical Assistance Activities — Describe how the State will provide training and technical assistance to enhance the knowledge, skills, and competencies of individuals from local settings statewide, including representatives of State and local educational agencies, other State and local agencies, early intervention programs, adult service programs, hospitals and other health care facilities, institutions of higher education and businesses as described in section 4(e)(3)(B)(i) of the AT Act.

- This includes specifying the activities to be undertaken to provide transition assistance in accordance with section 4(e)(3)(B)(i)(III).

8.2 Public Awareness Activities — Describe how the State will provide information to targeted individuals and entities relating to the availability, benefits, appropriateness, and costs of

assistive technology devices and assistive technology services as described in section 4(e)(3)(B)(ii) of the AT Act.

8.3 Coordination and Collaboration — Describe how the State will coordinate activities among public and private entities that are responsible for policies, procedures, or funding for the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities, service providers, and others to improve access to assistive technology devices and assistive technology services as described in section 4(e)(3)(B)(iii) of the AT Act.

Attachment 9: Involvement of Public and Private Entities

Section 4(d)(4) of the AT Act requires that the State describe how public and private entities were involved in the development of the State Plan for AT and will be involved in the implementation of the activities to be carried out through the grant. To complete Attachment 9, the State must provide the following:

9.1 Nature and Extent of Resources — Describe the nature and extent of resources that will be committed by public and private collaborators to assist in accomplishing identified goals.

9.2 Mechanisms to Ensure Coordination — Describe the mechanisms established to ensure coordination of activities and collaboration between the implementing entity, if any, and the State.

9.3 Involvement of State Advisory Council — Describe the nature and extent of the involvement of the State Advisory Council in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the activities carried out through the grant, including setting the measurable goals required in section 4(d)(3).

Attachment 10: State Support

Section 4(d)(7) of the AT Act requires that the State describe the State-level and State Leadership activities that the State will support with State funds. To complete Attachment 10, the State must provide the following:

10.1 State Support for State-level Activities — If applicable, describe how the State will support with State funds any State-level activities described in section 4(e)(2).

10.2 State Support for State Leadership Activities — If applicable, describe how the State will support with State funds any State Leadership activities described in section 4(e)(3), if applicable.

Attachment 11: Allocation and Utilization of Funds

Section 4(d)(5)(B) of the AT Act requires the State to describe how it will allocate and utilize grant funds to implement the activities described in sections 4(e)(2) and (3), including describing proposed budget allocations and planned procedures for tracking expenditures. To complete Attachment 11, the State must provide the following:

11.1 Tracking Expenditures — Describe planned procedures for tracking expenditures for activities described in sections 4(e)(2) and (3).

11.2 Proposed Budget Allocations — Attach a budget containing proposed allocations for activities described in sections 4(e)(2) and (3).

- This budget must:
 - (a) (i) show an allocation of at least 60 percent of funds to be used to carry out State-Level activities, or, in the case that the State exercises flexibility in accordance with section 4(e)(6) of the AT Act, at least 70 percent of funds to be used to carry out State-level activities;
 - (ii) show the distribution of funds used to carry out State-Level activities amongst the State-Level activities;
 - (b) (i) show an allocation of not more than 40 percent of funds are used to carry out State Leadership Activities as required under section 4(e)(3)(A) of the AT Act, or, in the case that the State exercises flexibility in accordance with section 4(e)(6) of the AT Act, that not more than 30 percent of funds are used to carry out State Leadership Activities;
 - (ii) show the distribution of funds used to carry out State-Leadership activities amongst the State Leadership activities;
 - (iii) show at least 5 percent of funds allocated for State Leadership Activities is used for Transition Assistance to Individuals with Disabilities as required under section 4(e)(3)(A) of the AT Act; and
 - (c) show an allocation of not more than 10 percent of the funds for indirect costs as required under section 4(e)(4) of the AT Act.

Instructions for Completing Part II

Part II consists of assurances, or statements of compliance, representing provisions from section 4(d)(6) of the AT Act, other sections of the AT Act, and 34 CFR part 76 with which States and recipients of financial assistance must comply to receive funds.

The assurances are divided into the following subject areas, based on the AT Act:

- Recordkeeping, data collection, and reporting
- Administration of funds
- Accessibility of programs
- State Advisory Council
- Certifications for State Plans required by 34 CFR part 76.104

Following these sections is a signature page for the authorized representative of the Lead Agency and Implementing Entity, if applicable. The representatives are required to carefully read each assurance, review the corresponding statute and, if appropriate, to provide the appropriate signatures certifying the State's compliance with the assurances. Changes to the assurance statements are not permitted.

By these signatures, the representatives certify that the State is in compliance with every assurance. They also certify that the State has on file and available for Federal review, written procedures and other documents related to the assurances. States are also expected to be in compliance with the relevant Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), particularly 34 CFR parts 76, 78-82, and 85-86.

Please insert the State name in the appropriate section of Page 2 of the assurances. This information may be inserted directly onto the electronic version of the State Plan for AT instrument available at: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/atsg/applicant.html>

APPENDIX B: STATE PROFILES

Statewide AT Program Profile: Alabama

Lead Agency: Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS)

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Statewide Technology Access and Response (STAR)

State Financing Activities

STAR will support an alternative financing program. The loan program will be operated by the Southern Disability Foundation that will provide a variety of low interest and extended term loans for the purchase of assistive technology.

Device Reutilization

STAR will partner with Goodwill Industries-Easter Seals, United Cerebral Palsy and the Opportunity Center-Easter Seals to administer community-based recycling and equipment reutilization programs that increase options for acquiring AT by individuals with disabilities. The programs will receive donations of used devices, refurbish and lend the items on a first-come, first-served basis to individuals who have no other means of obtaining such AT.

Device Loan

STAR will partner with different entities throughout the state to provide short-term loans of AT utilizing trained therapists and rehabilitation specialists through UCP, CRS Aug Com Clinics, OASIS senior or homebound services and blind and deaf services to persons with disabilities and rehabilitation and educational professionals who wish to try out and assess different types of devices. The standard loan period will be two weeks; however, loans may be extended on a case-by-case basis. Equipment loans are made statewide and STAR will continually review the need for expanding and improving the program.

Device Demonstration

STAR will perform demonstrations of AT devices throughout the state in cooperation with a rehabilitation technology specialist as well as physical, occupational, and speech therapists. STAR-employed coordinators also provide “specialized training programs” that include device demonstrations. STAR plans to combine the program with device loan activities as a means of expanding and improving device demonstrations to ensure statewide coverage.

State Leadership Activities

STAR collaborates with state and community-based organizations to provide training and technical assistance on issues related to AT in the lives of persons with disabilities. STAR plans to increase public awareness by enhancing Web links to include in-depth information on the four state level activities and an interactive feature providing an opportunity for individuals to contact reutilization programs, view a listing of sale items, apply online for the alternative financing program, and access information and referral services, which also are available toll-free.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Alaska

Lead Agency: Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Alaska Statewide AT Program

State Financing Activities

Alaska will have an Alternative Financing Program to provide loans to individuals with disabilities and their families for the purchase of AT by providing loan guarantees. Alaska's Statewide AT Program will administer this Assistive Technology Loan Guarantee Fund with the assistance of Northrim Bank.

Device Reutilization

The Statewide AT Program will work with the Assistive Technology Library of Alaska (ATLA), a nonprofit organization, to develop a "Swap Shop," an Internet-based equipment exchange program in which a seller can post an ad and a buyer can purchase used AT.

Device Loan

Through ATLA, Alaska's Statewide AT Program will consolidate the state's existing device loan programs into a single loan program that is monitored at a central location, creating a consortium that brings together all AT devices available for loan through one Internet-based system. This will be accomplished through agreements with a network of seven agencies or organizations across the state.

Device Demonstration

Alaska's Statewide AT Program will establish a network of device demonstration programs in conjunction with the device loan programs described above and work with independent living centers that provide device demonstrations, with hopes of establishing a network of 10 organizations involved in demonstrations. Demonstrations will also be provided the community and by using videoconferences to demonstrate the devices remotely.

State Leadership Activities

Through ATLA, Alaska's Statewide AT Program has agreements with five community-based organizations throughout the state to provide training and technical assistance about AT. ATLA will offer training via presentations, videoconferencing and the Web to those working in private industry, employment, human services, health services, education, and government. Additionally, ATLA will provide a toll-free information and referral service, a newsletter, Web site and publications about AT.

Statewide AT Program Profile: American Samoa

Lead Agency: Department of Human and Social Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: The American Samoa Assistive Technology Program

State Financing Activities

In partnership with the Development Bank of American Samoa, American Samoa will administer an AFP. The AFP will negotiate lower interest rates with the Development Bank and provide loan guarantees in the event a borrower defaults on a loan. The AT Program also plans to provide direct oversight of a revolving loan fund with a low interest rate.

Device Reutilization

The AT Program will operate the Coconut Connection Program (CCP). CCP will set up partnerships with entities using AT equipment and place ads asking those who no longer use an AT device to donate or sell the item for the purpose of reutilization. Used AT devices will be listed by category on a standard inventory list available at the AT Program and at the Development Bank of American Samoa.

Device Loan

The AT Program will partner with LBJ Tropical Medical Center and the Department of Education, Division of Special Education, to loan specialized equipment to local consumers with disabilities. The borrower will pay for shipping costs of the equipment and a rental fee will allow American Samoa to sustain the program and update equipment as needed.

Device Demonstration

The AT Program will operate a device demonstration program by partnering with several entities including the American Samoa Community College and the Department of Commerce.

State Leadership Activities

American Samoa's AT Program will use a multifaceted approach (mailings, Internet sites, exhibits, presentations and training) to increase awareness about the benefits, types and funding of AT devices and services. The AT Program will sponsor an annual conference, provide an information and referral service, distribute a newsletter, develop a Web site and disseminate training materials and publications on AT for a variety of audiences.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Arizona

Lead Agency: Northern Arizona University (NAU), Institute for Human Development (IHD)

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Arizona Technology Access Program (AzTAP)

State Financing Activities

AzTAP directly operates two state financing activities—Arizona Loans for Assistive Technology (AzLAT) and Arizona Loans for AT-Telework (AzLAT-T)—for the purchase of assistive technology. The AzLAT Consortium administers the program. Arizona MultiBank Community Development Corporation services the loans and AzLAT, through its Donor Advised Funds at the Arizona Community Foundation, will provide the loan guarantee to MultiBank in case of borrower default.

Device Reutilization

AzTAP will develop and implement an online equipment exchange program to be called the Assistive Technology Equipment Exchange (ATEX). The program will enable individuals or organizations to buy, sell, trade or donate used AT through a Web-based “want ads” format.

Device Loan

AzTAP will continue to support a short-term equipment loan program through its network of AT regional resource centers. AzTAP will expand the lending program over the next three years through a number of objectives, such as enhancing the program at AzTAP’s Phoenix office, establishing a statewide, centralized loan database available to consumers and professionals, and exploring the feasibility of adding a center in the southwest region of the state.

Device Demonstration

AzTAP currently supports device demonstration programs through its existing network of four AT regional resource centers—three independent facilities located in Phoenix, Tucson, the Navajo Reservation in Tuba City, and the fourth center on the campus of NAU in Flagstaff. Other entities provide funding for AT demo centers in Arizona; therefore, AzTAP will focus efforts on “filling the gaps” to assist individuals with AT needs across the lifespan and in any environment or for any purpose.

State Leadership Activities

AzTAP will customize training and technical assistance for individuals and organizations that request training on specific topics and continue to sponsor a collaborative, statewide AT conference each year. AzTAP will develop a quarterly newsletter, disseminate free training materials and publications, and provide a toll-free information and referral service and updated in-depth resources on the Web site.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Arkansas

Lead Agency: Department of Workforce Education, Division of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS)

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Increasing Capabilities Access Network (ICAN)

State Financing Activities

An Alternative Financing Program (AFP) and telecommunications access program (TAP) will be accomplished through comparable nonfederal resources rather than through *AT Act* funding. Both activities are statewide, comprehensive programs administered by ARS.

Device Reutilization

ICAN will operate two device reutilization programs. The Device Recycling Program will refurbish a wide range of AT devices for donation to individuals with disabilities and agencies. Equipment that is ready for distribution will be listed on ICAN's Web site and shared with individuals and agencies. Equipment Exchange is a classified ad listing of used equipment available for sale, trade or donation by consumers throughout the state. ICAN will implement a statewide campaign to expand the awareness and benefits of AT reutilization as well as the many resources available through the state AT program.

Device Loan

ICAN's AT Loan Program will accept applications for equipment loans from a person with a disability, family members, advocates or service providers. Borrowers are expected to make arrangements for pick up and drop off of the device whenever possible. Most device loans will be for a period of two weeks with the potential for extension.

Device Demonstration

ICAN will coordinate with agencies located throughout Arkansas to provide AT device demonstrations to consumers, families, students, professionals and interested others upon request and at conferences, workshops and other presentation opportunities.

State Leadership Activities

ICAN will collaborate with the State Department of Education to cosponsor training to increase the knowledge, skills and competency of educators, therapists and others in the public school system. ICAN will respond to requests for technical assistance and provide a toll-free information and referral service on AT for people of all ages with all disabilities. Additional planned activities include: a Web site featuring in-depth program information, training materials and publications, a quarterly newsletter, promotion of a statewide AT conference and presentations to targeted populations.

Statewide AT Program Profile: California

Lead Agency: State of California Division of Rehabilitation (DOR)

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: California Assistive Technology Systems (CATS) Program

State Financing Activities

An Alternative Financing Program (AFP) will be accomplished through comparable nonfederal resources rather than through *AT Act* funding. The state of California will offer low-interest, guaranteed loans to finance AT or modified transportation through the Assistive Technology and Modified Transportation Loan Guarantee Program (LGP). LGP will be carried out in collaboration with one or more lenders.

Device Reutilization

CATS will develop a workgroup to research effective reutilization programs within the state. After completing this research, CATS will begin implementing a device reutilization program in the second year of the State Plan. By the third year of the plan, CATS plans to have a device reutilization program fully implemented.

Device Loan

CATS currently does not support a device loan program. In year one of the State Plan, CATS will identify entities within California that have device loan programs and develop a workgroup. After completing this research, CATS will begin implementing a device loan program in the second year of the State Plan. By the third year of the plan, CATS plans to have a device loan program fully implemented.

Device Demonstration

California will not use *AT Act* funds to support demonstration centers. California has 29 independent living centers (ILCs) that currently receive funding from the state to operate demonstration centers. CATS will conduct outreach and education to identify additional device demonstration programs throughout California.

State Leadership Activities

The CATS program will develop and conduct training to targeted entities, such as training opportunities on AT to staff at one-stop centers. CATS will continue to provide a toll-free information and referral service and enhance AT awareness through the use of public service announcements (PSAs) on television and radio stations, advertisement banners and information kiosks in various offices. Issue briefs and informational articles regarding AT will also be disseminated throughout the state to increase awareness.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Colorado

Lead Agency: University of Colorado Health Science Center (UCHSC), Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Colorado Assistive Technology Partners (ATP)

State Financing Activities

Colorado Assistive Technology Partners (ATP) will conduct a feasibility study for developing an Alternative Financing Program (AFP). Colorado will also create an accessible, statewide online database that will quickly enable individuals with disabilities to determine how and where they should proceed to secure adequate funding to meet AT device and service needs.

Device Reutilization

Colorado will offer an AT device exchange program through a Web-enabled storefront. People who want to donate or sell a device will post the item on the Web site. Those who want to buy used AT products will be able to view the devices available on the Web site. The exchange program will assist individuals to acquire AT devices at a discount or for free.

Device Loan

ATP will create the AT Device Loan Bank, an online, fully accessible, Web-enabled catalog for persons with disabilities, family members and professionals to identify the AT items available in the statewide loan bank and to check out devices for trial usage. Persons can borrow the devices for up to two weeks, with possible extension of the loan term if the device is not needed by someone else.

Device Demonstration

Colorado's device demonstration program will operate closely with the AT Device Loan Bank program. ATP will conduct monthly open houses that focus on a particular type of equipment, such as AT for early childhood development. Staff will travel throughout the state to trade shows, conferences, schools, vocational rehabilitation offices and other locations to demonstrate a wide variety of technology, provide information and increase public awareness. The program will conduct a minimum of 30 device demonstration events each year.

State Leadership Activities:

ATP hosts an annual Rocky Mountain Regional Collaborative Conference in partnership with Statewide AT programs from New Mexico, Wyoming, Arizona, Utah and Nebraska. Colorado provides a toll-free information and referral service, a newsletter available in electronic and print, a Web site and informational publications and brochures on AT.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Connecticut

Lead Agency: Department of Social Services (DSS), Bureau of Rehabilitation Services

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Connecticut *AT Act* Program

State Financing Activities

The State AT program will operate the Connecticut *Tech Act* Loan Fund (CTALF) in partnership with People's Bank and selected nonprofit organizations. While loan payment periods will not exceed five years, low interest rates will establish monthly payments within 50 percent of an applicant's discretionary income. Plans are underway to lengthen the allowable payment period for individuals and open the loan fund to employers to borrow funds for work related equipment.

Device Reutilization

The New England Assistive Technology (NEAT) Marketplace will operate the Connecticut Equipment Restoration Center (ERC). Individuals and organizations can make tax-deductible donations of durable medical equipment (DME) and other assistive technology to NEAT. Certified technicians on staff at the ERC will restore the equipment so it is available to the end user at significantly reduced prices. An additional site to increase capacity is planned.

Device Loan

NEAT will operate an AT lending library that enables professional members to borrow and take items to their facility or to their client's home for trial to determine the correct piece of equipment that will meet the needs of the individual. Connecticut plans to establish a Web-based marketplace to access AT available for loan. The device loan program will be enhanced by coordinating with additional organizations throughout the state that target loans to individuals with disabilities.

Device Demonstration

The NEAT Demonstration Center will provide information and hands-on experience with a wide variety of assistive technology devices. The state program plans to create additional capacity for demonstrating AT by soliciting proposals from existing networks to add another comprehensive demonstration site and a demonstration equipment replacement plan to assure retiring of inventory and new technology in the program.

State Leadership Activities

Connecticut's AT program plans to develop informal networks for training and technical assistance. Peer networks will be established through partnering with consumer organizations to enhance training opportunities. Training and technical assistance teams will be created to offer expertise relative to the integration of technology in the specified domains of education, employment, telecommunication and community living. Connecticut will provide a toll-free information and referral service, distribute a quarterly newsletter and incorporate Web-based applications into the statewide AT program.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Delaware

Lead Agency: University of Delaware, Center for Applied Science and Engineering

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative (DATI)

State Financing Activities

DATI will conduct two state financing activities—the Delaware Assistive Technology Loan Program (DATLP) and the Delaware Telework Equipment Loan Program (DTELP). Following finalization of the contract with a lending partner, the program will feature a customized approach to lending, including the availability of guarantees and interest subsidies when necessary.

Device Reutilization

DATI will administer an AT Exchange Program (ATEX) that enables individuals to buy, sell or give away used AT through Web-based “want ads.” DATI will work in collaboration with Delaware Medicaid to explore the viability of a program that would reclaim and repurpose equipment no longer needed by the original recipients. The AT Exchange also plans to implement a feedback capability that will allow program staff to follow up with users of the system.

Device Loan

DATI will operate a device loan program through its network of three AT Resource Centers (ATRCs). The statewide inventory includes over 1,400 augmentative communication devices, aids for daily living, sensory aids, etc. Persons with disabilities and service providers who want to learn how to use the AT or wish to try it out can go online and select devices organized into 20 categories with the option of contacting the nearest ATRC loan closet to discuss arrangements for borrowing a device.

Device Demonstration

DATI’s demonstration program will operate in conjunction with its existing three ATRC loan programs. All equipment in the inventory will be available for demonstration and resident AT specialists are skilled at assisting consumers, family members and disability-related organizations to become more informed as to the devices that might work for them.

State Leadership Activities

DATI will develop numerous training modules—ranging from two-hour sessions to a training series spanning several days—for specific audiences and on specific AT topics. DATI will increase awareness of AT through a quarterly newsletter, *The AT Messenger*; a toll-free information and referral service; Web site; community events; statewide conferences; and training materials and publications on AT that will also be made available in Spanish.

Statewide AT Program Profile: District of Columbia

Lead Agency: Department of Human Services, Rehabilitation Services Administration

Implementing Entity: D.C. University Legal Services

Program Title: Assistive Technology Program for the District of Columbia (ATPDC)

State Financing Activities

ATPDC will provide an AT Financial Loan Program (ATFLP) to individuals with disabilities and their families for the purchase of AT devices and services. City First Bank of D.C. will administer the loan program in partnership with ATPDC, which will make loan guarantees. Persons with disabilities and family members may apply for a loan directly with City First Bank of D.C. or the ATPDC.

Device Reutilization

ATPDC will partner with the District of Columbia Center for Independent Living (DCCIL) to expand its durable medical equipment (DME) recycling program and initiate an equipment exchange program. Individuals with disabilities will be able to access the recycling program on ATPDC's Web site, which will provide information about where and how to obtain equipment, how to make donations, and a real time inventory of available AT. ATPDC will also establish a Web page for an equipment exchange program that will solicit used devices through disability organizations by linking individuals who wish to sell or donate used AT with others who want to acquire items.

Device Loan

ATPDC will operate the Assistive Technology Equipment Lending Program (ATELP) through the D.C. Assistive Technology Resource Center. ATELP has an inventory of over 300 AT devices and the program enables all individuals with disabilities to try out and borrow equipment for a specific time period without any cost.

Device Demonstration

ATPDC will operate the District of Columbia Assistive Technology Resource Center (DCATRC), a facility where consumers, family members, employers, educators and service providers explore, experience and compare the usefulness of various types of AT equipment, discuss applications and learn about related services. DCATRC will host special "AT dedicated days" that focus on devices that address specific disabilities.

State Leadership Activities

ATPDC is planning a training and technical assistance project in cooperation with the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) to establish small AT resource centers within one elementary school and one high school. ATPDC's information and referral service mails materials on the benefits and cost of AT devices and services; the Web site contains resources, a semi-annual newsletter and free publications; and the program's "Creative Solutions for Living" video features minorities in an urban environment using AT in settings such as home, work, school and recreation.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Florida

Lead Agency: Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehab.

Implementing Entity: Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology (FAAST)

Program Title: N/A

State Financing Activities

FAAST administers two loan programs that provide individuals with disabilities and their family representatives an opportunity to purchase AT. The Alternative Financing Program established under Title III provides loan guarantees and the Access to Telework Program provides guaranteed loans for the purchase of equipment and modifications needed to set up a home-based business or to work from home for an employer.

Device Reutilization

FAAST will expand its partnership with the Florida Association of Centers of Independent Living and Florida Independent Living Council (FILC) by adding to existing device reutilization programs run by each center for independent living (CIL). FAAST also will expand its Web site to include a section on device reutilization that will be accessed by the CILs to enter in the inventory of their programs. Consumers will be able to use the Web site to complete a form requesting equipment. FAAST also plans to include public and private partners and funding sources as a means for inventory.

Device Loan

FAAST plans to operate an equipment loan program that will serve the entire state. The bulk of the inventory will be maintained in and distributed from a central location. Each of the FAAST Regional Demonstration Centers will also maintain an inventory of devices that can be loaned to consumers at the local level. FAAST will market the loan program through a Web-based inventory of AT devices that will be accessible to anyone. FAAST will also produce a catalogue available in print and updated quarterly for appropriate community partners to access AT equipment.

Device Demonstration

FAAST maintains regional demonstration centers in four areas of the state. In the next year, a new regional demonstration center will be developed in Orlando to better serve the central region of Florida. Each site will conduct formal device demonstrations by a vendor or manufacturer for the community every quarter.

State Leadership Activities

FAAST works with its strategic partners to develop specific training content for consumers and professionals, which typically occur as part of annual conferences and statewide training programs. It is also developing a series of technical assistance manuals for Floridians with disabilities as well as service providers. FAAST public awareness activities includes a toll-free information and referral service, Web site information, resource libraries, exhibits, public forums, and *FAAST Access Magazine* that is distributed to 4,000 individuals and businesses, including state agencies.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Georgia

Lead Agency: Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL),

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Tools For Life (TFL)

State Financing Activities

Tools for Life will support CreditAble, Georgia's Alternative Financing Program (AFP), to provide guaranteed loans to individuals with disabilities and their families for the purchase of AT devices and services. TFL will work with organizations such as TechAble, the Getting Ahead Association, and the Assistive Technology Resource Centers (ATRCs) to expand CreditAble and ensure that individuals with disabilities are referred appropriately between programs in order to try out devices before they take out loans to purchase AT. TFL will also research the possibility of developing an AT Co-Op.

Device Reutilization

TFL will conduct two device reuse activities—the ReBoot Computer Reutilization Project and G-Trade, an online AT equipment exchange program. G-Trade allows individuals to buy, sell or give away used AT through “want ads.” ReBoot acquires equipment, evaluates and repairs it, loads licensed software, distributes and provides computer training. Every region of Georgia is served by ReBoot, a collaborative effort operated by people with disabilities for people with disabilities.

Device Loan

The Tools for Life AT Loan Library program will ship a device to any location in the state. The length of device loan is two to four weeks with the possibility of extension. TFL will contract for ATRC services with Disability Connections, TechAble, Touch the Future, and Walton Options. Tools for Life will collaborate with the network of ATRCs to grow the AT Loan Library Program.

Device Demonstration

TFL will contract with a network of Assistive Technology Resource Centers (ATRCs) to conduct device demonstrations across the state. Each center will stock a core set of devices for demonstration. TFL will ensure the needs of individuals are met by annually evaluating the comprehensiveness of the AT device demonstration programs with regard to type of equipment and audiences reached.

State Leadership Activities

Training will be developed to include information about TFL programs, AT resources and AT funding strategies. TFL will increase awareness about the benefits of AT through a toll-free information and referral service, an in-depth Web site featuring the development of a quarterly newsletter, bi-annual statewide conferences, and training materials and publications provided free of charge.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Guam

Lead Agency: University of Guam, Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT)

State Financing Activities

GSAT will operate an Alternative Financing Program (AFP) and an Access to Telework Loan Program. Guam Options for Alternative Loans-Assistive Technology (GOAL-AT) Program assists citizens with disabilities by providing loan guarantees to secure the technology they need to increase independence and improve their quality of life. The Pacific Islands Microcredit Institute (PIMI) will serve as the community-based organization and the Bank of Guam will serve as the lending institution to support the loan program. The Get Guam Teleworking (GGT) Program will provide no or low interest loans for teleworking to residents of Guam with disabilities.

Device Reutilization

GSAT will maintain a device reutilization program that accepts used equipment and, if cost-effective, repairs it. Then the item will be put on sale at the GSAT Demonstration and Recycling Center. The AT device will be sold at the cost of repair (materials and labor) on a first-come first-served basis.

Device Loan

GSAT's device loan program will offer loans of AT equipment available at the GSAT Center for a free, one-month trial use. The program assists consumers to make an informed choice by providing the opportunity to try and practice a device in an appropriate setting.

Device Demonstration

GSAT will conduct monthly demonstrations focusing on specific AT devices at the Demonstration and Recycling Center in addition to working collaboratively with disability and health related agencies to enhance participation in conferences, employer job fairs and other AT activities. The program plans to coordinate annual demonstrations to all employees at each public school in Guam; to senior citizens and employees at each Senior Citizen Center; and to teachers, students and all employees at the University of Guam and the Guam Community College.

State Leadership Activities

GSAT conducts regular training and technical assistance on the selection, use and acquisition of AT devices and services. The program plans activities such as establishing contracts to provide training to vocational rehabilitation counselors and staff at one-stop career centers. GSAT offers free information and referral services, disseminates training materials and publications that cover AT, and plans to redevelop a Web site in collaboration with the University of Guam as well as include AT-related information and resources in the university's quarterly newsletter.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Hawaii

Lead Agency: Department of Human Services, Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind Division

Implementing Entity: Assistive Technology Resource Centers of Hawaii (ATRC)

Program Title: N/A

State Financing Activities

ATRC, working with American Savings Bank (ASB) of Hawaii, supports the Hawaii Assistive Technology (HAT) Loan Program to offer Hawaii residents low-interest loans at affordable terms to acquire AT devices and services that enhance independence in the home, workplace and community. The HAT Loan Program funds are used to guarantee the money borrowed through ASB.

Device Reutilization

ATRC plans to create a Computer Redistribution Program and an AT Equipment Relocation Program to carry out device reutilization activities. The computer systems redistribution will be stocked by donated computers from Hawaii businesses and other sources and made ready for free distribution to persons with disabilities. The Equipment Relocation Program will bring together buyers and sellers of AT in the state of Hawaii and will be administered at both the physical location of ATRC offices and through an online portal designed to provide statewide accessibility.

Device Loan

ATRC plans to create an “AT Depot” device loan program that provides a short-term loan of AT devices and other education materials such as AT videos and publications. These short-term loans allow for the use of a trial device for assessment and evaluation and a temporary device for use while a primary device is repaired or maintained. The AT Depot will be administered through four physical locations—at the ATRC office and at partner agency locations on the islands of Maui, Kauai and Hawaii.

Device Demonstration

ATRC plans to provide device demonstration centers throughout the state, at the main ATRC office and on the neighbor islands of Maui, Kauai and Hawaii. The primary goal of the demonstration centers is to provide an opportunity for consumers to learn about AT devices and try them out.

State Leadership Activities

ATRC plans to provide training activities through conferences such as the Tools for Life Hawaii Expo, scheduled workshops, and open training sessions. Technical assistance will continue to be provided in coordination with the Pacific ADA and IT Center. ATRC will provide a toll-free information and referral service; *The Reacher*, a biannual newsletter; *The Kupuna Guide*—AT daily living geared for the *kupuna* or senior population in Hawaii; and a Web site, including a one-stop database of links to resources.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Idaho

Lead Agency: University of Idaho, Center on Disabilities and Human Development

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Idaho Assistive Technology Project (IATP)

State Financing Activities

IATP will operate the Idaho Assistive Technology Loan Fund which offers loan guarantees and interest subsidies to provide financial loans for the purchase of AT. IATP will administer the fund while sharing responsibilities with three other entities: Zions First National Bank, Key Bank of Idaho, and Idaho Community Foundation.

Device Reutilization

IATP will develop a fully accessible Web-based equipment exchange program to increase the availability of used AT devices for persons with disabilities. An individual no longer in need of an AT device who wants to sell or give the device away can contact IATP through the Web site or existing toll-free telephone line and request to post an ad.

Device Loan

Through partnerships and its own regional AT Center, IATP will support a number of AT device loan programs. It will support seven Hearing Assistance Centers operated by the Idaho Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing that loan hearing assistance equipment. It will also support the Equipment Lending Library at United Cerebral Palsy (UCP), the only statewide, short-term AT and developmental toy loan program in the state of Idaho. UCP staff assists with the selection of appropriate device and toys, which are shipped statewide at no cost.

Device Demonstration

IATP will operate an AT demonstration program by assisting and supporting three regional AT Centers, seven Hearing Assistance Centers, and a network of Assistive Technology Practitioners (ATPs) who will lend their expertise and guide individuals through a comparison of devices.

State Leadership Activities

IATP maintains a full-time training coordinator, an information and public awareness specialist, and a project director, all of whom deliver AT training and technical assistance throughout the year. The project will also collaborate with three regional centers and the network of ATPs to conduct statewide training on a variety of AT-related topics. The toll-free IDA-Tech provides an information and referral service on AT for people of all ages with all disabilities. IATP's Web site, training materials and publications, and quarterly newsletter, *The Spud Tech*, disseminates information on the benefits of AT.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Illinois

Lead Agency: Department of Human Service (DHS), Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)

Implementing Entity: Illinois Assistive Technology Program (IATP)

Program Title: N/A

State Financing Activities

IATP will implement a statewide Alternative Financing Program (AFP) and Access to Telework Loan Program. The AFP will offer low-interest rates, extended repayment plans, buy-downs of principal or relaxed credit standards so those who would otherwise not qualify for a loan have a chance to finance needed AT. The Telework Program also offers low-interest loans, loan guarantees and interest buy-downs that allow persons with disabilities to borrow money to obtain equipment, AT, and home modifications needed for self-employment or telework.

Device Reutilization

IATP's reutilization program, AT Classifieds, is designed as an accessible online AT exchange that will assist consumers of AT to buy, sell or donate pieces of used AT equipment. It also will be available in print form and a listing of used AT equipment will be periodically published in IATP's newsletter.

Device Loan

IATP's AT Device Loan Program is the only free, statewide device loan program available in Illinois. There are currently 991 devices in IATP's inventory. The devices are assembled and shipped out to the borrower anywhere in the state. The expense to ship AT to a borrower is covered by the program. Return shipping expenses are the responsibility of the borrower. The equipment is available for short-term loans that range from four to six weeks. A loan period can be extended if no one is waiting for a particular device.

Device Demonstration

IATP will operate an AT Device Demonstration Center in Springfield, Ill., which contains an accessible kitchen and bathroom and other "rooms" featuring workplace technologies, sensory aids, adapted toys and switches, aids for daily living, and augmentative communication devices. If an individual or group is unable to travel to the center, IATP staff will pack up and transport AT devices to another location to conduct an off-site demonstration to assist a person to make an informed choice.

State Leadership Activities

IATP will offer AT training programs on a statewide basis and work with public and private agencies to customize workshops to meet AT needs in early intervention, education, employment and community living. IATP also has various training materials—from print to accessible DVDs—that will be shared with targeted audiences and by request.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Indiana

Lead Agency: Division of Disability, Aging, and Rehabilitative Services

Implementing Entity: Assistive Technology Through Action in Indiana (Attain)

Program Title: N/A

State Financing Activities

Attain provides loans to individuals with disabilities for the purchase of AT devices and services through Attain-a-Loan, a low-interest, extended-term alternative financing loan program.

Attain's partnership with Fifth Third Bank, with locations across the state, offers loans that range between \$500 and \$5,000. Attain will often guarantee loans for those who would not be eligible for conventional bank loans.

Device Reutilization

The Attain-a-Computer program and the Equipment Exchange Network assist in the sale, purchase, trade or donation of used AT devices. Anyone can contact Attain toll-free or via Web site to sell, give away or buy a used AT device through the Equipment Exchange Network.

Through the Attain-a-Computer program donated computers will be refurbished and provided at no cost to qualified persons with disabilities.

Device Loan

Attain will operate a short-term Equipment Loan Program providing individuals with disabilities the opportunity to request up to three devices at any one time. The length of the device loan is four to six weeks with a possible extension. In order to maintain and expand its loan program, Attain may charge rental fees based on a sliding scale.

Device Demonstration

Attain will identify and develop regional demonstration centers through a network of partners with AT knowledge. Partner sites will store essential equipment and host demonstration events. Attain's qualified staff may demonstrate a number of available devices and work with the individual or family to gain access to a device through Attain's short-term Equipment Loan Program. Training on how to use a device is also provided to the consumer.

State Leadership Activities

Training sessions will occur throughout the year and a schedule will be published in the quarterly newsletter and on Attain's Web site and will be announced in other agency newsletters and outreach efforts. Training materials and publications that cover AT information will be developed and disseminated and consumers can access a toll-free statewide information and referral service on a wide range of specific issues for people of all ages with all disabilities.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Iowa

Lead Agency: University of Iowa, Center for Disabilities and Development (CDD)

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Iowa Program for Assistive Technology (IPAT)

State Financing Activities

Iowa's Alternative Financing Program (AFP), the Iowa Able Foundation, will provide loans to people with disabilities and their families for the purchase of AT devices and services. In addition to the guarantee, the Iowa Able Foundation offers other flexible options such as a reduced interest rate and longer loan terms with smaller payments. IPAT contracts with the State Public Policy Group to staff and provide programmatic support to the Iowa Able Foundation Advisory Board, which uses funds to subcontract with a nonprofit organization, the Abilities Fund, to operate the AFP. Abilities Fund also operates a Telework grant program that issues loans to persons with disabilities to purchase computers and other equipment needed to work from home.

Device Reutilization

IPAT will directly administer a Used Equipment Referral Service (UERS), which is a free service that operates like a newspaper "want ad" and lists used devices for sale by consumers and AT vendors. IPAT is also the primary financial supporter for Easter Seals Iowa Equipment Services, a device recycling program that accepts donated used devices from across the state, cleans and refurbishes the AT, and provides long-term loans to individuals who would not otherwise be able to acquire the needed device. In addition, Iowa will continue to maintain a comprehensive listing of all the device reutilization and recycling programs in Iowa and neighboring states (approximately 218 programs).

Device Loan

IPAT will directly administer the augmentative communication device and software loan program out of the Disability Resource Library (DRL). IPAT plans to collaborate and contract with community agencies to pilot three device loan programs that will enhance statewide capacity and increase the inventory available for loans.

Device Demonstration

IPAT will continue to contract with the Department for the Blind to operate its device demonstration program, a free program available to people with visual impairments. IPAT will work with three device loan pilot programs and implement comprehensive device demonstrations in the communities of the programs.

State Leadership Activities

IPAT will engage in a number of activities such as maintaining a contract with the Department of Education to provide training and technical assistance to all the area education agencies (AEA) AT liaisons and teachers across the state of Iowa. Information and referral is provided by Iowa COMPASS, a toll-free, statewide information and referral service that is also accessible via e-mail and the Web.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Kansas

Lead Agency: Kansas University Center of Developmental Disabilities,

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK)

State Financing Activities

ATK will conduct four state financing activities. It will work with the Kansas Assistive Technology Cooperative (KATCO) to operate an Alternative Financing Program to assist persons to acquire AT and to operate the Kansas Telework Loan Program to support working from remote locations. KATCO works with Kansas financial institutions to offer a reduced interest, extended payback period, financial loan program. Additionally, ATK will provide case management by AT funding specialists to assist consumers in acquiring AT and it will determine eligibility and equipment justification services for its Telecommunications Access Program (TAP).

Device Reutilization

ATK will offer three reutilization activities: (1) The Kansas Equipment Exchange (KEE) Program, which will operate in conjunction with Kansas Medicaid Policy and Kansas University to track equipment purchases, affix an electronic tracking code on new equipment, and maintain a real-time database of KEE inventory. Equipment no longer needed by the Medicaid beneficiaries is returned to the program so that it can be refurbished and reused by a new consumer. (2) The ATK equipment reutilization program for expensive technology that does not meet the definition of durable medical equipment (DME) required by the KEE Program. This small reutilization program for expensive equipment, therefore, will focus on devices that are not medical in nature and therefore would not be purchased or tracked by Medicaid. (3) Kansas will operate ATMATCH.com, an AT auction site available to persons throughout the country who have access to the Internet and wish to buy, sell or donate assistive technology.

Device Loan

ATK will operate a short-term AT equipment loan program known as the Statewide Interagency Equipment Loan System. The length of the device loan is four weeks; a rental fee and shipping costs will be assessed for each item based on a sliding scale.

Device Demonstration

ATK staff will provide demonstrations to individuals and small groups at regional AT Access Sites and at off-site locations such as schools, homes and worksites. ATK plans to expand the demonstration equipment inventory at the regional AT Access Sites and at the Statewide Interagency Equipment Loan System.

State Leadership Activities

The toll-free KAN DO-IT line offers a free information and referral service on AT. The Web site provides resources and an opportunity to directly contact ATK programs. Training materials and publications on a broad array of AT related issues are available free of charge in any requested alternative format.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Kentucky

Lead Agency: Office for the Blind

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Kentucky Assistive Technology Service (KATS) Network

State Financing Activities

The KATS Network provides technical support to the Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC), an Alternative Financing Program that partners with Fifth Third Bank to provide a low-interest loan program bolstered by loan guarantees. Loans provided through KATLC help consumers obtain devices by providing specially structured loan funds at an affordable interest rate so they can purchase their own AT.

Device Reutilization

Three primary recycling efforts are planned by the KATS Network for continuing operation and targeted expansion in Kentucky: the Assistive Technology Exchange List (ATEX), New Life Computers, and the Assistive Technology Resource Centers (ATRC) Recycling Program. The ATEX is a listing of assistive devices available on the KATS Web site that are offered for sale or donated by and for consumers. New Life Computers is a Kentucky affiliate of the National Cristina Foundation (NCF) initiative, a collaborative effort to provide recycled computers for persons with disabilities. The ATRC Recycling Program will provide used AT and locally refurbished computer units.

Device Loan

The ATRCs will conduct a device loan program enabling consumers to borrow AT devices for 30-day trial periods. Extended loans for a period up to six months may be provided depending on the availability of the equipment. KATS will work to increase awareness, expand inventory, and coordinate uniform policy and procedures statewide.

Device Demonstration

The KATS Network plans to deliver a device demonstration program primarily through contracts with the regional AT Resource Centers. Each ATRC will maintain a wide array of AT devices for demonstration, which include individual and group activities designed to explore a range of available AT devices, individual consultations to support appropriate device selection, and individual or group training to support appropriate usage of a specific device.

State Leadership Activities

The network will provide training and technical assistance through its coordinating center and regional ATRCs to individual consumers, professionals, groups and organizations. Activities include technical assistance provided as part of the Accessible Information Technology In Schools (AITIS) project and special outreach efforts to consumer organizations such as the Kentucky Business Leadership Network. KATS plans to increase public awareness by continuing to develop and disseminate training materials and publications on AT in print and accessible formats, an in-depth Web site, e-mail lists and listserv distribution, and a toll-free information and referral service.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Louisiana

Lead Agency: Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH)

Implementing Entity: Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network (LATAN)

Program Title: N/A

State Financing Activities

LATAN will operate a reduced-interest, fixed-rate, extended term alternative financing program. Loan applications are available online, by a statewide toll-free number, in LATAN's office, at all Regions Bank offices, and at various agencies across the state of Louisiana.

Device Reutilization

LATAN plans to implement two reutilization programs—computer recycling and a used equipment exchange online database. LATAN will continue to operate a low-cost computer ReBoot program, partnering with the Georgia AT Program to deliver rebuilt computer systems to the doors of Louisiana consumers with disabilities. It will also develop a statewide database of devices listed on the AT Exchange that will be available for little or no cost and will also provide a link to ATMATCH.com, an Internet-based service available to anyone from a participating state.

Device Loan

Because it does not currently operate a device loan program, LATAN will explore models used by other states, determine partners and resources needed based on exploration, and develop a plan for implementation. LATAN envisions coordinating the activities of existing loan programs and filling in the gaps for a statewide, comprehensive program.

Device Demonstration

Based on what is learned from looking at demonstration program models in other states, LATAN will set up a pilot center in the northwest region of the state, a previously underserved area. In addition, LATAN will work to coordinate and collaborate with existing device demonstration resources throughout Louisiana.

State Leadership Activities

LATAN developed an “Assistive Technology for Aging in Place” training module targeted for older individuals, their caregivers and service providers. Technical assistance includes assisting with the development of AT services in waiver programs for long-term care. LATAN offers public awareness activities through presentations, exhibits and public service announcements (PSAs). People of all ages with all disabilities can benefit from LATAN's toll-free information and referral service. Resources are also updated through *G.R.E.A.T. possibilities*, a quarterly newsletter, a Web site, and publications about AT.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Maine

Lead Agency: Department of Education, Office of Special Services

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Maine Consumer Information and Technology Training Exchange
(MaineCITE)

State Financing Activities

Maine will conduct a one-year study to determine the feasibility of operating a state financing system that would complement Maine's existing state funded low-interest, revolving loan fund called "mPower." The study also will address bulk purchasing or leasing and identification of systemic ways to subsidize acquisition of AT devices and services.

Device Reutilization

Maine currently has a patchwork of existing equipment exchange programs that offer AT devices for sale or loan. Over three years, Maine will create a statewide reutilization program that includes a Web-based database of all items for sale or loan and explore ways to set up a statewide device delivery system. The state may also participate in a national online auction program to augment its own statewide database.

Device Loan

The state supports a short-term device loan program through Husson College in Bangor. This center and two satellite sites allow individuals with disabilities to borrow equipment for up to two weeks, with potential renewals. Over the next three years this program will be expanded to offer services statewide.

Device Demonstration

Maine supports a Technical Exploration Center that conducts AT demonstrations and provides information about devices. Student occupational therapists and physical therapists from Husson College and the University of Maine's Disability Studies program volunteer at the center. Other sites in the state specialize in technology used by people with particular disabilities. The state's broadband videoconferencing and Web-based statewide networks will host demonstrations in efforts to reach more people who live in rural areas.

State Leadership Activities

Maine will use the statewide distance learning network to deliver professional training to vocational rehabilitation counselors, care givers and case managers on various subjects related to AT. The statewide AT Program will also host a Web site, develop publications and exhibit low-tech devices at statewide conferences and senior expos to inform the public about AT.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Maryland

Lead Agency: Department of Disabilities

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Maryland Technology Assistance Program (MD TAP)

State Financing Activities

Maryland will operate six projects that help people with disabilities obtain AT for permanent use. It will provide low-interest loans through its AT Guaranteed Loan Program and Telework and Self-Employment Loan Program. It will support a private AT Co-op that provides discounts on AT products through a buying cooperative. It will help provide free wheelchair ramps through a construction project, communication devices and evaluations to nursing home residents moving into the community, and emergency notification systems to citizens who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Device Reutilization

Maryland will recycle durable medical equipment and provide these items to Medicaid recipients and other individuals with disabilities who have low incomes and are uninsured or underinsured. By providing used rather than new equipment, the state Medicaid program will save funds, while surplus equipment (i.e., those devices not needed by Medicare recipients) will be distributed to other individuals who could not afford to buy it. Maryland will also establish an equipment exchange program to provide online classified ads and an Internet auction site for those who either want to buy or sell AT.

Device Loan

Maryland will lend AT devices through a network of five regionally located lending centers. Items for loan include augmentative communication devices, electronic enlarging systems, computer access devices, electronic note takers and much more.

Device Demonstration

Five AT demonstration sites will be located throughout the state to allow for individuals with disabilities to receive information and try out a variety of AT that may meet their needs. Additional demonstrations are provided off-site when individuals are unable to travel to a demonstration center and for group presentations.

State Leadership Activities

MD TAP will provide a series of workshops on a variety of topics relevant to AT, including working with the Division of Rehabilitation Services to jointly provide training for recipients of adapted telephones and telecommunication devices. It will provide technical assistance for implementation of the state's information technology nonvisual access policy as well as collaborate with the Department of Education to evaluate and promote broad-scale deployment of text readers. Public awareness activities include a toll-free information and referral service; a Web site; *Tapping Technology*, a quarterly newsletter; resource fairs and conferences; and training materials and publications on AT.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Massachusetts

Lead Agency: Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, Community Services

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Massachusetts Assistive Technology Act Program (MA ATAP)

State Financing Activities

Massachusetts will support a Home Modification Loan Program, a state-funded revolving loan fund that provides financial loans up to \$25,000 for home modifications. It also has an Alternative Financing Program that provides lower interest loans and guarantees for loans for people purchasing assistive technology. Massachusetts partners with Easter Seals of Massachusetts and Sovereign Bank to provide these loans. Massachusetts expects to also offer mini-loans for borrowers to purchase AT devices under \$500 and thus expand the use of AT by those who need access to low-cost, low technology devices.

Device Reutilization

At present there are several local community-based organizations that provide device reutilization programs. Over the next three years, Massachusetts will create a statewide collaborative network of these programs that is universally accessible to all state residents.

Device Loan

Responding to consumer needs for a short-term device loan program, Massachusetts will create a statewide Device Loan Program over the next three years. Currently there are several local and regionally based device loan programs. Massachusetts will seek to partner with these existing programs to expand the eligibility and geographic service areas.

Device Demonstration

Regional centers will be created and staffed with expert AT specialists to provide equipment demonstrations on a variety of AT devices. Three to five demonstration centers will be opened. These centers will also be access sites for some of the device loan programs. For telecommunications access, regional centers will coordinate with Verizon Specialized Telephone Equipment Demonstration Centers. Massachusetts will also support a small network of peer AT trainers to provide technical support to individuals new to using AT.

State Leadership Activities

Each year Massachusetts will host two regional AT Expositions to increase public awareness. It will also host teleconferences to develop the skills of AT professionals.

It will also host an Internet-based listserv that will serve as a “virtual” community for AT consumers, providers, advocates, educators and others in which they will be able to share information, ask questions, provide comments or engage in discussions related to AT.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Michigan

Lead Agency: Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG), Michigan Rehabilitation Services

Implementing Entity: Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (MDRC)

Program Title: Michigan Assistive Technology Project

State Financing Activities

Michigan will operate the Michigan AT Loan Fund to provide low interest loans to people with disabilities so they can purchase AT. Michigan Disability Rights Coalition will partner with United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan and the Financial Health Credit Union to operate this program. These same partners operate the Michigan Telework Loan Fund, which provides loans for the purchase of equipment for people with disabilities to work at home or operate home businesses.

Device Reutilization

Michigan will administer the AT Xchange (ATX) for individuals with an AT device wishing to either sell or give it away. The ATX is a Web site ad service that connects buyers and sellers of devices. In addition, Michigan will link to a national online auction site specifically designed for AT devices, thus providing expanded options for individuals who are interested in buying or selling devices.

Device Loan

Michigan's program will not directly provide devices, because there are other programs in the state providing this service. Initial surveys of consumers indicated that there does not appear to be a need for a new device loan program. Michigan's program includes public awareness activities to help citizens find existing device loan programs.

Device Demonstration

Michigan has several independent AT device demonstration centers. Over the next three years, Michigan will increase the number of people reached through demonstrations of AT in the state through the support of local device demonstrations in underserved regions.

State Leadership Activities

Michigan's program will develop a system to subcontract with consumer-directed local groups and organizations to provide technical assistance statewide. The program participates in the state's Youth Leadership Forum, which concentrates on supporting youth activities that promote access to AT and provide training on AT issues. Michigan is also part of the E-learnability community and supplies resources and training modules to this community. The program will provide *AT Connections*, an e-mail-based newsletter published 10 times a year on Michigan AT activities; coordination and collaboration on statewide issues; and a Web site. In partnership with local groups, Michigan will also provide a toll-free information and referral service, information through presentations at conferences, and collaboration on publications and training materials about AT.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Minnesota

Lead Agency: Department of Administration

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Minnesota STAR Program

State Financing Activities

STAR will not directly support a state financing activity. Minnesota has an Alternative Financing Program (AFP) operated by the community-based organization, Assistive Technology Minnesota (ATMn*), which is comprehensive and operating statewide.

Device Reutilization

Over the next three years, STAR will establish a collaborative network of existing device reutilization programs at other agencies and organizations. It will also establish a Web-based equipment exchange want ad service to assist those who want to buy and sell used AT devices.

Device Loan

During the next three years, STAR will work to form a collaborative between existing device loan programs in the state and create new programs in underserved regions of the state. STAR will contact a cooperative buying program currently in existence in the state to see if it is possible for STAR's subcontractors to purchase AT through the program.

Device Demonstration

STAR supports device demonstrations to meet the needs of consumers through a collaborative of AT centers. It has a number of devices that it demonstrates at conferences, public information fairs, workshops, public libraries, senior centers, museums and shopping malls. STAR will also conduct demonstrations at Workforce Centers.

State Leadership Activities

STAR will provide information and referral to professionals and consumers. It will publish a quarterly newsletter and host a Web site. It will also update its "Directory of Funding Resources for AT in Minnesota." STAR is a member of the Department of Education AT Leadership Team that plans statewide professional development activities. STAR will provide AT training and technical assistance for state employees, AT professionals, employers and consumers.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Mississippi

Lead Agency: Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Project START (Success Through Assistive Rehabilitation Technology)

State Financing Activities

During the first year of its State Plan, Project START will establish a plan for conducting a feasibility study of state financing options in conjunction with its advisory council. Alternative financing, cooperative buying and the administration and coordination of AT funding among agencies and organizations will be explored.

Device Reutilization

Project START will operate an equipment exchange program and a computer recycling program. The equipment exchange program will allow individuals to buy and sell used AT through “want ads.” Used equipment will be listed on the program’s Web site and published in a quarterly newsletter. Under the computer recycling program, computers will be repaired, refurbished and made available on a first-come first-served basis. Computers are preloaded with operating and basic software. It may take from three to six months for a computer system to become available.

Device Loan

Project START will partner with other state agencies through a Memorandum of Agreement to provide short-term device loans. Project staff will provide specialized AT expertise in exchange for the partners managing the day-to-day operation of the program. Applications for loans will be accepted from individuals with disabilities, family members, advocates or service providers.

Device Demonstration

Demonstration centers will be operated in various locations throughout the state through partnerships with the Department of Education, Mississippi State University, Mississippi Methodist Rehabilitation Center, and Central Mississippi Medical Center. Individuals and service providers interested in a demonstration will be able to visit one of the centers or make a reservation to ensure that the staff and devices of interest are available for demonstration.

State Leadership Activities

Project START will develop a number of training modules targeted for specific audiences and on specific topics. Customized training will be available to organizations upon request. Project START will also sponsor a statewide AT conference and provide technical assistance to state agencies on creating accessible Web sites. Additionally, Project START will provide information and referral via a toll-free line, a quarterly newsletter, a Web site and a variety of publications on AT. These services will be available free of charge to anyone within the state.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Missouri

Lead Agency: Office of Administration, Missouri Assistive Technology Council

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Missouri Assistive Technology (MoAT)

State Financing Activities

Missouri will implement three state financing activities. Show-Me Loans is a revolving financial loan program that allows people with disabilities to borrow money at low-interest rates for the purchase of AT. The Kids AT Program provides last resort funding for AT and housing modifications for children under 21 using supplemental health dollars. The AT Reimbursement Program assists schools in covering the costs of AT that students need as required by their IEP using supplemental IDEA funding.

Device Reutilization

MoAT will contract with the Coalition for Independence and subcontract with the Pan Educational Institute to provide a statewide computer recycling program that will refurbish low cost computer systems. The coalition will also recycle durable medical equipment items and provide them to individuals at greatly reduced prices. Other electronic equipment, such as electronic note-takers and Braille, will be repaired or recycled and provided through Missouri State University (MSU). In addition, MoAT will provide a statewide equipment exchange program, Swap'N Shop, via the project's Web site.

Device Loan

MoAT plans to provide short-term device loans through the Equipment Technology Consortium (ETC) housed at Rockhurst University and staffed by MoAT staff and university graduate students. The ETC has over 1,000 AT devices in the loan pool including a full range of high-end augmentative communication devices and equipment such as electronic enlarging for individuals with vision disabilities. Schools and other entities are able to borrow devices to conduct device trials, to fill the gap when their devices are in for repair or for other short-term purposes.

Device Demonstration

MoAT will deliver device demonstrations through three regional centers via contracts with two independent living centers (ILCs) and a university. Each center has a variety of cross-disability AT available for demonstration and has significant staff expertise in AT. The centers serve as distribution sites for ETC and both ILCs serve as demonstration centers for the adaptive telecommunications equipment distribution program.

State Leadership Activities

MoAT hosts an annual statewide AT conference, Power Up, that provides training and information to individuals and professionals. MoAT will develop and disseminate print materials, provide statewide information and referral services and deliver technical assistance as needed. Policy improvement initiatives are discussed at each council meeting and new activities are undertaken as opportunities present themselves.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Montana

Lead Agency: Department of Public Health and Human Services, Disability Services Division

Implementing Entity: University of Montana Rural Institute, Center for Excellence in Disability Education, Research, and Service

Program Title: Montana Assistive Technology Program (MATP)

State Financing Activities

Montana will support its existing low-interest financial loan program that guarantees loans made by the Community Bank-Missoula, Inc., to people with disabilities who wish to purchase assistive technology. Over the next three years, MATP will emphasize the marketing of this program to increase its use.

Device Reutilization

MATP is planning to establish a Web-based equipment exchange program to connect buyers and sellers of used AT. MATP will also provide in kind support for the operation of the Montana Adaptive Equipment Program, which refurbishes and recycles equipment for permanent placement and provides long-term loans of equipment for eligible clients served by the Montana Developmental Disabilities Division.

Device Loan

MATP will operate a short-term equipment loan bank with over 1,700 AT devices and computer hardware and software products. Individuals, family members and professionals as well as agencies can access the loan bank by completing an Equipment Loan Agreement (ELA) to impart responsibility for the device and return shipping. MATP will enhance the program's Web-based system with an online catalog of its devices. This system will also provide an infrastructure that can be used by other Montana programs that wish to operate an equipment loan program.

Device Demonstration

MATP will use the established MonTECH demonstration site at the University of Montana Rural Institute in Missoula. The facilities include a number of display areas organized around specific applications. Because Montana is largely rural, with its population concentrated in the western half of the state, MATP will utilize distance technologies to provide device demonstrations in the underserved locations of the state. MATP will also contract with professional therapists to provide remote demonstration services in order to extend its device demonstration capabilities.

State Leadership Activities

MATP will operate an information and referral network, distribute materials about AT to key stakeholder groups, publish an annual report, and participate in local and statewide events to promote awareness. MATP will collaborate with agencies and service providers including tribal organizations to provide needed AT training in the areas of education, employment, community-living and information technology.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Nebraska

Lead Agency: Department of Education

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP)

State Financing Activities

Nebraska's ATP will work with funding sources in the state to provide program administration and support to help consumers find and acquire AT. Nebraska ATP will work with its departments of Health and Human Services, Vocational Rehabilitation, Veteran Affairs, Education, and the state's housing developers association to create a One-Stop for AT Financing. It will coordinate the financing of these different funding streams so that the AT services consumers receive are appropriate and cost effective. ATP also will partner with the Easter Seals Loan Program, an Alternative Financing Program that works with the First National Bank of Omaha to provide low or reduced interest loans to citizens for the purchase of AT devices and services. Easter Seals also will operate a second loan program for the ATP, the Nebraska Telework Loan Program that provides loans to people with disabilities to purchase equipment to telework from home and other remote sites.

Device Reutilization

ATP will work with the Nebraska Educational AT to operate TechConnectors, a Web-based listing of used AT equipment for sale or free. TechConnectors creates a marketplace for equipment that is often free or low cost and provides an opportunity for people with disabilities to find more affordable equipment.

Device Loan

ATP will work with the Nebraska Educational AT (NEAT) to operate a device loan program, primarily consisting of education and employment AT devices. Over the next three years, the loan device inventory will be expanded to include additional equipment for independent living and community interaction. A Web-based tracking system, TechConnectors, will be used to track devices loaned.

Device Demonstration

Device demonstrations will occur at ATP offices, the Department of Labor One-Stop Resource Centers, NEAT, and via mobile demonstrations at individual worksites, schools and homes. Technology Specialists, experienced in operation of the devices will be available to assist individuals to try out the equipment. During the next three years, the inventory of devices available to demonstrate will be expanded.

State Leadership Activities

Coordination and collaboration efforts will focus on policies related to expanding services for individuals with traumatic brain injury and those with developmental disabilities. During the next three years, ATP will also take the lead on increasing the use of a visitability design standard for publicly funded housing in Nebraska.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Nevada

Lead Agency: Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Disability Services

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Nevada AT Collaborative (NATC)

State Financing Activities

Nevada will offer a statewide financial loan program, the Assistive Technology Loan Fund, to help people with disabilities purchase AT devices. The loan program is a partnership between NATC, CARE Chest, a nonprofit agency and the Nevada State Bank. The loans will be offered at lower interest rates and often for more years than a typical bank loan—thus making the loans more affordable. NATC also will offer a statewide AT purchasing program for independent living, the Assistive Technology for Independent Living program (ATIL), to assist a person to live more independently with their disability. This program provides devices that are not offered through other funding sources like Medicaid, private insurance, vocational rehabilitation or special education.

Device Reutilization

NATC operates an extensive equipment recycling program in the northern part of the state through CARE Chest. Donated equipment is tested, repaired and sanitized before being offered for use. In the next three years, NATC will partner with a local nonprofit agency in the southern part of the state to launch an equipment recycling program there. The reuse programs are funded almost exclusively with private foundations and corporate contributions. In addition, NATC will partner in a national Internet auction Web site where users can find specific AT devices at reasonable prices.

Device Loan

NATC plans to offer a program that facilitates device loans between AT companies and people with disabilities who are seeking equipment on a trial basis. This device loan program is in its initial planning stages.

Device Demonstration

NATC will seek to establish an AT center in Las Vegas to provide AT demonstrations. The ATIL center will also provide device demonstrations at its center or at remote sites. Web-based device demonstrations will also be offered.

State Leadership Activities

NATC will partner with the University of Nevada to provide workshops and presentations to increase individual awareness of AT and provide formal continuing education and graduate courses on AT for professionals. NATC will provide technical assistance to the Office of Disability Services for the Money Follows the Person federal initiative to ensure that AT resources are available and maximized.

Statewide AT Program Profile: New Hampshire

Lead Agency: University of New Hampshire, Institute on Disability

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Assistive Technology in New Hampshire (ATinNH)

State Financing Activities

New Hampshire will provide a low-interest AT loan program operated by TD BankNorth. Loans up to \$10,000 will be available and fully secured. Marketing of the program is conducted by ATinNH through its Web site and by distributing information to statewide information services. During the next three years, ATinNH will explore ways to create broader access to loans, such as offering loans that exceed \$10,000.

Device Reutilization

ATinNH will continue to support the Refurbished Equipment Marketplace (REM) through ATECH Services. REM takes in donated used equipment, refurbishes it and makes the devices available for resale at a fraction of the cost of new equipment. ATinNH will also operate an online classified section on its Web site at which AT devices can be listed for sale, trade or loan.

Device Loan

ATinNH will also provide a device loan program through ATECH Services. Currently ATECH Services operates a limited device loan program throughout the state and will expand the number and type of devices available over the next three years to encompass a greater inventory of devices. The device loan program uses AT Tracker software to track the loans.

Device Demonstration

ATinNH will continue its subcontract with ATECH Services to operate its Technology Exploration Center and the demonstration center at the REM. Also during the first year, ATECH Services will use a van to travel throughout the state to demonstrate AT equipment. The Mobile Unit van can be loaded with devices for clinics and demonstration days.

State Leadership Activities

ATinNH will develop a statewide AT Training Cooperative to provide training and technical assistance. It will be composed of AT trainers throughout the state with expertise in public awareness training and professional development. ATinNH will collaborate with the University of New Hampshire to develop a certificate program to prepare individuals who wish to specialize in AT in education, occupational therapy, rehabilitation counseling, speech and language pathology, and nursing.

Statewide AT Program Profile: New Jersey

Lead Agency: Department of Labor and Workforce Development,
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Implementing Entity: New Jersey Protection and Advocacy, Inc., Assistive Technology
Advocacy Center (ATAC)

Program Title: N/A

State Financing Activities

New Jersey's Statewide AT Program will not directly support state financing activities because an AFP already exists in the state. PNC Bank offers a "Self-Reliant Loan and Grant" Program in conjunction with New Jersey Citizen Action. This loan program provides loans for any type of accessibility or AT device to individuals with disabilities.

Device Reutilization

ATAC will operate the Back-in-Action Equipment Exchange Program that matches individuals selling or donating a device with those in need of such a device. It will be available statewide through a toll-free telephone number; it also will be available on the ATAC Web site and through a print catalogue.

Device Loan

Currently, no comprehensive, statewide device loan program exists in the state. ATAC will work to establish a network of device loan services by serving as the central clearinghouse for information regarding these services and provide marketing and outreach on how to access the device loan services.

Device Demonstration

At its headquarters, ATAC provides demonstrations of a range of devices from low-tech devices to aid in home, to modified toys. There also are other agencies that have device demo centers for specific types of devices. ATAC will establish a network of the existing demonstration centers with the goal of becoming a comprehensive statewide system. ATAC will serve as the clearinghouse for information about the centers and will conduct public awareness activities to market the network.

State Leadership Activities

ATAC will provide AT training to students, parents and educators in addition to assistance on home accessibility and modifications at events such as the Abilities Expo. ATAC also will provide technical assistance regarding Web accessibility to webmasters in the state Office of Information Technology who in turn can provide TA to webmasters in other state departments. ATAC will author bulletins on a variety of AT topics distributed through mail and on its accessible Web site, provide a statewide toll-free information and referral service, and disseminate approximately 10,000 print brochures, flyers and publications about AT each year.

Statewide AT Program Profile: New Mexico

Lead Agency: Public Education Department, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: New Mexico Technology Assistance Program (NMTAP)

State Financing Activities

NMTAP will conduct three state financing activities: (1) The NMTAP Financial Loan Program, (2) an Access to Telework Loan Program, and (3) development of a “Last Resort” Fund. The Financial Loan Program will provide guaranteed loans to individuals with disabilities for the purchase of AT in partnership with the New Mexico State Treasurers Office and First State Bank. The Telework Loan Program will guarantee loans with the First State Bank to purchase computers and other equipment for use in telework only. The “Last Resort” Fund will be used to purchase AT devices for individuals who have no other funding options. The fund will be capitalized through contributions from charitable foundations and private donors.

Device Reutilization

NMTAP operates a device recycling and repair program that allows individuals to receive free donated used equipment that is refurbished directly by NMTAP or through contracts with vendors. NMTAP also operates a device exchange program that allows people to find used items through ad listings available on the program’s Web site and published in the quarterly newsletter.

Device Loan

NMTAP continues to provide the “Assistive Bank of Loanable Equipment” (ABLE). Devices in the loan inventory include alternative communication devices and switches, alternative keyboards, voice recognition software, laptop and desktop computers, and other devices. Also, the N.M. Commission for the Blind and N.M. Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing provide specialty devices for loan.

Device Demonstration

NMTAP is planning to operate three device demonstration centers around the state. Individuals can schedule appointments with staff to attend a demonstration. Additional sites may be added over the next three years to more fully cover the southern and eastern parts of the state. NMTAP plans to also offer a mobile demonstration program to reach the various rural areas around the state.

State Leadership Activities

NMTAP conducts an annual AT conference (Tech Fair) that provides a host of training sessions for a variety of audiences. NMTAP will collaborate with the Public Education Department and the Children Youth and Families Department as they develop a statewide prekindergarten program to ensure identified children receive the AT that they need. NMTAP will provide a toll-free information and referral service; a Web site; *AT Life Reporter*, a quarterly newsletter; announcements; and publications on AT.

Statewide AT Program Profile: New York

Lead Agency: Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: New York State TRAIID program

State Financing Activities

TRAIID will support two loan programs. The Equipment Loan Fund (ELF), operated by the Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped, is a revolving loan fund that provides loans to purchase or replace any type of essential equipment or device. In addition, New York has an Access to Telework Loan Program that provides loans to individuals with disabilities who wish to purchase equipment to work from home.

Device Reutilization

At the state level, TRAIID will operate an equipment exchange program that helps individuals sell and buy AT devices through a “want ad” service. Information about items will be posted on the program’s Web site. Twelve regional centers also will operate equipment reutilization programs. The centers will receive donated AT devices, clean and make any necessary repairs, and then identify individuals who are in need of the device through a network of agencies and consumers in their region.

Device Loan

TRAIID’s 12 regional centers will operate equipment loan centers that provide equipment free of charge to all citizens in the state. Equipment can be loaned for a period of one month, with an option to extend for an additional month. In addition, through a collaborative agreement with the Department of Health Early Intervention Program, the regional centers will operate equipment loan programs for children from birth to age three.

Device Demonstration

All 12 regional centers will provide device demonstrations. Persons can walk in or make an appointment to meet with center staff for a demonstration. Demonstrations will also be provided at statewide conferences, during special “demonstration” day vendor fairs in rural areas, and at the Department of Labor One Stop Centers.

State Leadership Activities

TRAIID will coordinate the interagency partnership on assistive technology that is composed of state agencies, not-for-profit organizations and consumers who work to increase awareness of AT devices and services. TRAIID will participate in other interagency activities with entities such as State Education Department and the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council to ensure that AT is infused in new and existing policies. Through a subcontract with Cornell University’s Disability and Business TA Center, TRAIID will offer information and TA on IT accessibility to educational entities. The 12 Regional TRAIID centers will provide localized outreach and public awareness. TRAIID will also provide a statewide toll-free information and referral service, a Web site, statewide AT conference, and publications on AT.

Statewide AT Program Profile: North Carolina

Lead Agency: Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: North Carolina Assistive Technology Program (NCATP)

State Financing Activities

North Carolina will not use funds to support state financing activities. Consumers in the state have access to the Bank of America Access Loan Program from which they can borrow for home and vehicle modifications.

Device Reutilization

NCATP will offer device reutilization through the Technology Exchange Post, which is a used equipment database to assist people with disabilities in obtaining used equipment at lower cost. The Exchange Post is similar to a “want ad” in that individuals list items they wish to sell. The list of items is posted on a Web site and a printed version is sent to interested individuals and organizations.

Device Loan

AT devices will be loaned through nine AT centers and 13 satellite locations across the state. NCATP has an extensive inventory of devices that can be borrowed for a two-week period and the loan time can be extended if no one else is waiting. Satellite centers include independent living centers, VR centers, regional resource centers for the deaf and hard of hearing, Easter Seals UCP, community colleges, and private physical rehabilitation centers.

Device Demonstration

NCATP will run its device demonstration program through the nine AT centers and 13 satellite locations across the state. Device demonstrations will be provided either on-site in an AT Center or NCATP staff will go off-site to the individual’s home, school, worksite or other community location upon request.

State Leadership Activities

NCATP co-sponsors an annual two-day AT Expo that offers an array of concurrent AT training sessions for people with disabilities, their families and professionals. NCATP collaborates with the Division of Aging and Adult Services to include AT in its state plan and with the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services in the expansion of augmentative communication services in the comprehensive Medicaid waiver for people with mental retardation or developmental disabilities. Public awareness will be provided through the Careline, a statewide toll-free information and referral service; NCATP’s Web site; publications about AT; and presentations at JobLink Centers, public schools, local community programs and conferences.

Statewide AT Program Profile: North Dakota

Lead Agency: Department of Human Services

Implementing Entity: North Dakota Association for the Disabled

Program Title: North Dakota Interagency Program for Assistive Technology (IPAT)

State Financing Activities

The North Dakota Association for the Disabled, N.D. Protection and Advocacy, and the Alerus Financial Institution will partner to make financial loans available for assistive technology devices and services to all eligible state residents. Loans are available from \$500 to \$50,000. The loan program offers lower interest rates and extended payment terms.

Device Reutilization

IPAT will administer the AT Swap & Shop, a program that allows individuals to buy, sell, swap or give away used AT equipment through an online bulletin board. Over the next three years, IPAT will seek to increase the listing of devices and extensively market the program to increase awareness of the service.

Device Loan

IPAT will operate a statewide short-term AT equipment loan program: the Equipment Loan Library (ELL). The ELL will be available to state residents of all ages with disabilities and those family members and professionals that work with them. Devices are shipped to the borrower for a six-week loan period. A small fee will be charged for equipment borrowed from the ELL. IPAT will use a sliding fee schedule for the rental of ELL equipment for individuals with disabilities not covered by an agency. The loan program is available via a toll-free number and via the program Web site.

Device Demonstration

IPAT will administer and operate a comprehensive device demonstration center as a component of the Technology Access Center in Fargo and a satellite demonstration site in Bismarck. These demonstration programs will provide an opportunity for people to explore a number of AT devices, either on their own or by using the expertise of IPAT staff.

State Leadership Activities

AT Training will be provided to individuals with disabilities, their family members and the professionals that support them. IPAT will engage in technical assistance (TA) activities that include identifying AT device options for individuals, providing implementation strategies for agencies, and troubleshooting specific AT equipment. IPAT also collaborates in the activities of the Partnership for Assistive Technology (PAT) that represents over 20 public and private entities located throughout the state and share a common responsibility for the provision of AT devices and services.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Northern Marianas

Lead Agency: Council on Developmental Disabilities

Implementing Entity: Center for Independent Living

Program Title: Systems of Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (STRAID)

State Financing Activities

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will provide an Alternative Financing Program that is operated by the Center for Independent Living with a partnership with the Bank of Saipan. Through the loan program, people with disabilities will be able to receive loan guarantees and interest rate buy-downs on loans to make them more affordable so that they can borrow funds to purchase AT.

Device Reutilization

CNMI has several informal AT reuse programs, but there is no formal program currently in operation. Over the next three years, the AT Program will work to establish a formal Online AT Device Identification and Location Program. The need for more AT devices and device repair and maintenance are critical needs on the islands.

Device Loan

CNMI has an existing small device loan program. Over the next three years, it will expand the number and type of devices in its inventory to make it more comprehensive. It will also develop collaborative partnerships with entities on the islands to increase the selection and awareness of devices available.

Device Demonstration

An annual conference is hosted in CNMI at which AT devices are demonstrated. Agencies and vendors and private individuals display all types of devices and demonstrate their uses. This conference will continue. In addition, periodic and alternative demonstration activities will be conducted, using the resources available through the online AT device identification and location program.

State Leadership Activities

A joint services Web site will be developed in the first year that will provide a clearinghouse-type resource about AT programs and services for the community and service providers. The Center for Independent Living would become the clearinghouse for AT information.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Ohio

Lead Agency: The Ohio State University Research Foundation and Industrial, Welding and Systems Engineering Department (OSURF IWSE)

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Assistive Technology of Ohio (AT Ohio)

State Financing Activities

AT Ohio will provide loans to individuals with disabilities and their families for the purchase of AT devices and services through the Assistive Technology Low Interest Loan Program in cooperation with Fifth Third Bank. AT Ohio also acts as a contact point and promotes the State of Ohio Treasury Office's Access for Individuals Program. Fifth Third Bank reviews loans for both programs, which streamlines the application process. The low-cost, flexible loans are affordable for persons with fixed or limited incomes.

Device Reutilization

AT Ohio will directly administer the Computer Recycle and Redistribution Program (CRRP), which refurbishes donated computers for people with disabilities. In addition, AT Ohio is also establishing an Equipment Exchange Program for use by individuals and organizations with device needs. Ohioans from across the state can sell or donate AT on a dedicated Web page that will be maintained by AT Ohio.

Device Loan

AT Ohio will expand its network of Adaptive Toy Lending Programs to include additional devices. It will work with public libraries in implementing the device loan programs so more Ohioans with disabilities can be served.

Device Demonstration

AT Ohio will develop a new device demonstration program with statewide capacity and plans to purchase a minivan or minibus to be converted into a portable demonstration vehicle. A mobile trailer with accessible living quarters and kitchen area will be used for trips around the state. Both the vehicle and trailer will be modified to demonstrate the various ways AT can adapt everyday items to meet the needs of people with disabilities.

State Leadership Activities

AT Ohio engages in a number of training and technical assistance activities, such as conducting a series of statewide AT Education Days for human service professionals and working in partnership with Goodwill to provide training at the Microsoft Accessibility Resource Center. AT Ohio will use a multifaceted approach (mailings, Internet, exhibits, displays, presentations and training) to increase awareness about the benefits of AT devices and services. Additionally, the toll-free information and referral service, a Web site, a newsletter, and disability-related events sponsored by AT Ohio enhance public awareness of AT for persons with disabilities throughout the state of Ohio.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Oklahoma

Lead Agency: Oklahoma State University, Seretean Wellness Center

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Oklahoma ABLE Tech

State Financing Activities

ABLE Tech will partner with the Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation (OkAT) and BancFirst to provide a statewide Alternative Financing Program (AFP) and an Access to Telework Fund (ATF) Program to Oklahomans with disabilities. The AFP and ATF both offer an interest rate buy-down or guaranteed bank loan, so individuals have the opportunity to acquire needed assistive technology (AT) by borrowing money to purchase their own devices and equipment or modification.

Device Reutilization

ABLE Tech operates the Oklahoma Equipment Connection (OEC), a “want ad” that functions as an AT exchange program and partners with Sooner AMBUCS, a nonprofit organization, which operates Share4Life Komputer (ASK), a community service program, to recycle or repair computers. ABLE Tech plans to enhance the reutilization program through the development of an interactive Web-based “want ad.”

Device Loan

ABLE Tech operates the statewide Assistive Technology Equipment Loan (ATEL) Program and will also offer short-term loan programs with four new partners: the Department of Rehabilitation Services, Visual Services Division; the Oklahoma School for the Blind; the Oklahoma School for the Deaf; and the University of Tulsa. Additionally, ABLE Tech will enhance collaboration with disability-related organizations/agencies that currently operate a DME loan program.

Device Demonstration

ABLE Tech will operate an AT device demonstration center and through memorandums of agreement will partner with four other device demonstration centers. The devices will be available at all five locations and staff from each center will have opportunities to demonstrate AT for specialized training classes, public awareness events and at statewide workshops and conferences.

State Leadership Activities

ABLE Tech will provide training for education, employment, community living, and information technology or telecommunications professionals along with persons with disabilities and their family members. ABLE Tech has several activities partnering with the early intervention program, special education, the Department of Rehabilitation Services, and the Olmstead initiative. The ABLE Tech INFO-line provides a toll-free information and referral service and the “small changes...BIG DIFFERENCES” newsletter available in print and on the ABLE Tech Web site, which features in-depth information and an opportunity to provide feedback. All publication materials that cover AT will be provided free of charge on the Web site and will be available in alternative format.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Oregon

Lead Agency: Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS), Seniors and People with Disabilities (SPD)

Implementing Entity: Access Technologies, Inc. (ATI)

Program Title: N/A

State Financing Activities

ATI operates a reselling and cooperative buying program to improve access to and funding for AT devices and services for individuals with disabilities. Bulk purchasing reduces the cost of many items, allowing ATI to pass the savings on to consumers.

Device Reutilization

The Used Equipment Marketplace (UEM) will provide a “want ads” outlet for recycling AT devices and durable medical equipment (DME). For a small processing fee, individuals and agencies can advertise AT devices for sale, trade or donation. Anyone in the state of Oregon will be able to buy or sell an AT device through the UEM, which publishes a monthly newsletter in addition to updating a list of available devices on ATI’s Web site.

Device Loan

For a nominal fee, ATI offers short-term loans of a wide variety of AT devices and software to targeted individuals. The device loan program is currently supported by small local grants and minimal fees generated from charges to cover shipping and handling expenses. ATI will approach and develop collaboration with public or private entities to enhance the provision of short-term loans of AT devices throughout the state.

Device Demonstration

ATI currently operates two device demonstration centers, one in Salem and another in Portland, to assist individuals with disabilities to make informed choices about AT devices and services. The program also travels statewide to demonstrate devices at a variety of locations such as tradeshows and conferences. ATI plans to collaborate with partners to establish additional centers and is exploring the concept of a virtual device demonstration center to reach the remote areas of Oregon.

State Leadership Activities

ATI will develop training modules for specific audiences and collaborate with Northwest ADA and IT Center to provide power workshops and training on AT to human resource managers. Technical assistance will comprise a multitude of activities, such as assisting Independent Living Centers and One-Stop Centers in identifying AT needs. Additionally, ATI provides a toll-free information and referral service, Web site, publications about AT, and a monthly newsletter, *Tech It Easy*.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Pennsylvania

Lead Agency: Institute on Disabilities at Temple University

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology (PIAT)

State Financing Activities

PIAT will contract with the Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation (PATF) to increase AT funding opportunities for Pennsylvanians of all ages, disabilities and income levels throughout the state. PATF partners with Sovereign Bank to provide low-interest and no interest mini-loans, and some grants in combination with no interest loans, for the purchase of AT devices and services. PIAT will also support the development of a statewide system to provide individualized assistance in locating funding for AT.

Device Reutilization

PIAT will expand operation of a free, statewide "classified" listing of previously owned equipment called Recycled Equipment Exchange Program (REEP). They also provide support for the Into New Hands program, a program that refurbishes and redistributes devices. PIAT will participate in ATMATCH.com, an online auction service for AT, and will seek to collaborate with neighboring Statewide AT Programs to facilitate exchange of "previously owned" equipment across state lines.

Device Loan

PIAT will operate Pennsylvania's Assistive Technology Lending Library, a consumer-responsive, statewide program that provides short-term (generally for periods up to eight weeks) loans of AT devices that enable individuals with disabilities to make informed decisions about the appropriateness of an AT device in a "real life" context and setting.

Device Demonstration

PIAT will subcontract with community organizations to serve as Assistive Technology Resource Centers (ATRCs) to provide the infrastructure of the statewide system for device demonstrations. An accessible facility is located in each of the ATRC regions, encompassing all 67 counties in Pennsylvania. The ATRCs are staffed with knowledgeable professionals that can provide equipment demonstrations both on- and off-site to meet consumer needs.

State Leadership Activities

PIAT will use a variety of strategies to deliver training, including participation in statewide conferences, university-based lectures and "train-the-trainer" events. Technical assistance will be available to agencies and organizations who are developing or improving programs and policies to improve access to AT. PIAT will maintain a toll-free information and referral service, distribute print materials (e.g., fact sheets, quarterly newsletter) to consumers, families, providers and educators and regularly update its dynamic, accessible Web site. PIAT will collaborate with Pennsylvania Protection and Advocacy to coordinate activities under the *AT Act*, as well as with other disability-related agencies and organizations and relevant governmental offices.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Puerto Rico

Lead Agency: University of Puerto Rico

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Puerto Rico Assistive Technology Program (PRATP)

State Financing Activities

PRATP will conduct two state financing activities: (1) a feasibility study to determine if an alternative financing system is better suited for consumers in Puerto Rico and how to implement it, and (2) a low cost device design and development program. For the feasibility study, PRATP will conduct an initial survey of potential partners and available resources for the development of an alternative financing system. The low-cost device design and development program will allow consumers to work with the AT Development Team (ATDT) to obtain functional AT equipment. The ATDT will design and construct an adapted device for a person that could not otherwise acquire such an item. In most cases, the intended consumer will provide all equipment and materials needed for the construction of the device. The ATDT will also train the individual on the use of the adapted device.

Device Reutilization

PRATP will develop an accessible online database in which individuals may list AT items to buy, sell, donate, or express a need for a specific device. This project named “Classificado Virtual de AT” (Online AT Ads) will be hosted at PRATP’s Web page.

Device Loan

PRATP will conduct two initiatives to provide short-term device loans. The program will: (1) create an Assistive Technology Loan Center and (2) assign funds to rent high-cost AT or highly specialized equipment from manufacturers for loaning purposes. A new AT Loan Center will be developed based on the infrastructure of PRATP’s existing Demonstration Center. The rental of AT devices from manufacturers will be coordinated by PRATP through an “External Rental Program,” which will assist consumers to rent AT devices.

Device Demonstration

PRATP operates a demonstration center that provides services to the general community and plans to integrate a project called “the adaptive home,” so consumers have access to AT demos in a realistic setting (real kitchen adaptations, bathroom accessibility features, environmental control devices). PRATP also collaborates with AmeriCorps for the development of resource centers at public and private universities and plans to acquire a mobile unit to increase the number and variety of devices demonstrated.

State Leadership Activities

PRATP provides training to over 5,000 individuals island-wide each year and developed a Train the Trainers Program to increase the number of AT instructors. In collaboration with public and private entities, PRATP will maintain an information and referral system to meet the needs of targeted individuals and entities in Puerto Rico.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Rhode Island

Lead Agency: Department of Human Services, Office of Rehabilitation Services

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Assistive Technology Access Partnership (ATAP)

State Financing Activities

The Office of Rehabilitation Services (ORS) has determined that a one-year feasibility study is necessary prior to the establishment of a state financing system. ORS will conduct meetings with stakeholders, including individuals with disabilities and their families, community-based organizations, and other consumer groups, to determine available resources for an Alternative Financing Program or other state financing system.

Device Reutilization

ATAP will look to partner with other groups and expand the capacity of the device reutilization program located at the PARI Independent Living Center. Equipment vendors, medical facilities and consumers donate devices to PARI, which repairs an item prior to making it available for sale or at no cost. ATAP will reach out to other organizations to acquire additional equipment for the reutilization program and conduct marketing to ensure increased awareness.

Device Loan

ATAP operates a device loan program with Rhode Island Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired. ATAP also subcontracts with the AT resource center at the East Bay Educational Collaborative and TechACCESS of Rhode Island, a technology-related center. ATAP will establish a network among these existing programs and seek to expand capabilities by outreach to vendors and other community-based organizations.

Device Demonstration

ATAP operates a statewide device demonstration program to individuals with disabilities at no cost through subcontracts with TechACCESS of R.I. and East Bay Educational Collaborative. The adaptive computer lab at the ATAP AT Resource Center also hosts weekly software training sessions available to students and educators in small groups or by individual appointment. The program will review the current inventory of devices and develop a plan to expand current resources for demonstration of equipment for education, employment, telecommunications and community living.

State Leadership Activities

ORS provides ongoing training and technical assistance on AT devices and services to staff of vocational rehabilitation programs, such as local One-Stop Career Centers. Community-based organizations will subcontract with ORS to conduct statewide IEP training activities related to AT. ATAP will expand the ATAP Information and Referral Center as a statewide resource designed to meet the needs of targeted individuals and entities. ATAP will provide a newsletter, Web site and publications about AT.

Statewide AT Program Profile: South Carolina

Lead Agency: University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Center for Disability Resources

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: South Carolina Assistive Technology Program (SCATP)

State Financing Activities

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department (SCVRD) administers an Assistive Technology Financial Loan Program in partnership with S.C. State Credit Union. The director of SCATP serves on the Financial Loan Review Panel and SCATP collaborates with VR in promoting the program. This program was previously funded under Title III of the *AT Act of 1998*.

Device Reutilization

SCATP will continue to provide a Used Equipment Referral Service (UERS) through the SCATP AT Online Network listserv. This device exchange program will enable people to sell or donate used AT equipment by contacting SCATP for devices to be placed in the “want ad” service. The UERS will result in an opportunity to acquire AT equipment at reduced cost or for free through the sale or donation of devices to individuals who may not otherwise be eligible for state, federal or local AT funding.

Device Loan

SCATP will offer a short-term device loan program that is available to anyone in the state of South Carolina. Loan requests will be processed after receipts of a signed loan agreement. There will be no charge for initial shipping, but the borrower will be responsible for return shipping and postal insurance. The borrower may also pick up and deliver the device to avoid shipping cost. SCATP will perform a review of equipment and device loan activity to determine future AT inventory.

Device Demonstration

The SCATP AT Demonstration Center in Columbia will offer opportunities for equipment loan, hands-on trial, self-paced learning and AT demonstration. The AT Demonstration Center offers the most comprehensive inventory of AT devices in the state. SCATP will also support the improvement and expansion of existing AT Demonstration Centers throughout South Carolina.

State Leadership Activities

Continuing education sessions are offered on a variety of AT topics. SCATP travels across the state to present exhibits and training or demos and will make services accessible to more people in rural settings by establishing a toll-free number. SCATP is a member of the state AT advisory council within the office of the state CIO and is involved in helping state agencies implement accessible Web pages. Public awareness activities include SCATP’s annual AT Expo, updated fact sheets to promote AT services, regular Web site articles, and one-on-one consultations on AT and related disability needs.

Statewide AT Program Profile: South Dakota

Lead Agency: South Dakota Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services

Implementing Entity: Black Hills Special Services Cooperative (BHSSC)

Program Title: DakotaLink, South Dakota Assistive Technology Project

State Financing Activities

DakotaLink will conduct a feasibility study for the development of an Alternative Financing Program (AFP). The feasibility study will determine how a comprehensive AFP might be implemented in the state and designed to meet the AT acquisition needs of individuals with disabilities who would not otherwise be able to purchase AT devices.

Device Reutilization

DakotaLink maintains the Web site for the Equipment Connection, an online consumer-driven reutilization project designed to match individuals in need of AT devices with those who desire to offer used equipment for resale or donation. DakotaLink plans to inventory current reutilization programs throughout South Dakota and invite collaborative partnerships among providers to coordinate activities as well as identify gaps in services.

Device Loan

DakotaLink's Device Loan Program contains a limited number of devices that individuals may borrow. Because the current system of device loans in South Dakota is not comprehensive, collaborative partnerships will be designed to form a network of providers of equipment for loan throughout the state. The goal is to design a statewide system by which family members and practitioners as well as individuals with disabilities will be able to borrow a device for an extended period of time and use that device in an appropriate environment in order to make a qualified decision about AT acquisition.

Device Demonstration

DakotaLink currently maintains four device demonstration centers, where individuals can make an appointment with an assistive technology specialist who will match devices appropriate to needs, provide opportunities to operate the devices, and offer additional information and resources. DakotaLink plans to increase capacity by partnering with existing entities, such as the nine geographically distributed *Workforce Investment Act* Service Centers.

State Leadership Activities

DakotaLink will provide training and technical assistance through topic and device specific workshops, team evaluations, as well as at civic and professional meetings, health fairs, and consumer meetings. Public awareness activities on the benefits of AT include maintaining an accessible Web site, distributing materials to organizations that serve individuals with disabilities, and providing informational presentations and demonstrations at workshops and conferences across the state.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Tennessee

Lead Agency: Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Tennessee Technology Access Program (TTAP)

State Financing Activities

TTAP and five contracted technology centers will explore the development of an Alternative Financing Program (AFP) and cooperative buying program (co-op). TTAP staff will work with its advisory council, consumers, disability-related organizations and the Tennessee General Assembly to study the feasibility of an AFP and co-op with the goal of increasing the acquisition of AT devices and services for persons with disabilities.

Device Reutilization

TTAP and its contracted technology centers will develop partnerships to increase the reutilization of devices so more individuals and families can obtain free or low cost AT equipment. The TTAP Reutilization Program will operate statewide through the network of technology centers and a partner organization to refurbish usable devices thereby maximizing the impact of resources in Tennessee.

Device Loan

The TTAP Device Loan Program will operate statewide through the network of technology centers that enable individuals with disabilities and their family members to try different devices and, therefore, make informed decisions when selecting appropriate AT. So that people may better access the program, TTAP will work in conjunction with the centers to develop an online database of devices available at each center.

Device Demonstration

TTAP and its network of centers will conduct device demonstrations. Parents, professionals and individuals with disabilities will have the opportunity to learn about the benefits and differences between varieties of devices to help them make choices that suits their AT needs. TTAP will develop a strategy for increased sharing of devices among centers to ensure needed devices are available statewide for demonstrations.

State Leadership Activities

The staff at the technology centers will provide comprehensive training and technical assistance to individuals, families and service providers in many different ways, including the use of “train-the-trainer” models at workshops in rural areas. TTAP and the technology centers will maintain an interconnected network of Web sites in addition to informing people with disabilities about AT through newsletters, listserv, presentations and publications.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Texas

Lead Agency: The University of Texas at Austin

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Texas Technology Access Program (TTAP)

State Financing Activities

Currently, the Texas Technology Access Program is not engaged in any state financing activities. However, the program plans to conduct a one-year study to determine the need for state financing activities, focusing primarily on developing a low-interest financial loan program to enable consumers to purchase assistive technology.

Device Reutilization

Over the next three years, Texas plans to assist Project Mend, Inc., an organization that operates an existing medical equipment reuse program to expand its existing medical equipment reutilization. Texas will also partner with the AT for Kansans program to become a member of their Internet auction site, ATMATCH.com, for the exchange and sale of AT devices.

Device Loan

TTAP will fill in the gaps not covered by existing device loan programs. The program will work with agencies and organizations that provide device loans to develop a mutual referral system so consumers can be referred to the appropriate agency to meet their equipment needs. TTAP will fill in the gaps by targeting a specific population each year during the next three years.

Device Demonstration

A statewide network will be developed to provide AT device demonstrations. TTAP plans to operate up to 15 demonstration centers, five of which will provide a broad range of AT devices. Ten centers will provide demonstrations related to computer access.

State Leadership Activities

TTAP will collaborate with Knowbility, Inc., a nonprofit organization that supports the independence of children and adults with disabilities through accessible information technology, to provide training to schools and universities, local and state governments and nonprofits on developing accessible Web sites and distance education. The program will provide technical assistance to libraries statewide about how to make online catalogs, computer workstations and other information accessible. Information brochures on the program's activities and services, a toll-free number and Web site available will be available.

Statewide AT Program Profile: U.S. Virgin Islands

Lead Agency: University of the Virgin Islands

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Virgin Islands Technology Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (VITRAID)

State Financing Activities

VITRAID will offer an Alternative Financing Program (AFP) that provides loans for people with disabilities to purchase AT. The Virgin Islands Assistive Technology Foundation, a community-based organization, will administer the AFP in partnership with Banco Popular de Puerto Rico to provide both guaranteed and interest buy-down loans.

Device Reutilization

VITRAID administers TECH TRADE, a program in which an individual can buy, sell or give away used AT through “want ads.” Over the next three years, VITRAID will work to expand and improve TECH TRADE and encourage individuals with disabilities who have received durable medical equipment to recycle this equipment through TECH TRADE. VITRAID also works with “Recycle IT,” which is a reclamation center for computers as well as general AT devices. Recycle IT makes minor refurbishments and for computers adds required adaptations. These recycled devices are then sold or offered free.

Device Loan

VITRAID will partner with the public libraries, the Departments of Education and DD Council, as well as VR and the independent living centers to operate an AT device loan program. The seven partners will loan devices in their inventory. If a device is not available, the requestor will be put on a waiting list. Each of the partners will specialize in a particular kind of AT. Over the three-year period, the inventory will be expanded to make the list of devices more comprehensive.

Device Demonstration

A network of demonstration centers is planned for the islands. VITRAID will collaborate with the Independent Living Centers to ensure device demonstrations are available through those centers. VITRAID also will partner with other entities, including the public libraries and community- and faith-based organizations in central and outlying areas of the Virgin Islands to establish demonstration programs.

State Leadership Activities

VITRAID is working with the library systems of St. Croix and St. Thomas to make their computer systems more accessible to patrons. It is also working with faculty of the University of the Virgin Islands to make the curricula accessible. VITRAID will provide a toll-free information and referral service, a Web site, *Tech Connect* (a quarterly newsletter), an annual AT conference in collaboration with partners and publications on AT.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Utah

Lead Agency: Utah State University, Center for Persons with Disabilities

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Utah Assistive Technology Program (UATP)

State Financing Activities

UATP will support two different state financing activities: (1) low interest loan and loan guarantee programs in conjunction with the Utah Assistive Technology Foundation (UATF) and Zions Bank; and (2) an Access to Telework program in coordination with the same partners.

Device Reutilization

UATP will assist individuals with disabilities to acquire AT through reutilization efforts in three ways: by supporting the Arc of Utah in its Connections Through Computers Program, by advertising existing device reutilization programs available in Utah, and by providing ongoing technical assistance in the areas of equipment maintenance and repair, reutilization program administration, and AT device adaptation. UATP will advise and monitor the activities of the Access Utah Network, the administrator of the Web-based Used Equipment Sales Bank as well as develop and maintain a virtual network of reutilization programs statewide.

Device Loan

The AT Lab at Utah State University serves as the UATP hub for device loan coordination activities. The AT Lab will supplement existing programs where service gaps are identified. UATP will work with six centers for independent living (CIL) and organizations such as the Utah Center for Assistive Technology and the Computer Center for Citizens with Disabilities to develop a virtual network of device loan programs throughout the state.

Device Demonstration

UATP will continue to support the Utah Center for Assistive Technology in Salt Lake City as a device demonstration center. The AT Lab has taken the lead to serve as the demonstration center for northern Utah. Individuals with disabilities, their family members and service providers visit the lab to learn about a variety of AT solutions. UATP will provide technical assistance to AT demonstration centers located in CILs statewide and will develop a virtual network of these demonstration centers so consumers will have a single point of contact to access AT devices and services in Utah.

State Leadership Activities

UATP will develop and implement four AT training academies and conduct technical assistance to AT provider programs statewide in an effort to enhance expertise in providing consumer-responsive AT services. UATP will also provide updated resources for Access Utah Network (a statewide information and referral service), regular press releases, a regularly updated Web site, and provider- and consumer-focused publications about AT.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Vermont

Lead Agency: Vermont Agency of Human Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation,

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Vermont Assistive Technology Program (VATP)

State Financing Activities

Vermont will provide loans to individuals with disabilities and their families for the purchase of AT devices and services through the community-based organization, Opportunities Ventures and its lending partner, Vermont Opportunities Credit Union (VT-OCU). Loans will often be provided to individuals who would not otherwise qualify to receive conventional banks loans, because VT-OCU will consider unearned income, Medicaid waivers, etc. VATP will market the loan program on its Web site and improve outreach to underserved communities.

Device Reutilization

VATP will pilot test a Web-based AT exchange service called ATMatch.com, which connects buyers and sellers of AT. VATP will promote the exchange service to statewide disability organizations and other agencies. The exchange service will be available through public libraries and at the AT Try-out Centers.

Device Loan

VATP will operate a short-term AT device loan program known as the Vermont AT Equipment Loan (VATEL). This program provides loans of devices for up to four weeks to individuals, employers, public agencies and other entities. Three locations can be accessed throughout the state or devices can also be shipped to any location in the state. VATP will expand the inventory of devices that it has to loan and will switch from a paper-based system to an automated system to track the loans.

Device Demonstration

VATP offers device demonstrations through a network of centers. There are centers located throughout the state as well as three statewide offices of VATP. Device demonstrations are also available at 12 VR offices, two Centers for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and the Vermont Parent Information Center. Each of the centers serve the same functions and perform the same operations but may specialize in particular kinds of AT to ensure that most types of AT are available for demonstration.

State Leadership Activities

VATP provides training to Vermont's Child Development Associate Program, and each year will conduct several training events for day care providers. Day care providers will be shown how to adapt toys, books and art projects and to develop communication boards. VATP also collaborates with a multiagency Communications Task Force to provide statewide training to service providers of adults with developmental disabilities. A toll-free information and referral service, a Web site, a quarterly newsletter with an AT column, and publications about AT will increase public awareness.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Virginia

Lead Agency: Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS)

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Virginia Assistive Technology System (VATS)

State Financing Activities

VATS will not directly support state financing activities. Virginia has an existing alternative financing program, the Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority (ATLFA).

Device Reutilization

VATS does not operate a device reutilization program directly but will provide technical assistance and support in planning and implementation to entities interested in establishing or replicating a device reutilization program. During the first year of this state plan, VATS will develop a proposal for a program to reclaim equipment purchased by Medicaid and make it available to other Medicaid recipients and people who have no insurance or other resources to obtain the AT.

Device Loan

VATS regional sites will establish and operate short-term loans of equipment in collaboration with the other stakeholders within their regions. VATS and other providers of short-term loans will contact manufacturers and other possible sources of AT equipment for donations that can be used for short-term loans. VATS will develop an online resource directory that will include the equipment available for loan.

Device Demonstration

VATS regional sites will not operate discrete demonstration programs but will integrate device demonstrations into all of their activities such as presentations, exhibits, training, workshops, and outreach and public awareness activities. Demonstration kits have been developed specifically for various audiences including educators, employers, children and seniors.

State Leadership Activities

VATS will collaborate with several high schools and universities in Virginia and Washington, D.C., to provide preservice training on AT to students in courses such as special education and occupational therapy. VATS will also provide technical assistance to students through entities such as the AT Initiative at George Mason University and the Training and Technical Assistance Centers for Virginia's school systems. The program established an interagency workgroup on aging with representatives from the Center on Aging; Department of Aging; area agencies on aging; social services and adult protective services; and the Virginia AARP to enhance awareness of low-tech solutions that increase independence and safety. VATS will provide a toll-free information and referral service, a Web site, and publications on AT such as *A Resource Guide to Assistive Technology Funding*.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Washington

Lead Agency: University of Washington, Center for Technology and Disability Studies

Implementing Entity N/A

Program Title: Washington Assistive Technology Alliance (WATA)

State Financing Activities

WATA will collaborate with the Washington Assistive Technology Foundation (WATF) to operate an AFP and an Access to Telework Loan Program. The AFP will offer loans at prime interest rate to prime plus 2 percent with terms ranging from one to five years for the purchase of AT. The Telework Loan Program will operate similarly to the AFP, with the exception that applicants demonstrate a requested loan is for the purpose of telework.

Device Reutilization

WATA will provide two opportunities for Washington residents with disabilities to obtain a wide range of used AT equipment. It will make available the ATMatch.com AT device reutilization auction site that is operated by the Kansas Assistive Technology program. WATA also will support a statewide computer reutilization program that is operated by Easter Seals of Washington. This program provides used computers free of charge to eligible individuals in the state.

Device Loan

WATA will operate an AT Device Loan Program that will provide a variety of AT devices for short-term loans that support the employment, education, community living and information technology needs of individuals with disabilities. WATA will identify other partners in the state that can loan durable medical equipment to make the program more comprehensive.

Device Demonstration

WATA provides device demonstration by housing a demonstration center at the WATF. It also offers hands-on activities and labs at conferences, exhibits and training events. WATA also has a traveling AT device demonstration lab to reach people in the 12 regions that coincide with the workforce areas. As WATA staff travel throughout the state to support use of AT resources in local one-stop centers, WATA will schedule miniconsultations based on requests in the local community.

State Leadership Activities

WATA hosts a number of training events. An online augmentative and alternative communication course is offered to speech and language pathologists and a follow-up live course is offered each year. An AT summer institute is offered to increase the skill levels of vocational rehabilitation personnel and educators. It is comprised of a comprehensive four-day training that includes hands-on AT device demonstration labs, video clips and interactive case studies designed to increase skill levels. WATA will provide a toll-free information and referral service; a Web site; *The WATA Bulletin*, a quarterly newsletter; and an AT Online Discussion Forum.

Statewide AT Program Profile: West Virginia

Lead Agency: Department of Rehabilitation Services

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: West Virginia Assistive Technology Program (WVATS)

State Financing Activities

West Virginia offers a revolving loan fund, which is a low-interest loan program that allows people with disabilities to purchase assistive technology. Over the next three years, WVATS will study the program and make recommendations to improve and enhance it.

Device Reutilization

Two device reutilization programs already exist in the state: one in Wood County and one in Elkins, W.Va. Over the next three years, additional reuse programs will be added to create a network of programs serving the entire state. In addition, WVATS will create a virtual database of reuse and device exchange services so that consumers will be able to find information about services near them.

Device Loan

WVATS will operate a statewide device loan program. Individuals can request a device by calling a toll-free number or e-mailing the program. Devices are mailed to the person for a short-term loan. The loan library is operated from the Morgantown site and has regionally based community groups that provide public awareness about the program and training on the devices. WVATS plans to post the device inventory online and link it to other existing loan libraries. This virtual library, which will include device reutilization content, will be a one-stop source of information for citizens in the state.

Device Demonstration

WVATS will support two large demonstration centers located in Morgantown and Institute, as well as smaller centers around the state. WVATS also provides specific types of AT device demonstrations throughout the state in collaboration with vendors. Additional centers will be set up to reach underserved and low incidence populations.

State Leadership Activities

WVATS offers assistance to the Statewide Internet Group regarding accessibility issues and assists Web developers around the state to maintain their knowledge and skills. WVATS has created a specialized curriculum and offers annual training on AT to case managers, discharge planners, social workers and others who work in health care to ensure people exiting hospital settings have community living options. WVATS will provide exhibits of information on AT at various conferences and maintain "Pathways to Funding Guides" resource booklets and make them available to consumers, caregivers and professionals. WVATS will become the WV 211 affiliate on assistive technology. The toll-free WV 211 system is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and is a national endeavor implementing comprehensive call centers within each state focusing on social services resources.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Wisconsin

Lead Agency: Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, Division of Disability and Elder Services, Office of Independence and Employment

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: WisTech

State Financing Activities

Wisconsin will not directly support state financing activities. WisLoan, an existing AFP that operates through IndependenceFirst, a community-based organization, provides guaranteed loans. IndependenceFirst partners with Marshall and Ilsley Bank.

Device Reutilization

WisTech will coordinate existing statewide device reutilization programs. The largest program is the Wheelchair Recycling Program (WRP) that was started to collect used equipment to keep equipment from ending up in landfills. WRP will serve as a model in the state in terms of its established services of collecting equipment, arranging for repair and refurbishment, and redistribution. The state Department of Corrections operates a computer recycling program through its prison industry program. The Wisconsin AT Initiative operates a used equipment marketplace, a free service for anyone who wants to sell or give away any assistive device.

Device Loan

WisTech operates a number of device loan centers through Wisconsin's independent living centers that are coordinated to provide a single point of entry and public access to loan programs. A Web-based inventory will allow any person in the state to access a list of the equipment available for loan through WisTech.

Device Demonstration

WisTech's demonstration program has many components including an employment-based AT workplace accommodation center that focuses on consumers' needs as they return to work, a central demonstration center for use by public school employees across the state who seek equipment for students who need AT, a demonstration center that focuses on augmentative and alternative communication devices, and a home visitation component in which devices are demonstrated in individuals' places of residence.

State Leadership Activities

The Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute (SVRI) will provide training and technical assistance to specific target groups to staff members at ILCs, regional centers, county service departments, and rehabilitation professionals including professionals located at disability specific agencies. Training will focus on general awareness and accessing and funding of AT. WisTech will partner with WATI to increase the number of individuals with AT professional qualification through the development and operation of a study group of participants interested in receiving an AT credential through RESNA.

Statewide AT Program Profile: Wyoming

Lead Agency: Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND), University of Wyoming

Implementing Entity: N/A

Program Title: Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources (WATR)

State Financing Activities

Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND), the lead agency, will not directly support state financing activities because there is an existing Alternative Financing Program in the state. Wyoming Independent Living Rehabilitation, Inc., is the community-based organization that runs the loan program and partners with the First Interstate Bank of Laramie.

Device Reutilization

WATR will collaborate with ATMATCH.com, a nationwide Web-based auction site that allows people with disabilities to acquire or donate AT devices for reutilization. Consumers can search for AT devices for purchase, look for donated items, or post AT devices for donation or sale. Because ATMATCH is a national site, citizens have more variety and greater availability of AT than they otherwise might through a program operated solely within Wyoming.

Device Loan

WATR will expand its existing device loan program. The program provides 30-day loans with the option of extending the loan period. A wide variety of devices will be offered. However, based on a needs assessment, the initial focus of the device loan program will be on augmentative and alternative communication devices, because this type of devices is in greatest demand.

Device Demonstration

WATR has a demonstration center located at the University of Wyoming's College of Health Sciences Building with a comprehensive inventory of devices for demonstration. Should someone need devices demonstrated that WATR doesn't have, there are other informal AT demonstration centers that focus on specific equipment, such as those for vision disabilities and hearing disabilities.

State Leadership Activities

WATR will provide skills-development training in assessing the need for AT. It will also work with the Division of VR and the Wyoming Corporations in Partnership (WYCORP) to provide training and technical assistance that will increase the AT competencies of employment counselors in the areas of skills development, assessments and implementation and the integration of AT into service plans. To promote public awareness of AT and provide an information resource, WATR supports Connect Wyoming, a Web-based resource that allows Wyoming residents and professionals to have access to information about equipment, vendors and prices. It also has links to the device loan and the device reutilization programs.

**APPENDIX C:
STATE GRANT FOR
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS**

Alabama

Alabama Statewide Technology Access and
Response (STAR) System
2125 East South Boulevard
P.O. Box 20752
Montgomery, AL 36120-0752
Executive Director: Pamela Blome
Phone: 334-613-3480
Phone: 800-782-7656 (In State)
TTY: 334-613-3519
Fax: 334-613-3485
E-mail: pblome@rehab.state.al.us
Web: <http://www.rehab.state.al.us/star>

Alaska

Alaska Assistive Technology Program
1251 Muldoon Suite 1010
Anchorage, AK 99504-2096
Program Coordinator: Sean O'Brien
Phone: 800-478-4378
Phone: 907-465-6969
TTY: 907-269-3570
Fax: 907-269-3632
E-mail: sean_obrien@labor.state.ak.us
Web: <http://www.labor.state.ak.us/at/>

American Samoa

American Samoa Assistive Technology
Service Project (ASATS)
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Department of Human Resources
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
Project Director: Pete Galea'i
Phone: 684-699-1529
TTY: 684-233-7874
Fax: 684-699-1376
E-mail: apisap26@yahoo.com

Arizona

Arizona Technology Access Program
(AzTAP)
Institute for Human Development
Northern Arizona University
2400 N. Central Avenue, Suite 300
Phoenix, AZ 85004
Director: Jill Sherman
Phone: 602-728-9534
Phone: 800-477-9921
Fax: 602-728-9535
TTY: 602-728-9536
E-mail: Jill.sherman@nau.edu
Web: <http://www.nau.edu/ihd/aztap/>

Arkansas

Arkansas Increasing Capabilities Access
Network (ICAN)
Arkansas Department of Workforce
Education
Arkansas Rehabilitation Services
2201 Brookwood Drive, Suite 117
Little Rock, AR 72202
Project Director: Barry Vuletich
Phone/TTY: 501-666-8868
Phone/TTY: 800-828-2799 (In State)
Fax: 501-666-5319
E-mail: bmvuletich@ars.state.ar.us
Web: <http://www.Arkansas-ican.org>

California

California Assistive Technology Systems
(CATS)
California Department of Rehabilitation
2000 Evergreen
P.O. Box 944222
Sacramento, CA 94244-2220
Project Director: Richard Devylder
Phone: 916-274-6325
TTY: 916-263-8685
Fax: 916-263-7472
E-mail: rdevylde@dor.ca.gov
Web: [http://www.atnet.org/resources/about_](http://www.atnet.org/resources/about_cats.htm)
[cats.htm](http://www.atnet.org/resources/about_cats.htm)

Colorado

Colorado Assistive Technology Project
1245 E. Colfax Ave., Suite 200
Denver, CO 80218
Project Director: Cathy Bodine
Phone: 303-315-1280
Phone: 800-255-3477 (In State)
TTY: 303-837-8964
Fax: 303-837-1208
E-mail: cathy.bodine@uchsc.edu
Web: <http://www.uchsc.edu/atp/>

Connecticut

Connecticut Assistive Technology Project
Department of Social Services, BRS
25 Sigourney St. 11th Floor
Hartford, CT 06106
Project Director: Dawn Lambert
Phone: 860-424-4897
Phone: 800-537-2549 (In State)
TTY: 860-424-4839
Fax: 860-424-4850
E-mail: dawn.lambert@po.state.ct.us
Web: <http://www.techactproject.com>

Delaware

Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative
(DATI)
Center for Applied Science & Engineering
University of Delaware/duPont Hospital for
Children
1600 Rockland Road
P.O. Box 269
Wilmington, DE 19899-0269
Director: Beth Mineo Mollica
Phone: 302-651-6790
Phone: 800-870-3284 (In State)
TTY: 302-651-6794
Fax: 302-651-6793
E-mail: dati@asel.udel.edu
Web: <http://www.dati.org>

District of Columbia

Assistive Technology Program for the
District of Columbia
University Legal Services
220 I Street, NE, Suite 130
Washington, DC 20002
Program Manager: Alicia C. Johns
Phone: 202-547-0198
TTY: 202-547-2657
Fax: 202-547-2662
E-mail: ajohns@uls-dc.org
Web: <http://www.atpdc.org>

Florida

Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and
Technology (FAAST Inc.)
325 John Knox Road, Bldg. 400, Suite 402
Tallahassee, FL 32303-4151
Executive Director: Jane Johnson
Phone: 800-322-7981 (In State)
Fax: 850-487-2805
TTY: 850-921-5951
E-mail: faast@faast.org
Web: <http://faast.org>

Georgia

Georgia Tools for Life
Georgia Department of Labor
Vocational Rehabilitation Program
Assistive Technology Unit
1700 Century Circle, Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30345
Program Manager: Carolyn Phillips
Phone: 404-638-0384
Phone: 800-497-8665 (In State)
TTY: 404-638-3085
Fax: 404-486-0218
E-mail: info@gatfl.org
Web: <http://www.gatfl.org>

Guam

Guam System for Assistive Technology
(GSAT)
University of Guam
Guam Center for Excellence in
Developmental Disabilities, Education,
Research and Service (Guam CEDDERS)
UOG Station
303 University Drive, Hse #19 Dean Circle
Mangilao, Guam 96923
Project Manager: June Quitugua
Phone: 671-735-2490
TTY: 671-735-2491
Fax: 671-734-8378
E-mail: gsat@ite.net
Web: <http://www.uog.edu/cedders/gsat.htm>

Hawaii

Assistive Technology Resource Centers of
Hawaii (ATRC)
414 Kuwili Street, Suite 104
Honolulu, HI 96817
Executive Director: Barbara Fischolowitz-
Leong
Phone/TTY: 808-532-7110
Phone/TTY: 800-645-3007 (In State)
Fax: 808-532-7120
E-mail: atrc@atrc.org
Web: <http://www.atrc.org>

Idaho

Idaho Assistive Technology Project
129 West Third Street
Moscow, ID 83844-4401
Project Director: Ron Seiler
Phone/TTY: 208-885-3559
Phone/TTY: 800-432-8324
Fax: 208-885-3628
E-mail: rseiler@uidaho.edu
Web: <http://www.educ.uidaho.edu/idatech/>

Illinois

Illinois Assistive Technology Project
1 W. Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 100
Springfield, IL 62701
Executive Director: Wilhelmina Gunther
Phone: 217-522-7985
Phone/TTY: 217-522-9966
Fax: 217-522-8067
E-mail: iatp@iltech.org
Web: <http://www.iltech.org>

Indiana

Assistive Technology Through Action In
Indiana
ATTAIN, Inc.
32 E. Washington Street, Suite 1400
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Executive Director: Gary Hand
Phone: 317-486-8808
Phone: 800-528-8246 (In State)
TTY: 800-743-3333 (National)
Fax: 317-486-8809
E-mail: attain@attaininc.org
Web: <http://www.attaininc.org>

Iowa

Iowa Program for Assistive Technology
Center for Disabilities and Development
100 Hawkins Drive
Iowa City, IA 52242-1011
Director: Jane Gay
Phone: 319-353-8777
Phone: 800-779-2001 (National)
TTY: 877-686-0032
Fax: 319-384-5139
E-mail: ipat@uiowa.edu
Web: <http://www.uiowa.edu/infotech/>

Kansas

Assistive Technology for Kansans Project
2601 Gabriel
Parsons, KS 67357
Project Director: Sara Sack
Phone/TTY: 620-421-8367
Phone: 800-526-3648 (In State)
Fax: 620-421-0954
E-mail: ssack@ku.edu
Web: <http://www.atk.ku.edu>

Kentucky

Kentucky Assistive Technology Service
(KATS) Network
Charles McDowell Center
8412 Westport Road
Louisville, KY 40242
Director: J. Chase Forrester
Phone: 502-429-4484
Phone: 800-327-5287 (In State)
TTY: 502-429-7116
Fax: 502-429-7114
E-mail: katsnet@iglou.com
Web: <http://www.katsnet.org>

Louisiana

Louisiana Assistive Technology Access
Network (LATAN)
3042 Old Forge Road, Suite D
P.O. Box 14115
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-4115
President and CEO: Julie Nesbit
Phone/TTY: 225-925-9500
Phone/TTY: 800-270-6185 (In State)
Fax: 225-925-9560
E-mail: cpourciau@latan.org
Web: <http://www.latan.org>

Maine

Maine Consumer Information and
Technology Training Exchange (CITE)
Maine CITE Coordinating Center
46 University Drive
Augusta, ME 04330
Project Director: Kathleen Powers
Phone: 207-621-3195
TTY: 207-621-3482
Fax: 207-621-3193
E-mail: kpowers@maine.edu
Web: <http://www.maine.cite.org>

Maryland

Maryland Technology Assistance Program
(MD TAP)
Department of Disabilities
2301 Argonne Drive, Room T17
Baltimore, MD 21218
Executive Director: Michael Dalto
Phone/TTY: 410-554-9230
Phone/TTY: 800-832-4827 (In State)
Fax: 410-554-9237
E-mail: mdtap@mdod.state.md.us
Web: <http://www.mdmap.org>

Massachusetts

Massachusetts Assistive Technology Act
Program
Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission
27 Wormwood Street
Boston, MA 02210-1616
Project Director: Karen Langley
Phone: 617-204-3851
Fax: 617-727-1354
E-mail: karen.langley@MRC.state.ma.us

Michigan

Michigan Assistive Technology Project
 c/o Michigan Disability Rights Coalition
 740 W. Lake Lansing Road, Suite 200
 East Lansing, MI 48823
 Contact: Kathryn Wakeman Wyeth
 Phone/TTY: 517-333-2477
 Phone: 800-760-4600 (In State)
 Fax: 517-333-2677
 E-mail: kdwyeth@match.org
 Web: <http://www.copower.org/AT/>

Minnesota

Minnesota STAR Program
 50 Sherburne Ave., Room 309
 St. Paul, MN 55155
 Executive Director: Chuck Rassbach
 Phone: 651-296-2771
 Phone: 800-657-3862 (In State)
 TTY: 651-296-9478
 TTY: 800-657-3895 (In State)
 Fax: 651-282-6671
 E-mail: star.program@state.mn.us
 Web: <http://www.admin.state.mn.us/assistivetechology/>

Mississippi

Mississippi Project START
 P.O. Box 1698
 Jackson, MS 39215-1000
 Project Director: Dorothy Young
 Phone: 601-987-4872
 Phone/TTY: 800-852-8328 (In State)
 Fax: 601-364-2349
 E-mail: contactus@msprojectstart.org
 Web: <http://www.msprojectstart.org>

Missouri

Missouri Assistive Technology Project
 4731 South Cochise, Suite 114
 Independence, MO 64055-6975
 Director: Diane Golden
 Phone: 816-373-5193
 Phone: 800-647-8557 (In State)
 TTY: 800-647-8558 (In State)
 TTY: 816-373-9315
 Fax: 816-373-9314
 E-mail: matpmo@swbell.net
 Web: <http://www.at.mo.gov>

Montana

MonTECH Program
 Rural Institute
 University of Montana
 634 Eddy Avenue
 Missoula, MT 59812
 Project Director: Kathy Laurin
 Phone/TTY: 406-243-5676
 TTY: 800-732-0323 (National)
 Fax: 406-243-4730
 E-mail: montech@ruralinstitute.umt.edu
 Web: <http://montech.ruralinstitute.umt.edu>

Nebraska

Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership
 5143 South 48th Street, Suite C
 Lincoln, NE 68516-2204
 Project Director: Mark Schultz
 Phone/TTY: 402-471-0734
 Phone: 888-806-6287 (In State)
 Fax: 402-471-6052
 E-mail: atp@atp.ne.gov
 Web: <http://www.nde.state.ne.us/ATP/>

Nevada

Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative
Department of Human Resources
Office of Disability Service
3656 Research Way, Suite 32
Carson City, NV 89706
Project Administrator: Kelleen Preston
Phone: 775-687-4452
TTY: 775-687-3388
Fax: 775-687-3292
E-mail: kpreston@dhr.state.nv.us
Web: http://hr.state.nv.us/directors/disabilitysvcs/dhr_ods.htm

New Hampshire

New Hampshire Technology Partnership Project
Institute on Disability/UCEDD
The Concord Center
Ten Ferry Street, #14
Concord, NH 03301-5019
Project Director: Therese Willkomm
Project Coordinator: Sonke Dornblut
Phone/TTY: 603-224-0630
Phone/TTY: 800-238-2048 (In State)
Fax: 603-228-3270
E-mail: sonke.dornblut@unh.edu
Web: http://www.iod.unh.edu/projects/technology_policy.html

New Jersey

Assistive Technology Advocacy Center (ATAC) of NJ P&A
New Jersey Protection and Advocacy, Inc.
210 South Broad Street, 3rd Floor
Trenton, NJ 08608
Project Director: Ellen Cantanese
Phone: 609-292-9742
Phone: 800-922-7233 (In State)
TTY: 609-633-7106
Fax: 609-777-0187
E-mail: advocate@njpanda.org
Web: <http://www.njpanda.org>

New Mexico

New Mexico Technology Assistance Program
435 St. Michael's Drive, Building D
Santa Fe, NM 87505
Project Director: Andrew J. Winnegar
Phone/TTY: 505-954-8533
Phone: 800-866-2253 (In State)
Fax: 505-954-8608
E-mail: AWinnegar@state.nm.us
Web: <http://www.nmtap.com>

New York

New York State TRAIID Project
NYS Commission on Quality Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (CQCAPD)
401 State Street
Schenectady, NY 12305
Project Manager: Lisa Rosano-Kaczowski
Phone/TTY: 518-474-2825
Phone/TTY: 800-522-4369 (In State)
TTY: 518-473-4231
Fax: 518-473-6005
E-mail: traid@oapwd.org
Web: http://www.oapwd.org/TRAIID_Project/technolog.htm

North Carolina

North Carolina Assistive Technology Project
Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
1110 Navaho Drive, Suite 101
Raleigh, NC 27609-7322
Project Director: Ricki Hiatt
Phone/TTY: 919-850-2787
Fax: 919-850-2792
E-mail: rhiatt@ncatp.org
Web: <http://www.ncatp.org>

North Dakota

North Dakota Interagency Program For
Assistive Technology (IPAT)
3509 Interstate Blvd.
Fargo, ND 58103
Project Director: Judie Lee
Phone: 701-365-4729
Phone/TTY: 800-265-4728
Fax: 701-239-7229
E-mail: jlee@polarcomm.com
Web: <http://www.ndipat.org>

Northern Mariana Islands

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
Islands Assistive Technology Project
CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities
Systems of Technology-Related Assistance
for Individuals with Disabilities (STRAID)
P.O. Box 502565
Saipan, MP 96950-2565
Project Director: Tony Chong
Phone: 670-664-7000
Fax: 670-664-7030
E-mail: straids@cnmiddcouncil.org
Web: <http://www.cnmiddcouncil.org>

Ohio

Assistive Technology of Ohio
445 East Dublin Granville Rd., Building 2
Worthington, OH 43085
Director: William Darling
Phone/TTY: 614-293-9132
Phone/TTY: 800-784-3425 (In State)
Fax: 614-293-9127
E-mail: darling.12@osu.edu
Web: <http://www.atohio.org>

Oklahoma

Oklahoma ABLE Tech
Seretean Wellness Center
Oklahoma State University
1514 W. Hall of Fame
Stillwater, OK 74078-2026
Project Manager: Linda Jaco
Phone: 405-744-9864
Phone/TTY: 800-257-1705 (National)
Fax: 405-744-2487
E-mail: linda.jaco@okstate.edu
Web: <http://okabletech.okstate.edu>

Oregon

Oregon Technology Access for Life Needs
Project (TALN)
Access Technologies, Inc.
3070 Lancaster Drive N.E.
Salem, OR 97305-1396
Executive Director: Laurie Brooks
Phone/TTY: 503-361-1201
Phone/TTY: 800-677-7512 (In State)
Fax: 503-370-4530
E-mail: laurie@accesstechnologiesinc.org
Web: <http://www.accesstechnologiesinc.org>

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive
Technology (PIAT)
Institute on Disabilities/UCEDD
1301 Cecil B. Moore Ave.
Ritter Annex 423
Temple University
Philadelphia, PA 19122
Project Director: Amy S. Goldman
Phone: 215-204-5966
Phone/TTY: 215-204-1356
Phone: 800-204-7428 (In State)
TTY: 800-750-7428 (In State)
Fax: 215-204-9371
E-mail: piat@temple.edu
Web: <http://disabilities.temple.edu>

Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico Assistive Technology Program
University of Puerto Rico
Central Administration/FILIUS Instituto
Assistive Technology Institute
Jardin Botanico Sur
1187 Calle Flamboyán
San Juan, PR 00926-1117
Program Director: Maria I. Miranda
Phone: 888-496-6035 (National)
Phone: 800-981-6033 (In Puerto Rico)
Fax: 787-754-8034
TTY: 787-767-8034
Phone: 787-764-6035
Phone: 787-764-6042
E-mail: pratp@pratp.upr.edu
Web: <http://www.pratp.upr.edu>

Rhode Island

Rhode Island Assistive Technology Access
Partnership (ATAP)
Office of Rehabilitation Services
40 Fountain Street
Providence, RI 02903
Project Director: Regina Connor
Phone: 401-421-7005 (Ext 390)
TTY: 401-421-7016
Fax: 401-222-3574
E-mail: reginac@ors.state.ri.us
Web: <http://www.atap.state.ri.us>

South Carolina

South Carolina Assistive Technology Project
USC School of Medicine
University Center for Excellence
Columbia, SC 29208
Project Director: Evelyn Evans
Phone/TTY: 803-935-5263
Fax: 803-935-5342
E-mail: evelne@cdd.sc.edu
Web: <http://www.sc.edu/scatp/>

South Dakota

South Dakota Assistive Technology Project
DakotaLink
1161 Deadwood Ave. Suite #5
Rapid City, SD 57702
Project Director: Ron Rosenboom
Phone/TTY: 605-394-6742
Phone/TTY: 800-645-0673 (In State)
Fax: 605-394-6744
E-mail: dscherer@dakotaLink.net
Web: <http://DakotaLink.tie.net>

Tennessee

Tennessee Technology Access Project
(TTAP)
Citizens Plaza, 14th Floor
400 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37248-6000
Program Director: Kevin R. Wright
Phone: 615-313-5185
Phone: 800-270-1349 (In State)
TTY: 615-741-4566
Fax: 615-532-4685
E-mail: tn.ttap@state.tn.us
Web: <http://www.tennessee.gov/humanserv/ttap-index.htm>

Texas

Texas Assistive Technology Project
Texas Center for Disability Studies
University of Texas at Austin
4030 West Braker Lane
Building 1, Suite 180
Austin, TX 78759
Director: Penny Seay
Phone: 512-232-0740
Phone: 800-828-7839 (In State)
TTY: 512-232-0762
Fax: 512-471-7549
E-mail: pseay@mail.utexas.edu
Web: <http://techaccess.edb.utexas.edu>

U.S. Virgin Islands

U.S. Virgin Islands Technology-Related
Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities
(TRAID)

University of the Virgin Islands/UCE

#2 John Brewers Bay

St. Thomas, U.S. VI 00801-0990

Executive Director: Yegin Habtes

Phone: 340-693-1323

Fax: 340-693-1325

E-mail: yhabtes@uvi.edu

Web: <http://www.uvi.edu/pubrelations/VIUCEDD/contactus.htm>

Utah

Utah Assistive Technology Program
Center for Persons with Disabilities

6855 Old Main Hill

Logan, UT 84322-6855

Program Director: Marty Blair

Phone: 435-797-3824

TTY: 435-797-7089

Fax: 435-797-2355

E-mail: uatpat@cc.usu.edu

Web: <http://www.uatpat.org>

Vermont

Vermont Assistive Technology Project
103 South Main Street

Weeks Building

Waterbury, VT 05671-2305

Project Director: Julie Tucker

Phone/TTY: 802-241-2620

Phone/TTY: 800-750-6355 (In State)

TTY: 800-241-1464

Fax: 802-241-2174

E-mail: Julie.tucker@dail.state.vt.us

Web: <http://www.dad.state.vt.us/atp/>

Virginia

Virginia Assistive Technology System
(VATS)

8004 Franklin Farms Drive

P.O. Box K-300

Richmond, VA 23288-0300

Director: Ken Knorr

Phone/TTY: 804-662-9990

Phone: 800-552-5019

Fax: 804-622-9478

E-mail: ken.knorr@drs.virginia.gov

Web: <http://www.vats.org>

Washington

Washington Assistive Technology Alliance

University of Washington

Center for Technology and Disability Studies

CHDD South Building, Room 104

Box 357920

Seattle, WA 98195-7920

Project Director: Debbie Cook

Phone: 800-214-8731 (Information &
Referral)

Phone: 206-685-4181

Phone/TTY: 800-841-8345 (In State)

TTY: 206-616-1396

Fax: 206-543-4799

E-mail: uwat@u.washington.edu

Web: <http://wata.org>

West Virginia

West Virginia Assistive Technology Systems
(WVATS)

West Virginia Center for Excellence in
Disabilities

Airport Research and Office Park

955 Hartman Run Road

Morgantown, WV 26505

Program Manager: Jack Stewart

Phone/TTY: 304-293-4692

Phone: 800-841-8436 (In State)

Fax: 304-293-7294

E-mail: jcstewart@hsc.wvu.edu

Web: <http://cedwvu.org/programs/wvats/>

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Assistive Technology Program
(WisTech)
Division of Disability and Elder Services
P.O. Box 7851
1 W. Wilson Street, Room 1151
Madison, WI 53707-7851
Project Director: Ralph Pelkey
Phone: 608-266-8905
Phone/TTY: 608-267-9880
Fax: 608-267-3203
E-mail: pelkerj@dhfs.state.wi.us
Web: <http://www.wistech.state.wi.us>

Wyoming

Wyoming's New Options in Technology
(WYNOT) Project
University of Wyoming
Box 4298
Laramie, WY 82072-4298
Project Director: Keith A. Miller
Phone/TTY: 307-766-2084
Phone/TTY: 800-861-4312
Fax: 307-721-2084
E-mail: wynot.uw@uwyo.edu
Web: <http://wind.uwyo.edu/wynot/>

**APPENDIX D:
ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAMS
FOR PROGRAM YEARS 2004 AND 2005**

Alabama

Alabama Loan Program
Alabama Department of
Rehabilitation Services
2125 East South Boulevard
P.O. Box 20752
Montgomery, AL 36120-0752
Project Contact; Joe Helm
Phone: (334) 613-2217
TTY: (334) 613-3519
E-mail: jhelm@rehab.state.ai.us

Arizona

Arizona Loans for Assistive Technology
Program (AzLAT)
Northern Arizona University
Institute for Human Development
2400 North Central Avenue, Suite 300
Phoenix, AZ 85004
Project Director: Jill Sherman
Phone: (602) 728-9532
Phone: (800) 477-9921
TTY: (602) 728-9536
Fax: (602) 728-9535
E-mail: jill.sherman@nau.edu
Web: <http://www.azlat.org>

Arkansas

Arkansas Technology Alternative Financing
Project
Arkansas Rehabilitation Services
4601 West Markham
Little Rock, AR 72205
Project Director: Jim Moreland
Phone: (501) 683-3008
Fax: (501) 666-5319
E-mail: jdmoreland@ars.state.ar.us

Delaware

Delaware Loan Program
Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative
University of Delaware
1600 Rockland Road
P.O. Box 269
Wilmington, DE 19899-0269
Project Director: Beth Mineo Molica
Phone: (302) 651-6790
TTY: (302) 651-6794
Fax: (302) 651-6793
E-mail: mineo@asel.udel.edu

Florida

Florida Alternative Financing Program
Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and
Technology (FAAST, Inc.)
325 John Knox Road, Bldg 400, Suite 402
Tallahassee, FL 32303
Executive Dir.: Jane Johnson
Phone: (850) 487-3278
Fax: (850) 487-2805
E-mail: faast@faast.org

Georgia

Georgia Credit – Able
Tech-Able Inc
1114 Brett Drive, Suite 100
Conyers, GA 30094
Program Coordinator: Jackie Wilks
Phone: (404) 638-0385
E-mail: ca@garc.org

Guam

Guam Options for Alternative Loans –
Assistive Technology (GOAL-AT)
University of Guam CEDDERS
UOG Station
303 University Drive, House #19 Dean Circle
Mangilao, Guam 96923
Project Coordinator: Michael Terlaje
Phone: (671) 735-2490
TTY: (671) 735-2491
Fax: (671) 734-8378
E-mail: mterlaje@ite.net

Illinois

TechConnect Low Interest Loan Program
Illinois Assistive Technology Project
1 West Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 100
Springfield, IL 62701-1200
TechConnect Program Coordinator:
Sue Castles
Phone: (800) 852-5110
Phone: (217) 522-7985
TTY: (217) 522-9966
Fax: (217) 522-8067
E-mail: scastles@iltech.org

Iowa

Iowa Able Foundation
Abilities Fund
410 North 18th Street
Centerville, IA 52544
Director: Patti Lind
Phone: (888) 222-8943
Phone: (641) 856-2173
Fax: (641) 856-3101
E-mail: prlind@abilitiesfund.org
Web: <http://www.abilitiesfund.org>

Kansas

Alternative Financing Program
Kansas Assistive Technology Cooperative
625 Merchant, Suite 205
Emporia, KS 66801
Executive Director: Basil Kessler
E-mail: katcodir@SBCglobal.net
AFP Coordinator: Charles Linville
E-mail: katcoafp@SBCglobal.net
Phone/TTY: (866) 465-2826
Phone/TTY: (620) 341-9002
Fax: (620) 342-6400

Kentucky

Loan Initiative Networking Kentuckians for
Assistive Technology (LINK AT)
Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan
Corporation
209 St Clair Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
Program Director: Dave Matheis
Phone: (877) 675-0195
Phone: (502) 564-4444 ext. 279
Fax: (502) 564-1268
E-mail: DaveS.Matheis@ky.gov
Web: <http://www.katlc.ky.gov>

Louisiana

Louisiana Assistive Technology Loan
Program
Louisiana Assistive Technology Access
Network (LATAN)
3042 Old Forge Road, Suite D
Baton Rouge, LA 70808
Loan Program Director: Kurt Hellmann
Phone/TTY: (225) 925-9500
Phone/TTY: (800) 270-6185 (National)
Fax: (225) 925-9560
E-mail: khellmann@latan.org
Web: <http://www.latan.org>

Maine

Maine Loan Program
Maine Consumer Information and Technology
Training Exchange (CITE)
Maine CITE Coordinating Center
46 University Drive
Augusta, ME 04330
Project Contact: Kathy Adams
Phone: (207) 621-3195
TTY: (207) 621-3482
E-mail: kadamsot@maine.rr.com

Maryland

Assistive Technology Guaranteed Loan Program
 Maryland Technology Assistance Program
 2301 Argonne Drive, Room T-17
 Baltimore, MD 21218
 Loan Program Director: Tony Rice
 Phone/TTY: (800) 832-4827
 Fax: (410) 554-9237
 E-mail: loans@mdtap.org
 Web: <http://www.mdtap.org>

Massachusetts

Massachusetts AT Loan Program
 Easter Seals Massachusetts
 484 Main Street
 Worcester, MA 01608
 AFP Director: Jason Luciano
 Phone: (508) 751-6431
 E-mail: jluciano@eastersealsma.org

Michigan

Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund
 C/O U.C.P. Michigan
 3401 E. Saginaw, Suite 216
 Lansing, MI 48912
 Loan Fund Manager: Carolyn Brown
 Phone: (517) 203-1200 ext. 16
 Fax: (517) 203-1203
 E-mail: cbrown@ucpmichigan.org
 Web: <http://www.mi-atlf.org>

Minnesota

ATMN Micro-loan Program
 Assistive Technology of Minnesota
 1800 Pioneer Creek Center, Box 310
 Maple Plain, MN 55359-0310
 Project Director: Carol Fury
 Phone: (763) 479-8239
 TTY: (800) 627-3529
 Fax: (763) 479-8243
 E-mail: info@atmn.org
 Web: <http://www.atmn.org>

Missouri

Show Me Loans
 Missouri Assistive Technology Council
 4731 South Cochise #114
 Independence, MO 64055-6975
 Loan Program Coordinator: Marty Exline
 Phone: (816) 350-5281
 TTY: (816) 373-9315
 E-mail: mexline@swbell.net

Nebraska

Nebraska
 Alternative Financing Loan Program
 Easter Seals Nebraska
 638 North 109th Plaza
 Omaha, NE 68154
 AFP Director: Renee Fitzke
 Phone: (402) 345-2200 X1116
 E-mail: rfitzke@ne.easterseals.com

Nevada

Nevada Assistive Technology Loan Fund
 CareChest
 7910 N. Virginia Street
 Reno, NV 89506
 Loan Program Coordinator: Randi Decasa
 Phone: (775) 829-2273
 Fax: (775) 829-8745
 E-mail: loans@carechest.com

New Mexico

New Mexico Loan Program
 San Juan Center for Independence
 3535 E. 30th, Suite 101
 Farmington, NM 87402
 Program Manager: Larry McCabe
 Phone: (505) 566-5827
 Fax: (505) 566-5842
 E-mail: lmccabe@sjci.org

North Dakota

North Dakota AT Loan Program
North Dakota Association for the Disabled
2660 South Columbia Road
Grand Forks, ND 58201
Loan Coordinator: Traci Ladouceur
Phone (701) 795-6609
TTY: (800) 265-4728
Fax: (701) 239-7229
E-mail: tladouceur@ndad.org

Northern Marianas

Trankilu Loan Program
Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas
Council on Developmental Disabilities
P.O. Box 502565
Saipan, MP 96950-2565
Loan Program Coordinator: Tony Chong
Phone: (670) 664-7000
TTY: (670) 664-7000
Fax: (670) 664-7030
E-mail: tchong@cnmiddcouncil.org

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Alternative Financing Program
Oklahoma ABLE Tech
1514 West Hall of Fame
Stillwater, OK 74078-2026
Loan Program Coordinator: Milissa Gofourth
Phone: (405) 744-9864
TTY: (800) 257-1705
Fax: (405) 744-2487
E-mail: gmiliss@okstate.edu

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation
1004 West Ninth Avenue, First Floor
King of Prussia, PA 19406
Executive Director: Susan Tachau
Phone: (888) 744-1938 (National)
Phone: (484) 674-0506
TTY: (877) 693-7271 (National)
Fax: (484) 674-0510
E-mail: stachau@patf.us
Web: <http://www.patf.us>

South Carolina

South Carolina Assistive Technology Loan
Program (SC AT)
Vocational Rehabilitation Department
1410 Boston Avenue
West Columbia, SC 29171
Project Coordinator: Denise Koon
Phone: (803) 896-6374
Fax: (803) 896-6875
E-mail: dkoon@scvrd.state.sc.us

U.S. Virgin Islands

U.S. Virgin Islands Loan Program
University of the Virgin Islands
#2 John Brewer's Bay
St. Thomas, U.S.VI 00802
Project Coordinator: Shirley White
Phone: (340) 776-9200 ext. 2333
Fax: (340) 693-1325
E-mail: swhite@uvi.edu

Utah

Alternative Financing Program
Utah Assistive Technology Foundation
(UATF)
Center for Persons with Disabilities
6835 Old Main Hill
Logan, UT 84322
Loan Coordinator: Lois Summers
Phone: (800) 524-5152 (National)
Phone: (435) 797-2025
TTY: (435) 797-7089
Fax: (435) 797-2355
E-mail: uatf@cpd2.usu.edu
Web: <http://www.uatf.org>

Vermont

Vermont Assistive Technology Fund
Opportunities Ventures
18 Pearl Street
Burlington, VT 05401
Ventures Director: Dawn Moskowitz
Phone: (802) 865-2003 Ext. 135
Fax: (802) 860-6123
E-mail: dmoskowitz@oppsvt.org

Virginia

Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority
(ATLFA)
1602 Rolling Hills Drive, Suite 107
Richmond, VA 23229
Acting Director: Joey Wallace
Phone: (866) 835-5976 (Toll Free)
Phone: (804) 662-9000
Fax: (804) 662-9533
E-mail: joey.wallace@atlfa.org
Web: <http://www.atlfa.org>

Washington

Washington Loan Program
Washington Assistive Technology Foundation
1823 East Madison, Suite 1000
Seattle, WA 98122
Director: Andrea Dimond
Phone: (206) 328-5116
TTY: (800) 214-8731
Fax: (206) 328-5126
E-mail: andrea@watf.org

Wisconsin

WisLoan
Independence First
600 W. Virginia St., Suite 401
Milwaukee, WI 53204-1516
Phone: (414) 226-8306
TTY: (414) 291-7520
Fax: (414) 291-7525
WisLoan Coordinator: Patti Kraemer
E-mail: pkraemer@independencefirst.org
Web: <http://www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/wistech/wisloan.htm>

Wyoming

Wyoming Technology Access Program
(WYTAP)
Wyoming Independent Living Rehabilitation,
Inc.
305 West First Street
Casper, WY 82601
Executive Director: Kenneth Hoff
Loan Program Coordinator: Kris Smith
Phone: (800) 735-8322
Phone: (307) 226-6956
E-mail: khof@trib.com
E-mail: kris-smith@vcn.com

**PART VI.
GLOSSARY**

GLOSSARY

Advocacy (as defined in the reporting form used by grantees in FY 2004). Services grantees provide to assist individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates and authorized representatives in accessing AT devices and services.

Alternative Financing Programs (as defined in Title I, Section 101 of the *AT Act of 1998*). Programs that support activities to increase access to, and funding for, AT devices and services.

Demonstrations (as defined in Title I, Section 101 of the *AT Act of 1998*). Demonstrations of AT devices may be conducted in settings where targeted individuals can see and try out AT devices, and learn more about them from personnel who are familiar with the devices and their applications or can be referred to other entities who have information on the devices.

Individualized Education Program (IEP). As defined under the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*, an IEP means a written program for a child with a disability that includes information about the child's present levels of achievement and how the child's disability affects his or her involvement and progress in the general education curriculum. The IEP also includes a statement of measurable annual goals, how the child's progress toward meeting the annual goals will be measured, and the services and accommodations to be provided to the child.

Interagency Coordination (as defined in Title I, Section 101 of the *AT Act of 1998*). Activities a state conducts to develop and promote the adoption of policies which improve access to AT devices and services for individuals of all ages with disabilities and that result in improved coordination among public and private entities that are responsible for, or have the authority to be responsible for, policies, procedures, funding, or the provision of AT devices and services.

Interest Rate Buy-Down Loans. An AFP uses its funds to reduce the interest rate percentage. This makes the loan more affordable because the borrower pays less interest.

Interstate Activities (as defined in Title I, Section 101 of the *AT Act of 1998*). Activities grantees conduct through cooperative agreements with other states to expand their capacity in assisting individuals of all ages with disabilities to learn about, acquire, use, maintain, adapt and upgrade AT devices and services that such individuals need at home, at school, at work or in other environments that are part of daily living.

Legislative Change (as defined by RSA). Results in new laws or amendments to existing laws relating to reducing barriers to acquiring assistive technology devices and services.

Loan Guarantee Program. The AFP does not make a loan directly to the recipient, but rather guarantees a portion of the loan made by a third-party lender such as a conventional bank. By agreeing to cover all or part of a loan if the loan recipient should default, an AFP enables a bank to provide financing to individuals the bank might otherwise deem too risky to receive a conventional loan.

Non-Guaranteed Low-Interest Loans. An AFP refers individuals with high enough incomes and credit scores to obtain loans directly from a conventional lender, to their lending partners, which provide financing at a preferred or reduced rate negotiated between the bank and the AFP.

Outreach (as defined in Title I, Section 101 of the *AT Act of 1998*). Activities conducted to support statewide and community-based organizations that provide AT devices and services to individuals with disabilities or that assist individuals with disabilities in using AT devices and services, including a focus on organizations assisting individuals from underrepresented populations and rural populations. Such support may include outreach to consumer organizations and groups in the state to coordinate efforts to assist individuals of all ages with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates or authorized representatives to obtain funding for, access to, and information on the evaluation of AT devices and services.

Persons with Low-Incidence Disabilities. As defined in *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*, Section 673(b)(3) and [adapted by RSA to include the general population, rather than limited to elementary and secondary school students], the *AT Act* of 1998 lists “persons with low-incidence disabilities” as an underrepresented population. *IDEA* defines the term as: (a) a visual or hearing impairment, or simultaneous visual and hearing impairments; (b) a significant cognitive impairment; or (c) any impairment for which a small number of personnel with highly specialized skills and knowledge are needed in order for [persons with disabilities] with that impairment to receive [services].

Policy Change (as defined by RSA). Results in a practice, procedure or course of action, sanctioned or adopted by a state government agency to reduce barriers to acquiring AT devices and services.

Public Awareness (as defined in Title I, Section 101 of the *AT Act of 1998*). Activities conducted for targeted individuals relating to the availability and benefits of AT devices and services.

Revolving Loan (also called direct loan). The AFP itself lends money directly to the borrower. The loan payments made by loan recipients are paid back into the AFP and are then available to fund new loans.

Systems Change, Capacity Building and Advocacy Activities (as defined in the reporting form used by grantees in FY 2004). 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 work force.

Targeted Individuals and Entities, as outlined in the *AT Act of 1998*, include individuals of all ages with disabilities and their family members or guardians, individuals who work for public or private entities that have contact with individuals with disabilities, educators and related services personnel, technology experts, health or allied health professionals, and employers.

Technical Assistance (as defined by RSA). Helping individuals integrate knowledge into practice.

Training (as defined by RSA). A training session is a means to teach individuals a new skill or broaden their abilities with the intention that participants will apply what they learn to their work or personal situation (as in the case of consumer advocates). Examples of such skills or areas of improvement are: (1) conducting AT assessments, (2) matching AT devices and services to individual needs, and (3) learning or upgrading new skills to increase the acquisition and use of AT. Training formats can include presentations, conference sessions, learning labs, workshops, classroom instruction or distance education.

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