

Part I: Attachments

OMB Control Number: 1820-0664

Expiration Date: 10/31/2008

State: Pennsylvania

Attachment 1: Basic Information

Name of Lead Agency: Institute on Disabilities/UCEDD

Name of Applicable Division and/or Subdivision of Lead Agency: N/A

Address of Lead Agency: Temple University
1601 North Broad Street
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Philadelphia, PA 19122

Name and Title of Certifying Representative for Lead Agency: Kenneth J. Soprano,
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Vice President for Research

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Name and Title of Program Director: Diane Nelson Bryen, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Institute on Disabilities

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Name and Title of Program Contact (if different from Program Director):

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Associate Director, Institute on Disabilities

Address for Program Director:

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Name of Implementing Entity: N/A

Name of Applicable Division and/or Subdivision of Implementing Entity: N/A

Address of Implementing Entity: N/A

Name and Title of Program Director: N/A

Address for Program Director: N/A

Telephone for Program Director: N/A

E-mail for Program Director: N/A

Name and Title of Program Contact (if different from Program Director): N/A

Address for Program Director: N/A

Telephone for Program Director: N/A

E-mail for Program Director: N/A

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Attachment 2: Lead Agency and Implementing Entity

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

Over the next two years of Pennsylvania's State Plan for Assistive Technology the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University will continue to serve as the lead agency, directly responsible for conducting and overseeing the activities of Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology (PIAT), the Statewide AT Program for Pennsylvania. Because the Institute on Disabilities is not a state agency dedicated to specific programs that promote limited activities or serve limited populations, PIAT has the flexibility to assist individuals with AT needs across the lifespan and in any environment or for any purpose. This flexibility also means that access to PIAT's programs will not be limited by eligibility criteria such as income, age, type of disability, or the reason that an individual needs AT. Despite being located in the southeastern corner of Pennsylvania, PIAT's activities will be available statewide through a toll-free number, an accessible website, activities that will be conducted in all regions of the state on a periodic basis, and the use of its regional Assistive Technology Resource Centers.

The Institute on Disabilities has been the University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities ("UCEDD") for Pennsylvania since 1973 (currently authorized under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act as amended [2000]). As well as being part of the national network of 61 UCEDDs, the Institute has close relationships with other Commonwealth programs authorized under the Developmental Disabilities Act (the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council and the Pennsylvania Protection and Advocacy, Inc.).

The resources of the Institute on Disabilities, the College of Education and Temple University are sufficient to support the continued implementation of the Statewide Assistive Technology Act Program for Pennsylvania. The physical plant is fully accessible, and information technology is state of the art and accessible. To ensure that parents and people with disabilities are successfully involved in all activities of the Institute on Disabilities, we have a strong commitment to providing physical and programmatic accessibility. Our written policy affirms that all activities and publications of the Institute on Disabilities are accessible to people with disabilities. In accordance

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with Section 427 of GEPA, the Institute on Disabilities ensures equitable access to and participation in any activities of Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology by all Pennsylvanians with disabilities, regardless of gender, race, national origin, color, disability, or age. Personal assistance services, respite care, assistive technology devices and services, procurement of accessible information technology and other needed supports are routinely provided to staff and consumers of the Institute on Disabilities and all of its programs. Materials and services available in alternate languages are upon request.

The Institute on Disabilities has sufficient resources in terms of staff who are experienced and fully qualified to implement the AT Act Program in Pennsylvania. These include licensed speech-language pathologists, evaluators and researchers, social workers, "regular" and special educators, information technology specialists and certified therapeutic recreation specialists. Over the last eighteen years, the Institute has developed a national and international reputation for its work in assistive technology, especially augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). The Institute is a partner in federally-funded initiatives including the National Research Institute on Cognitive Disabilities and Assistive Technology and the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center for Communication Enhancement, and has participated in other efforts such as collaboration with a communication device manufacturer to make improvements in its vocabulary software. The Institute has received funding from the City of Philadelphia to provide technical assistance to early intervention teams, to help them develop their capacity to provide AT to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families, and to provide assessments to adults with developmental disabilities. The state Office of Mental Retardation has funded a statewide training program to develop the capacity of community-based speech-language pathologists to provide AAC services to individuals with intellectual disabilities. The state Office of Vocational Rehabilitation has funded the Institute's Augmentative Communication Empowerment Supports (ACES) program, providing intensive AT and independent living experiences to adults who are AAC users.

The vision of the Institute on Disabilities is that *"Pennsylvania will be a state where all people of diverse cultures and abilities are included, recognizing that all are interdependent and bring gifts and talents."* The Institute's mission is *"In partnership with people with disabilities, families and allies from diverse cultures, the Institute on Disabilities works to influence and change systems so that people can live, learn, work and play in communities of their choice. The Institute on Disabilities is committed to supporting individuals with disabilities in their pursuit of interdependence, contribution, and inclusion. This mission is accomplished through training, technical assistance, services and supports, research and dissemination, and policy and advocacy."*

In 1991, then-Governor Casey designated the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University as the lead agency for the statewide assistive technology program for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania under the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act. Since 1992, through Pennsylvania's Initiative on

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Assistive Technology (PIAT), the Institute on Disabilities has provided Pennsylvanians with disabilities of all ages, types of disabilities, and from all areas of the state, a variety of services and supports to facilitate their access to and acquisition of assistive technology. These activities include information and referral regarding AT devices and services (through toll-free telephone, TTY, email, and web); assistance in procuring funding for assistive technology (AT); access to short-term equipment loans; information about and access to electronic and information technology; and opportunities to learn about assistive technology through presentations, demonstrations, expos, and other AT events. As necessary, materials and services are provided in alternate languages.

In 1997, PIAT's Advisory Board developed its vision of *"a system to assure easy access and availability of assistive technology to all Pennsylvanians with disabilities and older Pennsylvanians...supported by the coordinated resources of public and private entities."* Over the past thirteen years, PIAT has achieved many accomplishments that move the Commonwealth towards a realization of that vision. Key among these are the establishment of an independent, 501(c)(3), the Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation, a community-based organization developed to provide for alternate financing for assistive technology; the establishment of Pennsylvania's Assistive Technology Lending Library, a cross-age, cross disability resource for short-term loans of assistive technology; passage of several pieces of legislation that provide for increased access to assistive technology, including the establishment of a telecommunication device distribution program; and the development of a statewide infrastructure for assistive technology through its Assistive Technology Resource Centers (ATRCs).

Building on the Institute's thirty-year history of established relationships with public and private entities in Pennsylvania, PIAT staff members participate on boards, advisory councils, workgroups, committees, and commissions that address the assistive technology-related needs of Pennsylvanians with disabilities across the life span. These include the advisory boards of AgrAbility for Pennsylvanians and the National Research Institute on AT and Infants and Toddlers; the Planning Advisory Committee of the Office of Mental Retardation (including its subcommittees on Assistive Technology and Communication); the Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities (Philadelphia); and the Statewide Planning and Implementation Team (Department of Public Welfare).

During the two remaining years of this Plan, eight regional Assistive Technology Resource Centers (ATRCs) will be subcontracted by the Institute on Disabilities and a ninth ATRC will be directly operated by the Institute, to form the statewide infrastructure for Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology. ATRCs have responsibilities for state financing activities, device demonstration, device recycling, and short-term loan programs as well as state leadership activities including training and technical assistance, public awareness, and collaboration (refer to those sections of the State Plan Application for additional detail about the role of the ATRC). Through its ATRCs, PIAT assures that programs are available locally to individuals with disabilities and their family members. The system of ATRCs is key to assuring accessibility of the program to those who live in the most rural areas of the Commonwealth.

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Subcontracted ATRCs are currently comprised of five centers for independent living and three nonprofit disability organizations:

- Center for Independent Living of North Central PA
- Life and Independence for Today (Center for Independent Living)
- Three Rivers Center for Independent Living
- Community Resources for Independence (Center for Independent Living)
- Tri-County Patriots for Independent Living
- United Cerebral Palsy of Central Pennsylvania
- United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania
- United Disability Services

In addition to their roles as ATRCs, Three Rivers Center for Independent Living and United Cerebral Palsy of Central Pennsylvania receive funds to operate extensive demonstration centers, and Three Rivers receives funds for Into New Hands and PIAT's reutilization "classifieds" listing as described in Attachment 5 of this plan.

During Year 1, efforts described in the original state plan to contract with the Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation (PATF) to expand its ability to facilitate alternate financing options to Pennsylvanians with disabilities were unsuccessful, despite prolonged negotiations. Those funds were reallocated to other state level activities (reutilization; demonstration) as described in Attachments 5 and 11.

In addition to the Advisory Council described in Attachment 3 of this Plan, Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology works to ensure that its programs and services are consumer responsive by seeking direct feedback from those who access the program, either through interviews with participants or follow-up surveys. PIAT will utilize other opportunities as they become available.

2.1B Identification and Description of the Lead Agency if an Implementing Entity is Designated

N/A

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.

N/A

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.

N/A

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Attachment 3: State Advisory Council

- 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 an individual, or a representative of a State agency or other entity.

The Community Advisory Council for the Institute on Disabilities serves as the Advisory Council for Pennsylvania’s Initiative on Assistive Technology, and conforms to the requirements of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended. The Advisory Council will guide the program in the planning and implementation of consumer-driven and consumer-responsive programs and services for Pennsylvanians. The expertise of its diverse membership, including the personal experiences with assistive technology of its members, will prove invaluable to the program.

In order to comply with the composition of the Advisory Council under the Assistive Technology Act as amended, additional members to the Community Advisory Council were recently recruited. For example, a representative from Workforce Development was invited and appointed by the Department of Labor and Industry. Additional individuals known to program staff as users of assistive technology were asked to join because of their proven ability to represent the AT interests of diverse Pennsylvanians with disabilities.

There are 24 members on the Advisory Council, ten of whom are people with disabilities who use assistive technology, four of whom are family members of people who use assistive technology, and ten individuals who represent various state agencies and organizations, including: PA Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (required), Center for Independent Living (required), PA Department of Education (required), PA State Workforce Investment Program (required), Temple University Disability Resources and Services, Temple University Computer Services, PA Coalition Against Rape, ARC of PA, Developmental Disabilities Planning Council and Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

Members who are persons with disabilities who use AT or who are family members of persons with disabilities who use AT employ a variety of devices including mobility aids, computer adaptations, augmentative communication devices, vehicle modifications, telecommunications devices and sensory aids. Membership reflects the geography of the state, with representation from the rural and urban areas in the eastern, central and western parts of the Commonwealth. The CAC is representative of the diversity of the state, and includes members who are African-American.

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Members of the Advisory Council

I. Individuals with Disabilities who use AT:

1. Michael Adamus (*) (note: employed by Pennsylvania Protection and Advocacy, Inc.)
2. Oscar Drummond (*)
3. Leila Johnson (*)
4. Jennifer Lowe (*) (note: Executive Director, SHOUT)
5. Roger Margulies (*) (note: Assistant Deputy Mayor, Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities)
6. Solomon Rakhman (*)
7. Dan Sullivan (*) (note: Executive Director, Projects with Industry)
8. Mark Senk (*)
9. Pamela Shaw (*) (note: Bureau of Workforce Development Partnership) (new)
10. Katherine Seelman (*) (new)

II. Family Members of People with Disabilities who use AT:

1. Audrey Badger (*)
2. Betsy Leebron (*)
3. Hana Sabree (*)
4. Colleen Tomko (*)

III. Required State Agency Representatives:

1. Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (which includes Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services) - William Gannon (*)
2. Bureau of Special Education, PA Department of Education - Linda Rhen
3. PA Workforce Investment Board - Autro Heath
4. Center for Independent Living (Liberty Resources) - Karin DiNardi (*)

IV. Other members

1. Graham Mulholland (**), PA Developmental Disabilities Planning Council
2. Steven Suroviac (**), Executive Director, PA ARC
3. (Vacant), Director, Temple University Disability Resources and Services
4. Karl Horvath, Temple University Computer Services
5. Delilah Rumburg, PA Coalition Against Rape
6. Symme Trachtenberg, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

(* a person with a disability or family member of a person with a disability who uses AT)

(** a person with a disability or family member of a person with a disability but who does not use AT)

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The total number of persons with disabilities who use assistive technology or family members of people who use assistive technology, not including individuals who are counted in other categories, is fourteen (14). The total membership of the Community Advisory Council is twenty-four (24). The Council is 58% individuals with disabilities that use AT or their family members.

In addition to full members of the Community Advisory Council, the Institute on Disabilities has identified four individuals who serve as “ad hoc” members of the Assistive and Accessible Technologies committee of the Council. These individuals, users of AT and/or family members of AT users, are additional sources of input and guidance in developing and implementing the AT Act program. This strategy will also assist in developing “new leaders” and preparing individuals who can rotate onto the Council, in the case of resignation from appointed Council consumer members.

Members of the Ad Hoc Assistive and Accessible Technologies Committee

1. Alicia Felton (*)
2. Shelley Nixon (*)
3. Dee Lesneski (*)
4. PJ Mattiacci (*)

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

The Advisory Council meets a minimum of two times per year, with one meeting in person at Temple University, and other meetings via teleconference or other electronic means as appropriate to effectively conduct Council business. Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed to conduct Council business. Staff of the Institute on Disabilities will make the meeting room arrangements, develop materials for information packets for members, and ensure site and material accessibility. The Executive Director of the Institute on Disabilities will set the agenda for Community Advisory Council meetings, with input from the PIAT project director, to ensure that council members are informed about state AT issues. The Executive Director will facilitate discussion throughout the meeting to gain input and advice in planning program activities. Minutes of the meeting will be recorded by staff.

Advisory Council members and members of the Ad Hoc committee are routinely updated on AT Act matters by staff of the State AT Program, and staff seek their feedback on how to improve existing programs or begin new activities which better meet the AT needs of Pennsylvanians.

The Community Advisory Council participates in an annual review of and provides feedback on the three-year State Plan for Pennsylvania’s Initiative on Assistive Technology, as well as the overarching five-year plan of the Institute on Disabilities. Of particular importance will be the Council’s input in reviewing baseline data obtained in the first three quarters of Year 2 and setting Year 3 goals for Access and Acquisition in

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Education, Work and Community Living. The Council makes recommendations by consensus to the Executive Director of the Institute on Disabilities and the PIAT Program Director regarding any revisions of the plan that might be necessary. The Council engages in problem-solving and technical assistance related to key issues and activities of PIAT. Members also serve as ambassadors for PIAT throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to assist in informing the public of its mission and services. This year, meetings were held November 22, 2005 (in person/teleconference); March 7, 2006 (in person/teleconference); and July 12, 2006 (teleconference).

Attachment 4: Measurable Goals

For each goal in this section, PIAT will establish a baseline during Year 2 of this Plan. After Year 2, PIAT will submit an amendment to the State Plan for Assistive Technology that identifies the long-term goal and short-term goals set to improve upon the baseline during Year 3 and subsequent years of the State Plan. The baseline will be established by using data collection instruments and procedures as determined by RSA. Short-term goals for Years 2 and 3 will be set in collaboration with the Community Advisory Council.

4.1 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Education

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3: To be determined
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: 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.
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A: Data collection system not established by RSA.

4.2 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Employment

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3: To be determined
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: 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.
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A: Data collection system not established by RSA.

4.3 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Community Living

- Long-term goal:

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- Short-term goal for Year 3: To be determined
- Short-term goal for Year 2: 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.
- Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A: Data collection system not established by RSA.
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4.4 Goal for Improving Access to IT and Telecommunications

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3: To be determined
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: 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.
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A: Data collection system not established by RSA.

4.5 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Education

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3: To be determined
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services for educational purposes, as a result of state financing activities or reutilization programs who would not have obtained the AT device or service.
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A: Data collection system not established by RSA.

4.6 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Employment

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3: To be determined
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services for employment, as a result of state financing activities or reutilization programs who would not have obtained the AT device or service
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A: Data collection system not established by RSA.

4.7 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Community Living

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- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3: To be determined
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services for community living, as a result of state financing activities or reutilization programs who would not have obtained the AT device or service.
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A: Data collection system not established by RSA.

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.

No additional goals have been formulated at this time.

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Attachment 5: State-level Activities

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.

During the first year, PIAT planned to undertake two strategies to improve the ability of Pennsylvanians with disabilities and older Pennsylvanians to acquire assistive technology. These included (1) funding to support the Alternative Financing Program (AFP) and other loan or grant programs administered by the Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation and (2) development of a statewide system to provide intensive individualized assistance in locating funding for assistive technology devices and services for Pennsylvanians with disabilities, especially those who are not eligible for or who choose not to obtain a loan. Our experiences during the first three quarters of Year 1 have influenced our decision to modify our plan, as described later in this section.

Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation – discontinued for Year 2

The Institute on Disabilities at Temple University, the lead agency for PIAT, had planned to contract with the Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation (PATF) to increase access to and funding for assistive technology devices and services for Pennsylvanians of all ages, disabilities and income levels throughout the state. PATF is a private, non-profit organization, initially established by PIAT with dollars from Title I of the Technology-Related Assistance to Individuals with Disabilities Act and later assisted with dollars from two Title III grants obtained by PIAT.

PATF is now a completely independent, self-sufficient organization, providing low-interest and 0% interest mini loans, and some grants in combination with 0% interest loans, for the purchase of assistive technology devices and services. PATF partners with Sovereign Bank to provide the cash loan portion of the loan program, and works through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for other sources of program funds, including loan guarantees. PATF has developed unique strategies for funding its programs and has a large and growing portfolio of loans to Pennsylvanians with disabilities and their families. PIAT values the role the PATF plays in helping interested and eligible borrowers in obtaining the AT devices and services they need. PIAT staff at the Institute on Disabilities as well as PIAT's subcontractors refer to and promote the PATF's programs.

As described in the original submission of this Plan, PIAT had planned to provide \$75,000 to the PATF for administrative support and to increase the availability of loan guarantees, with 75% designed for staff support (processing consumer loans, reviewing credit history, assisting with consumer credit counseling, providing funding assistance, conducting follow-up services) and 25% designated for the provision of loan guarantees for home or vehicle modifications.

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After extensive negotiations, the PATF was unable to agree to the terms of a contract. Accordingly, these funds have been re-distributed to other state level activities (reutilization and device demonstration) for Year 1.

Individualized Assistance to Obtain Funding for Assistive Technology – discontinued for Year 2

During Year 1, Pennsylvania’s Initiative on Assistive Technology supported and administered a statewide system of specialized case management described as “individualized assistance to obtain funding for assistive technology”, expanding statewide capacity to locate and procure funding for assistive technology devices and services for Pennsylvanians with disabilities. Through this system, PIAT staff as well as subcontracted regional center staff provided extensive assistance to Pennsylvanians with disabilities who are seeking payment for the purchase or lease of the AT they need, regardless of type of AT needed, income level, race, gender, disability type, geographic location or type of residence. This system was primarily aimed at individuals who are not eligible for a program of the PATF, who choose not to participate in a program of the PATF (e.g. they could qualify for a loan but choose to find a source of funding other than a loan), who need assistance in developing a funding “package” comprised of funds from a variety of sources (which may or may not include a cash loan), and other individual situations where the consumer is unable to find an “easy” solution for the procurement of the AT devices and services s/he needs.

Individualized assistance was defined as repeated, periodic contacts of at least 15 minutes duration each, extending over several weeks or even months until the individual obtains the needed AT or it is mutually concluded that there is no source that is affordable or appropriate through which the consumer can acquire the AT. The frequency and duration of these contacts, the ongoing relationship between the ATRC and/or PIAT’s Funding Coordinator, and the total staff time used in providing follow along and follow up services (a total of 15-20 hours of service) distinguished individualized assistance for funding from “information and referral” activities.

Data from the first nine months of the program indicated relatively few consumers were provided with the threshold level of service to be counted as “individualized assistance for funding AT”. Preliminary analysis of the data indicates that at the point of 5-7 hours of assistance, most consumers either had a successful resolution or decided to abandon the efforts to obtain the device or service.

It is recognized that the provision of funding-related information and assistance is a critical service; in many cases, consumers reported that they would not have known where else to go for this information or help and, without PIAT’s assistance, they would not have been able to obtain the AT devices and services they need. In Year 2, funding assistance that is several hours in length will be classified as an “individual assistance” activity and recorded as part of the state leadership “public awareness” function, in accordance with RSA’s proposed (June 2006) data collection system .

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New for Year 2: Administration of the Pennsylvania Telecommunications Device Distribution Program (TDDP)

In Year 2, PIAT will provide support for and administer a system of distributing adapted telecommunications devices through Pennsylvania's Telecommunications Device Distribution Program (TDDP). This system will provide free telecommunications devices for eligible individuals who have disabilities that interfere with their ability to independently use the telephone. The devices offered will include TTYs, voice-carry over telephones including CapTel, amplified phones, phone-ring flashers, "talking keyboards", cordless phones, wireless headsets, etc. Eligible recipients will be encouraged to borrow identified devices prior to requesting the device funded by the program, and as necessary may be provided with one-on-one training in their home to ensure they can successfully use the AT device for telephone access.

This program is authorized by Pennsylvania's Act 34 of 1995, as amended by Act 181 of 2002, and provides for the collection of telephone surcharges by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in order to purchase devices for eligible individuals with disabilities who require assistive technology for telephone access. The Act also designates the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) as the responsible state entity, but expressly prohibits the use of surcharge funds for the administration of the program. For several years, OVR utilized Independent Living funds to operate the program, through a contract to the Statewide Independent Living Council. Since October 2004, OVR has been operating a "bare bones" program, and has expended virtually no dollars on this activity. There is no program brochure; no website; no outreach; no advisory committee representing those who can benefit from the program; no consumer assistance in the selection of devices or training in the set up or use of devices, etc.

PIAT will use federal dollars to administer a consumer-responsive, statewide program to meet the telecommunication needs of eligible Pennsylvanians with disabilities and older Pennsylvanians, and establish a mechanism to draw non-federal, surcharge funds to purchase devices and provide consumer education.

To be eligible for the program, a Pennsylvania resident must complete an application that documents s/he:

- has a disability that interferes with telephone access, as certified to by specified professionals
- has a need for the requested equipment and the potential to learn how to use it, as certified to by specified professionals
- is six years old, or older
- has telephone service
- has income not exceeding 200% of poverty.

After an application is approved by PIAT, PIAT will order the equipment and the PUC will be directed to release funds to the designated vendor. The telecommunications device is then shipped by the vendor to the consumer.

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Because OVR is ultimately responsible for the program, a memorandum of understanding will be developed to set forth the responsibilities of the parties. For example, PIAT will recommend program policies and procedures to OVR, but final decisions are up to the Executive Director of OVR. PIAT will coordinate logistics for an advisory panel to the program (and make recommendations for panel membership, set meeting dates and locations, communicate with panel members, determine meeting agenda, maintain a record of the meetings) but such a panel will be formally convened by OVR.

Key administrative tasks to be performed by PIAT staff and/or subcontractors funded through this activity are as follows:

- (1) Develop, distribute, receive, and review applications for the TDDP; determine eligibility of the persons submitting applications within five business days of receipt of completed application. Applications will be available in all formats (including accessible, download-able web) and at least one other language (Spanish). Applications will be distributed through a network of volunteer information centers recruited by staff and subcontractors, or by request (email, toll-free TTY, toll-free voice, US mail). Applications will be updated as necessary, pending changes in income eligibility, scope of equipment, or other program features. Assistance in completing applications will be available from PIAT staff and subcontractors.
- (2) After eligibility has been determined, place the order for specified equipment with approved vendor. Authorize release of surcharge funds from the PUC to the vendor, who then ships the item directly to the consumer or his/her representative.
- (3) Arrange for consumer to receive support in the use of the product, as needed.
- (4) For ineligible applicants: Staff and subcontractors will provide ineligible applicants with appropriate referrals to other sources of funding or financing (e.g. Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation). Data will be collected regarding the numbers of applications submitted, the number never completed, the number of denials and reason, type of equipment ordered, county of residence and urban/rural determination, etc.
- (5) Develop and maintain a list of telecommunications equipment useful for individuals with disabilities. Develop protocol for matching equipment to consumer characteristics. Develop and implement "exceptions" process. In collaboration with the Advisory Panel, make recommendations to OVR and the PUC to expand products available through the program.
- (6) Leverage/obtain surcharge funds available from the PUC for "consumer education", to assist consumers in appropriate use of equipment.
- (7) Develop and implement processes for bidding, ordering and distributing equipment to eligible persons, and a system for authorizing release of funds from the PUC to vendors.
- (8) Annually, evaluate consumer satisfaction with the program, including outcome of device use (e.g. improved ability to use the telephone), satisfaction with the vendor/product (e.g. all components delivered), as well as program responsiveness (e.g. timely review of eligibility determination, etc.).

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- (9) In collaboration with OVR, facilitate at least two meetings of the TDDP Advisory Panel. (The program activities and progress will also be reviewed with the Institute on Disabilities' Consumer Advisory Committee).
- (10) Annually, draft a budget for the PUC reflecting (1) estimated funds required for equipment during the next year and (2) estimated funds required for consumer education.
- (11) Prepare and submit required reports, invoices, and other program documents to stakeholders, including but not limited to OVR, PUC, and the General Assembly.

The TDDP program will interface seamlessly with other assistive technology activities in the Pennsylvania state plan, including but not limited to device demonstration, device loans, training, information and referral and other public awareness activities. In addition, recipients or their families will be encouraged to donate telecommunications devices that are in working order but no longer needed to one or more of PIAT's device reutilization programs.

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.

Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology will continue to implement a variety of strategies to increase the availability of "previously owned" assistive devices. Reuse programs increase the ability of Pennsylvanians with disabilities and older Pennsylvanians to acquire AT by identifying free or lower price devices that are possible alternatives to new purchases. Reutilization programs are solutions for individuals with disabilities who need items for which public sources will not pay; who need a device that is no longer manufactured; or who have an acute need for a device while they pursue funding through other strategies. The devices available as a result of activities described in this section will be available throughout the Commonwealth, without any eligibility considerations other than the fact that they are a Pennsylvanian with a disability in need of AT and have no other way to get it.

PIAT's multi-pronged approach includes an on-line classifieds listing; participation in ATMATCH.com and support to establish and/or "grow" Pennsylvania programs for equipment repair and refurbishment. These activities are designed to increase the acquisition of AT for those who would not be able to obtain the devices they need, when they need it. Beginning in Year 2, these activities will be described as the *Recycled and Exchanged Equipment Partnership*. The existing acronym REEP (one that has some "name recognition" in the Commonwealth) will now represent all of PIAT's reuse activities, both the "classifieds" approach as well as a variety of recycling programs.

I. Classifieds listing

During Year 1, PIAT maintained its Recycled Equipment Exchange Program (REEP), a free, statewide "classifieds" listing of previously-owned equipment through which Pennsylvanians with disabilities and their families can locate such equipment available for donation or sale. There are no limitations to the type of assistive technology devices

State: Pennsylvania

that may be listed. PIAT does not physically receive, store, handle, or recondition the equipment. The buyer and seller negotiate directly and agree on the price, which is always much less than the “new” purchase price.

Historically, the REEP program has been operated for PIAT by its subcontractor, Three Rivers Center for Independent Living (TRCIL). Sellers contact PIAT, TRCIL, or other ATRCs by phone, fax, or email, and complete and submit a paper form to TRCIL specifying information about the product and the seller. The seller agrees to notify REEP when the product is sold, and to have their name and phone number published in the listing and on the website.

Every quarter, a comprehensive listing is produced by TRCIL. PIAT “central office” staff post the listing on the PIAT website and disseminate hard copies to a mailing list comprised of those individuals who have requested print formats. TRCIL staff are responsible for following up with sellers, and maintaining current information in the listing. Each month between the quarterly publication of the complete listing, a “monthly update” is produced with new additions and items that have already sold or whose six-month listing period has ended without renewal are deleted.

In Year 1, PIAT contracted with AgoraNet, an IT company with expertise in accessible, on-line solutions to develop a website with a variety of features designed to improve usability, increase the number of items that are available for sale or donation, and increase the number of consumers who will learn about and find used equipment. In addition, enhancements can facilitate identification of outcomes and follow-up (e.g. customer satisfaction). Features will include:

- (a) On-line submission of listing information (e.g. information about the seller/donor, description of the product and its condition, asking price, etc.)
- (b) Ability of individuals who are searching for items to email the seller through the web page and negotiate on-line (when the seller has agreed to be contacted via email).
- (c) Automatic e-mail alerts sent to sellers that provide a reminder of the expiration of their listing period, a way for them to renew the listing electronically, and a link to an electronic form to contact the REEP administrator if the item has been sold.
- (d) Database of equipment searchable by product name and other device descriptors.
- (e) Database of equipment location, searchable by zip code (e.g. to identify the specified product that is geographically closest to the individual looking for the item).
- (f) Sign in form for individuals seeking equipment, to capture key data that can be used to evaluate the success of the program (e.g. county, in order to evaluate statewide outreach efforts).
- (g) On-line satisfaction survey for “shoppers”, reflecting ease of use and success in locating desired product.

This site should be fully developed by September 30, 2006. By that time, PIAT also hopes to have finalized regional collaboration with three states bordering Pennsylvania (New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland) that are participating in the same web infrastructure, enabling individuals using the web-based classifieds listing to find the closest item available even if it is in another state.

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During Year 2, PIAT will continue to provide support (\$4000) to Three Rivers Center for Independent Living as the transition to the web-based (and printable) listing is made. Three Rivers' staff will assist in follow-up efforts with sellers in order to identify buyers and obtain outcome data. In addition, PIAT staff will serve as "administrator" of the web-based system, performing functions such as approving listings before they go "live".

PIAT will continue the web-based program for Years 2 and 3, to pilot the ability of the program to provide sufficient outcome data as required by RSA to justify the continuation of this service.

II. Recycling/Refurbishment

A. Into New Hands (INH)

In Year 1, PIAT provided funds (\$2500) to the "Into New Hands" (INH) program operated by TRCIL in order to develop a database system for defining and tracking its inventory of reconditioned items. This well-established program obtains devices that are no longer used and reconditions and redistributes them, at no cost, to consumers in need. Consumers may retain the item as long as they need it, and are encouraged to return it to the program when it is no longer required. As a result of an efficient, electronic system, TRCIL will be able to more accurately promote what the INH program does (or does not) have available, assess AT types that are in short supply and develop strategies to recruit additional donations in response to that particular need, and determine the location of program users (both donors and beneficiaries). Accordingly, in subsequent years of this plan, TRCIL will be able to provide data on program utilization and the impact of the program on Pennsylvanians with disabilities, as required for PIAT's reporting to RSA. As a condition of PIAT support, TRCIL will expand promotion of INH beyond its region of southwestern PA, and will be available statewide.

With the availability of funds to be redistributed from the originally planned Alternate Financing activities, PIAT determined that a greater investment in recycling (which, like alternate financing, is an "acquisition" activity) was warranted. Funding (\$13,400.00) was provided to enable INH to promote its program (soliciting donations of equipment as well as locating individuals in need of equipment) and expand its capabilities by purchasing equipment for sanitizing and refurbishing devices.

In Year 2 of this plan, pending satisfactory performance in Year 1, PIAT will provide continued support to INH as a "partner" in REEP. In addition, PIAT will request that INH provide technical assistance as requested to other PIAT recycling subcontractors.

B. Liberty Wheels

Liberty Wheels is a recycling/refurbishment program that has been operated in a limited way by Liberty Resources, a Center for Independent Living serving the greater Philadelphia area. With the availability of funds to be redistributed from the originally

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planned Alternate Financing activities, PIAT determined that an increased investment in recycling in southeastern Pennsylvania was warranted, and identified the Liberty Wheels program as an opportunity to enhance recycling resources. Liberty Wheels was established in 2003, and offers refurbishment and repair of (primarily) mobility equipment, including but not limited to power and manual wheelchairs. Devices are often provided on “open-ended” loan, e.g. the consumer may use the item for as long as needed, but understands that the device must be returned to Liberty Wheels when no longer required (e.g. the consumer has located a source of funding for “her own” device).

In Year 1 of this plan, PIAT will provide Liberty Wheels with \$10,000 to expand and further develop its program, including refurbishment and redistribution of additional equipment.

In Year 2 of this plan, pending satisfactory performance, PIAT will provide continued support to Liberty Wheels as a “partner” in REEP.

C. Interfaith Specialty Services “Widow’s Mite” Project

Interfaith Specialty Services is a not-for-profit, faith-based, grassroots, consumer-controlled organization that has been a 501(c)(3) organization since May, 2005. Interfaith Specialty Services provides non-denominational consultation services designed to meet the needs of people with disabilities who desire participation in communities of faith. ISS provides training to churches, seminaries and community groups, with the goal of eliminating isolation of people with disabilities and inclusion, if they choose, in every aspect of society. ISS was founded by, is operated by, and dedicated to supporting, individuals with disabilities; consumer choice is inherent in its philosophy and delivery of services.

ISS will use funding received under this grant to establish “Widow’s Mite”, a program to accept and redistribute “previously owned” durable medical equipment to individuals with disabilities who need this equipment. With the availability of funds to be redistributed from the originally planned Alternate Financing activities, PIAT will build this organization’s capacity to provide “recycled” AT to Philadelphia-area individuals with disabilities.

In Year 2 of this plan, pending satisfactory performance, PIAT will provide continued support to Interfaith Specialty Services as a “partner” in REEP.

D. Recycling/Refurbishing: Additional New “Partners”

During Years 2 and 3, PIAT will issue a Request for Proposal for at least one additional grassroots organization that plans to develop or expand its device recycling or refurbishing program. A plan for sustainability as well as promotion of PIAT’s Recycled and Exchanged Equipment Partnership will be required of all recycling subcontractors.

IV. ATMATCH.com

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During the three years of this Plan, PIAT will participate in the national internet auction program established by AT for Kansans. ATMATCH.com is a fully accessible auction site that serves as a comprehensive entry point for AT equipment and services. Users can find specific AT devices at reasonable prices, post equipment for sale, and locate state AT resources. By the end of Year 1, PIAT will link its website to the online auction. PIAT continues to promote ATMATCH.com as an alternative venue for Pennsylvanians with disabilities to learn about and obtain previously owned equipment. PIAT has informed vendors with whom PIAT “central” and its ATRCs work about the opportunities to advertise equipment at the AT Store link on the ATMATCH site. Pennsylvania will receive data regarding the number of people registered from the state, the number of items registered for sale, and the number of items acquired; data is not available at this time.

V. Reutilization activities by ATRCs

Through the three years of this plan, as part of the state system for device re-utilization, all ATRCs are required to

- (1) have a direct link on the ATRC agency website to the REEP classifieds listing on the PIAT website;
- (2) Contact individuals who advertise in the ATRC’s newsletter or other mechanism operated by the ATRC’s agency, to invite the listing in REEP;
- (3) Promote REEP and equipment reutilization in the ATRC agency’s newsletter and through the distribution of REEP, Into New Hands, ATMatch and PIAT brochures;
- (4) Contact agencies and organizations in its counties identified as maintaining formal or informal re-use programs, to develop Memoranda of Understanding to promote interactions between the programs, including mutual promotion of recycling programs. Where agreed to by those agencies and organizations (and the sellers in their programs), ATRC staff shall directly list items in REEP;
- (5) Where the ATRC agency has a “loan closet” that provides for open-ended equipment loans that are equivalent to donations (e.g. until the consumer no longer needs it, at which time it is returned to the loan closet) or direct donations to consumers, the ATRC will provide a description of its program (scope; means of operation; types of equipment; eligibility; contact information) for the “equipment reutilization” section of the PIAT website;
- (6) Collect and submit requisite data regarding consumers who access the ATRC’s reutilization program(s); and
- (7) Expend 20% of ATRC funds on reuse efforts, as described.

VI. Reuse of equipment from other State programs

For the duration of this plan, PIAT will work with the State so that equipment that is returned to the Telecommunications Device Distribution Program (funded through telephone surcharges and operated by the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation) because it is no longer needed or appropriate can be donated and listed on “REEP”. Similarly,

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equipment that is removed from the inventory of Pennsylvania's Assistive Technology Lending Library because it is outdated will be available through the REEP classifieds. In Year 1, 15 items that were discontinued and no longer sold by manufacturers but that were still in operating order were "recycled" to consumers with disabilities. One device was for vision, two for seating, positioning, and mobility, and 12 were communication devices. Eight consumers reported that obtaining recycled equipment was the only option by which they could get the AT they needed; seven said they needed the equipment and this was a more timely way to obtain it (e.g. some of the consumers were in the middle of appealing denials from other funding sources). Three of the recipients said the equipment would help them in education, and 12 said the AT was for community living. The combined value (manufacturer's suggested retail price) of the devices was \$84,239; consumers paid for the shipping of the device (\$231). Three consumers identified themselves as "rural" and 12 "non-rural".

During Year 1, PIAT met with the Office of Medical Assistance Programs (OMAP) in the Department of Public Welfare, to determine their interest in developing programs for the re-utilization of equipment purchased by Medical Assistance (MA), the Commonwealth's Medicaid program. While OMAP is clearly not interested in physically tracking or (re) possessing MA-funded equipment, they are open to further discussions regarding the use of stickers on Medicaid-funded equipment that say "call this number (PIAT's 800 number) when you no longer need or use this item". Because this will rely on the cooperation of MA vendors, and with OMAP's beginning efforts to use "selective contracting" (using only a limited number of "preferred vendors" for DME), additional discussions and planning is deferred until Years 2 and 3 of this plan.

During Year 1, PIAT met with the Executive Director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation to determine his interest in developing a model for the re-use of equipment purchased by OVR. Items purchased by OVR that are less than three years old and no longer needed or used are typically reclaimed by district offices so they can be provided to other OVR consumers. However, older equipment becomes the property and responsibility of the consumer. As a result of his initial interest in this endeavor, additional discussions and planning will occur during Year 2 of this plan.

V. Other state and regional collaborations to increase device reutilization

In Year 1, PIAT met with the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Association of Medical Suppliers, to explore their interest in collaborating on efforts to develop refurbishment models, or other efforts to expand the availability of free or lower-cost used and usable AT devices. At this time, PAMS is not interested in refurbishment, as there is no "pay-off" to its membership.

At this point, discussions with nearby states that border Pennsylvania (Ohio, New York, Delaware, New Jersey, West Virginia, and Maryland) to explore re-use program linkages have been limited to linking access to classifieds listings in Delaware, Maryland, and New Jersey; we look forward to agreement in this regard by the end of Year 1. In Year 2, we will approach all of the bordering states regarding recycling programs in order to

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reduce the barrier that distance poses for consumers (in cost or ability to travel) when seeking to obtain recycled equipment. Additionally, linking these programs greatly expands the availability and type of AT devices.

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.

In Years 2 and 3, PIAT will continue its operation of Pennsylvania's Assistive Technology Lending Library, an AT device loan program for all Pennsylvanians with disabilities. This program provides short-term (generally for periods up to eight weeks) of assistive technology devices to individuals, employers, public agencies, or others seeking to meet the needs of people with disabilities and their families. Pennsylvania's Assistive Technology Lending Library is the only statewide program for AT device loans that is consumer-responsive, cross-age and cross-disability. Short-term equipment loans provide Pennsylvanians with disabilities and older Pennsylvanians with the ability to make informed decisions about the appropriateness of a given AT device by providing experiences related to the use of the device in the individual's "real life" context and settings.

Items in the inventory are useful to infants and toddlers, young children, students, adults, and/or older Pennsylvanians, and may be used in a variety of settings (home, community, school, work). Devices range from high-tech to low tech, and include even generic items (such as electric staplers and collators) that may meet the definition of AT when used by persons with disabilities. The inventory includes AT devices that are useful to individuals with physical, sensory, and/or intellectual disabilities. Most categories of AT are represented, with the exception of mobility and weight-bearing devices (except for portable ramps). Devices are included if they can be readily shipped, do not require installation, do not require permanent customization, and are not personal in nature (e.g. commodes). Items can be borrowed for assessment, trial use, training, and as a "loaner" when a consumer's device is out for repair. Items can be borrowed by employers, public agencies, and other entities as a temporary accommodation. Items can be borrowed by faculty who prepare individuals who will work with persons with disabilities, or by students in those programs who want to become more familiar with AT devices.

Pennsylvania's Assistive Technology Lending Library (the "Lending Library") is primarily supported with state appropriations. The program was initially established with dollars under the Technology-Related Assistance Act for Individuals with Disabilities (the "Tech Act") as a pilot program serving adults with disabilities. During the operation of the pilot, we learned that families needed a way to borrow devices directly, and that the program operated by the PA Department of Education was not always able to meet the AT needs of young children and students with disabilities. Year 1 marked the completion of PIAT's ninth year of operating the Lending Library, the fifth year of the program under an Interagency Agreement with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Pennsylvania's Assistive Technology Lending Library is designed to assure equal access to all Pennsylvanians with disabilities by providing points of entry and information throughout the Commonwealth. PIAT's Assistive Technology Resource Centers

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(ATRCs) help borrowers select appropriate equipment for trial, select appropriate alternatives when the first choice is not available, refer to other sources for loan or rental as necessary, refer to service providers for assistance and support with the device during the loan period, and facilitate the shipping and return of devices. In addition to ATRCs, PIAT has developed a network of almost 180 “local branches”. These agencies and organizations volunteer to promote the program and provide assistance to Pennsylvanians with disabilities and older Pennsylvanians wishing to access the program. Local branches include generic community organizations like public libraries, as well as colleges and universities; organizations serving people with sensory impairments; centers for independent living; disability organizations like the ARC, Easter Seals, and United Cerebral Palsy associations; rehabilitation hospitals and similar facilities; area agencies on aging and senior centers; state Offices of Vocational Rehabilitation and Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services; and more. This structure further promotes program access for individuals with disabilities and older Pennsylvanians.

More than 4000 items in the circulating inventory are housed at the Hiram G. Andrews Center (HGA), a program of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and subcontractor to the Institute on Disabilities for the Lending Library. Staff at HGA are responsible for the maintenance and circulation of the devices as well as activities related to intake and processing of loan applications and data collection on utilization. .

In the 12 months ending June 30, 2006, Pennsylvania’s Assistive Technology Lending Library served individuals with a range of disabilities and ages and has reached individuals in 63 of the Commonwealth’s 67 counties. This year almost 6300 devices were shipped from the centralized inventory subcontractor at Hiram G. Andrews Center, in response to more than 4100 requests from 1481 different borrowers (including almost 1200 first-time borrowers).

Over the next two years, efforts will be on-going to assure an inventory that reflects currently available technologies and that has a sufficient supply of diverse items to meet demand.

Federal funds under the AT Act provide partial support to device lending activities provided by ATRCs, including PIAT staff in their role as an Assistive Technology Resource Center serving southeastern Pennsylvania. In addition, the federal funds support the evaluation component of the program. PIAT will continue to collect and analyze data on the users of program, and, using the RSA approved data collection measures, report on consumer satisfaction and the ability of the program to help Pennsylvanians with disabilities make a decision about the assistive devices that will help them.

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.

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Pennsylvania's device demonstration program is available for all residents of the state, regardless of age, disability, type of AT needed, or the individual's location or type of residence. Under the AT Act of 1998 as amended, device demonstrations are available to provide individuals with disabilities and their families the opportunity for "guided exploration" of the specific device or category of devices in which they are interested. While device demonstrations may provide the information needed to make appropriate use of the device during a device loan period (especially for those devices that are "plug and play", and don't require programming or complex set-up), device demonstrations are not intended to instruct the end-user to a point of "mastery" in operating the device, nor are device demonstrations designed to take the place of full-scale evaluations. The purposes of device demonstrations include (a) increasing the participant's understanding of the range and scope of devices that can assist with an identified function (e.g. IT and telecommunications access), (b) improving the participant's knowledge of the device's features (e.g. the Pathfinder) and how those features distinguish it from other devices that perform the same function, and (c) increasing the participant's understanding of the ways in which the device (or class of devices, e.g. note-takers for people who are blind) can contribute to the education, employment or community living goals of persons with disabilities. The primary goal of device demonstration activities is to assist a consumer or family member (or service provider representing a consumer) in making a decision about assistive technology. Device demonstrations are likely to result in additional efforts to find the "right" device, including device loans and experience in using the device in the consumer's typical settings.

When a consumer or family member requests a demonstration and specifies the device or device category of interest, an appointment will be made for a mutually convenient time and place, and PIAT and/or the responsible ATRC will conduct (or arrange for) the demonstration of the device(s). In addition to individualized "consumer-driven" demonstrations, from time to time ATRCs may collaborate with device manufacturers and vendors to conduct demonstrations of newly available products.

In addition to experiences with devices and services, individuals receive, to the extent practicable, comprehensive information about State and local assistive technology vendors, providers, and repair services. Demonstration participants also receive information about funding, including referral to the Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation, as appropriate. The primary focus of the device demonstration program is the provision of these services to individuals with disabilities and their family members, although providers of education, health and related services as well as faculty responsible for preparing such providers for those professions, will be encouraged to participate, as appropriate.

PIAT and its eight subcontracted Assistive Technology Resource Centers (ATRCs) will provide the infrastructure of the statewide system for device demonstrations. Each of the nine ATRC regions is comprised of five to twelve counties, encompassing all 67 counties in Pennsylvania. Each ATRC is located in an accessible facility, has a toll-free number, has an accessible website, and is able to provide equipment demonstrations both on- and off-site, to meet consumer needs.

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The ATRCs are staffed with knowledgeable professionals (including individuals with degrees in special education, speech-language pathology, therapeutic recreation and related areas, and includes those who have earned the “Assistive Technology Practitioner” credential from RESNA) who are able to provide demonstrations for a range of different devices. Certain ATRC staff are users of AT themselves, or have learned about AT through the applications of assistive technology devices and services for a child or other family member. Where there is a request for a demonstration of equipment with which PIAT-funded ATRC staff is less familiar, there is frequently other agency staff (e.g. occupational therapists, physical therapists, teachers of the deaf/hearing impaired) located at the ATRC with the capacity to assist consumers.

As a “good customer”, PIAT has relationships with many different vendors from whom we purchase and maintain the devices in the Lending Library. Similarly, ATRCs have strong relationships with AT vendors, and as needed, will be able to arrange for and “moderate” demonstrations by vendors to assure a meaningful orientation to equipment that is NOT a high-pressure sales pitch. ATRCs know the local businesses that sell, train and support AT, and can readily combine this information into a reasonable resource packet for consumers, customized for the demonstration, devices and participants.

We also have established relationships throughout the state with professionals who evaluate, train and support AT for people with disabilities. ATRCs collaborate with rehabilitation agencies and other AT service providers within their region, and build on those relationships to assure access to demonstrations to a range of AT types, conducted by individuals who are proficient in operating and explaining those devices and comparing and contrasting devices within the same category of item.

ATRCs are connected to “local branches” of Pennsylvania’s Assistive Technology Lending Library, several of which have equipment located at their agency as part of the Lending Library’s 2003-2004 “on-site long-term equipment loan program”. For example, PIAT staff at the Institute on Disabilities who serve as the ATRC for southeastern PA, work closely with staff at the Center for Hearing and Deafness (CHAD), a local branch serving people who are deaf and hard of hearing. CHAD welcomes referrals for and are experienced in providing demonstrations of equipment focused on amplified and adapted telephones, assistive listening, and other AT frequently used by their target population.

PIAT has used federal funds from prior years to provide demonstration devices to other “expert” community AT providers such as the Hearing Discovery Center. As an “affiliate” demonstration center, Hearing Discovery Center will provide PIAT with demonstration data as required by RSA.

Where PIAT and ATRC staff determine that a referral to another agency for device demonstration is indicated, they will assist individuals with disabilities and family members by locating and facilitating the arrangements for such demonstrations.

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Through our ATRCs and other partners, we can outreach across the state and provide demonstrations in agencies, at nursing homes, in staff offices, at conferences and exhibitions, for parents' groups at their meeting location, in consumers' homes and in other environments where an individual or groups need demonstrations, addressing their AT needs for work, school community, telecommunication and computer access.

Demonstrations of equipment used to help consumers (or family members or providers on their behalf) make decisions about AT is a new activity for PIAT. During the first eight months of Year 1 there was a lower than anticipated number of individuals to whom device demonstrations were provided. Accordingly, we identified the need to do more promotion and outreach regarding the availability of device demonstrations, and to consider additional strategies for improving access to AT through this activity.

In Year 1, a portion of the funds originally allocated for the State Financing acquisition activity (\$46,600) has been redistributed to the "access function" of device demonstration. With these funds, PIAT will establish two permanent "demonstration centers". These centers, located at United Cerebral Palsy of Central Pennsylvania and Three Rivers Center for Independent Living, will be up and running by the end of Year 1 and will function throughout Years 2 and 3. UCP CPA and Three Rivers are among PIAT's best-performing regional subcontractors. Each of these organizations engages in multiple assistive technology endeavors, in addition to those funded through PIAT and the Lending Library. These centers will serve any Pennsylvanians (not just those in the particular ATRC regions) who seek a demonstration of AT devices.

In Year 1, PIAT was named a participant in a pilot initiative between the Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP) and Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFBD). As a result of this collaboration, PIAT and all of its ATRCs will receive a sampling of RFBD equipment for demonstration purposes.

In addition, in recognition of its strategic importance as the lead agency for Pennsylvania's Assistive Technology Act Program, in Year 1 Temple University was designated as a "Microsoft Accessibility Resource Center" (MARC). Microsoft accessibility software will be loaded on approximately 30 computers; as such, in Years 2 and 3, PIAT will have the capacity to conduct large scale demonstrations of accessible IT as a complement to demonstrations of assistive devices for computer access.

In Year 1, PIAT was instrumental in obtaining a University grant for an assistive technology/adapted computing demonstration laboratory in the College of Education. By the middle of Year 2, it is anticipated the lab will be operational. Although the primary focus of the lab is for the use of Temple University students, there is no prohibition against the use of the lab for demonstrations for the community at large.

Access to Devices for Demonstration

Devices for demonstrations are readily available through Pennsylvania's Assistive Technology Lending Library (also operated by PIAT). With over 4000 individual

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devices in the Library, groups of devices may be borrowed by the ATRCs and their collaborators for demonstrations. Most of the ATRCs have their own inventory of AT on-site, and our new Demonstration Centers will have a large and comprehensive selection of devices. All but one of the ATRCs has a selection of devices located at their agency from the “on-site long term loan program” of the Lending Library. ATRCs can also borrow devices from the general circulating inventory of the Lending Library. Typical turn-around time for receiving devices is 3-5 days. Access to the entire device inventory will benefit the consumer as well as the presenter, and allow for a greater selection of device options to be utilized for demonstration. Once consumers have participated in a demonstration and selected a potential device to meet a particular need, they can borrow the device for additional trial use at home, work, school, or in their community.

Demonstration Promotion

To inform the general public about the opportunities for device demonstrations offered statewide, we will implement several strategies over the three years of this State Plan. By the end of the first quarter in Year 2, we will provide a link on our website to generate an email to request device demonstrations. Consumers will be able to choose to either go to one of the comprehensive demonstration centers (regardless of the ATRC region in which they reside) or arrange for a demonstration by or with their ATRC.

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Attachment 6: Comparable Support

Pennsylvania is not claiming comparable support.

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.

N/A

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

N/A

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.

N/A

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Attachment 7: State Flexibility

Pennsylvania is not invoking the State Flexibility clause. All state-level activities will be implemented, as described in Attachment 5.

7.1 Activity – Identify each State-level activity the State is choosing not to carry out.
N/A

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

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.
N/A

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.
N/A

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Attachment 8: State Leadership Activities

- 8.1 Training and Technical Assistance Activities – Describe how the State will provide training and technical assistance to enhance the knowledge, skill 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.

In Years 2 and 3 of this Plan, Pennsylvania’s Initiative on Assistive Technology will continue to provide training and technical assistance in several ways. PIAT staff and subcontractors will participate in statewide conferences as both exhibitors and presenters (Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network of the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Pennsylvania Educational Technology Expo and Conference, World Disability Congress and Expo, Pennsylvania Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Statewide Independent Living Council Conference). PIAT staff and subcontractors respond to requests from local hospitals, nursing facilities, schools, parent groups, professional associations, and colleges and rehabilitation facilities who request customized sessions ranging from general overviews of AT and Pennsylvania’s AT resources to sessions about specific devices for specific populations (e.g. medication reminder systems for older Pennsylvanians, requested by PA Rehabilitation Nurses Association) or topics relating to the funding and implementation of AT (e.g. writing letters of medical necessity for AAC; the inclusion of AT in service plans; AT and transition; Speech Generating Device Features [for Medicaid Fee-for-Service staff]). Participants at these events may be providers of AT services (including educational, medical and allied health, and other human service providers), consumers of AT devices and services and their family members, and students and faculty in personnel preparation programs from Pennsylvania’s many colleges and universities. Where necessary, PIAT staff will accommodate requests for such events on weekends or in the evening.

PIAT will continue to provide training opportunities across the Commonwealth, for all Pennsylvanians, regardless of disability, age, income level, or type of AT device or service required. Through the ATRCs, we are able to provide training and technical assistance to targeted Pennsylvanians in all 67 counties.

Certain training and technical assistance activities are supported by other sources (e.g. City of Philadelphia Mental Retardation Services; Office of Mental Retardation) for special topics (e.g. augmentative and alternative communication; adapted toys and switches) and audiences (service providers and “teams” in the early intervention [“EI”] for infants and toddlers system; family members of individuals served by the mental retardation system, service coordinators in the mental retardation system).

It is anticipated that funding for technical assistance for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families will continue for Years 2 and 3 of this Plan. The technical

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assistance initiative for early intervention will respond to requests for consultation from Philadelphia's early intervention service coordinators, family members, and other service providers. Once an EI team member forwards a referral form to PIAT, staff will go to the child's natural environment (day care; home), observe the child, and in consultation with the family and other team members, identify AT devices and services that should be considered as a part of the child's Individualized Family Service Plan. Follow-up technical assistance will be offered as the team implements recommendations made in PIAT's technical assistance written report.

Technical assistance will be available to agencies and organizations that are seeking to enhance their AT-related capacity, or who are formulating policies and procedures that may impact access to or acquisition of AT. For example, PIAT staff provided technical assistance to the Office of Mental Retardation in the development of their "Handbook for Supports Coordinators". Although these opportunities cannot always be anticipated, PIAT will provide technical assistance in these instances, as resources permit.

Transition

The AT Act requires the state AT program to specifically focus on training and technical assistance around transition. This includes transition for students with disabilities who are leaving high school for employment or post-secondary education and transition for those entering or maintaining community living. During Year 2 (and 3, if the committee persists), appointed staff will continue to participate in the bi-monthly meetings of the Statewide Planning Team, addressing the needs of persons with disabilities served by the Department of Public Welfare with an emphasis on those who are transitioning from nursing facilities to community living. In Year 1, staff participated in bi-monthly meetings of a committee funded by the state Office on Mental Retardation to develop and implement a manual addressing best practices in the transition from school to work for individuals with mental retardation (this activity has been completed).

In Year 1, the Program Director was appointed to the State Leadership Team for Transition, an interagency group (including representatives from the Departments of Public Welfare, Health, Education, and Labor and Industry) working to develop transition practices that work for Pennsylvania's young adults with disabilities. This activity will continue in Years 2 and 3 of this plan.

In Year 1, staff presented at the statewide Transition Conference on "Lost in Transition", a presentation on keeping or obtaining AT devices and services during the transition from school to adult life. Staff are also scheduled to present on this topic at the statewide Independent Living conference in September, 2006, as well as at the World Congress on Disability and Expo in Year 2.

In Year 2, staff will prepare and conduct 7-10 hours of assistive technology training for participants in "Partners in Policymaking: Confidence and Competence in Transition from School to Work". This year-long program, based on the nationally-recognized Partners in Policymaking leadership training program, has been developed by the

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Institute on Disabilities for families (parents and their transitioning student, aged 14-21) recruited from across Pennsylvania.

The estimated cost of staff time and travel on these transition activities is projected to be 5% of total state leadership expenditures.

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

During the three years of this State Plan, PIAT will engage in a variety of activities to promote the availability of PIAT's statewide activities, other state resources for AT, and increase public awareness of the scope and potential of AT for education, employment, and community living.

AT Awareness Month: PIAT will continue have November proclaimed “AT Awareness Month” by the Governor of Pennsylvania and Mayor of Philadelphia. ATRCs and local branches will use that month to focus public attention on AT and the people who benefit from AT by scheduling AT displays in public locations (e.g. libraries), putting articles in local newspapers and agency publications, etc.

Publications: PIAT will produce and assure supplies of a variety of publications, updated regularly and available electronically, on the web, in alternative formats, as well as in traditional print. These include:

AT Focus - is a quarterly newsletter, which will be mailed to ATRCs, local branches of Pennsylvania's AT Lending Library, and other interested providers and consumers. Each issue will be dedicated to a specific category of AT available in the Lending Library, and will include information on funding and other resources for learning more or obtaining the featured devices. Funding for this publication is primarily supported through state funds.

Funding Fact Sheets – are detailed descriptions of specific funding resources for consumers, such as *Funding AT through Medicare* and *Funding AT through Vocational Rehabilitation*. Funding Facts Sheets will be shared with consumers, families, providers and educators. In Year 2, these Fact Sheets will be updated based on the revisions of the “*Guide to Funding Assistive Technology in Pennsylvania.*”

Helpful Hints – are informational guides that provide detailed suggestions and strategies for obtaining AT for education, employment, and community living. They provide useful reminders of who, what, when, where, and how, to help consumers acquire the AT they need. Other publications in this series include *Home Modifications; Vehicle Modifications; and Non-Governmental Resources for Funding Assistive Technology.*

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Poster: "AT can help you do the things you want to do" – an attractive poster featuring diverse Pennsylvanians with disabilities utilizing AT, and providing contact information on the program. The poster, with the addition of a sticker proclaiming "November is AT Awareness Month!" is an important component to the November "celebration".

Website: We have a dynamic, accessible website, under constant review and updated regularly to have the most current information and resources available for consumers, families, students, educators and providers. Housed within the Institute on Disabilities' site, there are easy links to all of the AT and accessible IT activities of the Institute. By the end of Year 1, the website will be reorganized to feature the state level and state leadership activities required by the AT Act, and will include enhancements to facilitate access to those activities. A new framework for the web pages for Pennsylvania's Assistive Technology Lending Library will be launched early in Year 2, as well as the on-line classifieds listing. We also anticipate posting an electronic version of the newly revised "*Guide to Funding Assistive Technology in Pennsylvania*" by the end of the first quarter of Year 2. The website will contain current contact information for the state AT program offices as well as the regional ATRCs. During the remaining two years of the plan, the website will continue to be updated as new activities, products and partnerships are launched. The website will include a brief description and a link to the Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation.

Information and Referral: PIAT will maintain its statewide toll-free number, as will the ATRCs, and each office will provide daily information and referral services to callers regarding AT devices and services, availability of devices and services within PA, and information regarding the availability of funding and other acquisition resources. Information and referral will be provided via email, fax and mail as well as phone, by knowledgeable staff. In Year 1, it is projected that PIAT staff and subcontractors will have responded to more than 11,000 telephone and electronic requests for AT information, continuously enhancing the general awareness of Pennsylvanians about the availability, benefits, appropriateness and cost of AT devices and services. The toll-free numbers for the state program and the website will be on all electronic and print materials.

Mailing Lists: PIAT will distribute print and electronic materials in a variety of ways. Staff and ATRCs will use local, statewide, and regional listservs to which they belong to promote PIAT's activities and services. Information will be routinely sent to service providers, Area Agencies on Aging, county Offices of Mental Retardation, school districts and Intermediate Units, and other targeted individuals and organizations. Materials will be disseminated to local branches of Pennsylvania's Assistive Technology Lending Library, and they will be encouraged to distribute them to their constituents.

We anticipate continuation, with yearly updates and enhancements, of all these public awareness activities, as well as development of new materials in response to consumer

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requests and new activities (e.g. new recycling partners; Telecommunications Device Distribution Program).

- 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 AT devices and services to individuals with disabilities, service providers and other to improve access to AT devices and services as described in section 4(e)(3)(B)(iii) at the AT Act.

Pennsylvania will continue its coordination and collaboration with public and private entities to improve access to AT and other accessible technologies. Opportunities for coordination and collaboration arise from a variety of formal and informal relationships with agencies responsible for policies, procedures, funding and provision of assistive technology devices and services. We anticipate these relationships continuing throughout the three years of this Plan. PIAT will be responsive to requests for new collaborations as they arise, and will welcome partnerships with agencies and state offices which share common philosophies, missions, and goals.

Examples of coordination and collaboration include:

PA Department of Public Welfare, Office of Mental Retardation (OMR) – PIAT staff will continue serve on the Communication subcommittee of OMR’s Planning Advisory Committee (PAC). This committee plays an active role in advocating for policies to increase access to augmentative communication supports for people with developmental disabilities. In Year 2, PIAT staff will participate as a member of OMR’s Quality Improvement in Assistive Technology Sub-committee, identifying the AT needs of and solutions for individuals served by OMR, including those in state centers as well as community living settings.

PA Department of Education – The Principal Investigator for PIAT is a member of the select “Gaskin Panel” overseeing the implementation of a settlement in an inclusive education case that will affect the way supports and services (including assistive technology devices and services) are provided to students with disabilities throughout Pennsylvania.

PA Department of Education, Office of Commonwealth Libraries – PIAT has a long-standing relationship with the Office of Commonwealth Libraries. As in Year 1 of this plan, in Year 2 PIAT will participate in grant reviews to determine the distribution of assistive and accessible technologies to community libraries, as well as those in K-12 and higher education. Many libraries serve as local branches of Pennsylvania’s Assistive Technology Lending Library, recognizing their importance as sources of information to Pennsylvania’s citizens, and we will continue to encourage more libraries to become local branches. PIAT will continue to provide training and technical assistance (e.g. through participation with the Pennsylvania Library Association [PaLA] in its annual conference) as requested.

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PA Department of Health – In Year 1, with approval from the Department of Health, PIAT developed an assistive technology “Companion Guide” to the “Healthcare Transition Checklist” developed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/lib/health/email_web_proof_03-27final.pdf In Year 2, PIAT will work with the Department of Health on linking the Companion Guide to the Department of Health website.

Pennsylvania Protection and Advocacy, Inc. (PP&A) – The PP&A is a “sister” program in that it, like the Institute on Disabilities, receives funding under both the Developmental Disabilities Act and the Assistive Technology Act. Representatives from each agency serve on the other’s advisory or governing board, providing opportunities to share information and collaboratively plan and coordinate activities. PP&A coordinates a statewide task force on accessible voting, on which PIAT staff will serve. PP&A and/or subcontractors will attend or present at meetings of PIAT’s ATRCs. During Years 2 and 3 of this plan (as in Year 1), key PP&A staff and/or subcontractors will teleconference bi-monthly to assure non-duplication of efforts regarding assistive technology, and identify areas where their respective talents might be best utilized. In addition, the Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation will be involved in these calls when issues related to state systems for funding AT, and other opportunities for collaboration, are addressed.

In Year 1, PP&A staff /subcontractors and PIAT coordinated efforts in advising the Department of Public Welfare of our respective concerns regarding proposed changes to Medicaid Waivers that would restrict access to assistive technology (especially home modifications). Similarly, PIAT, PP&A, and PATF developed issues of concern regarding proposed “selective contracting” of durable medical equipment; each then provided written and/or in person testimony on the impact of these proposed changes on people with disabilities who use DME.

Developmental Disabilities Council – The DD Council is also a “sister” program to the Institute on Disabilities. Representatives from each agency serve on the other’s advisory or governing board, providing opportunities to share information and collaboratively plan and coordinate activities.

Disability Budget Coalition – PIAT will continue to participate as a member of the Disability Budget Coalition, which creates and presents to the General Assembly and the Administration a “wish list” of programs that can improve the lives of Pennsylvanians with disabilities. This Coalition of more than seventy groups representing people with physical and sensory disabilities has been instrumental in advancing programs that can improve access to and acquisition of AT, including Pennsylvania’s AT Lending Library, the Assistive Technology Cash Loan Program administered by the PA Assistive Technology Foundation, the Access Home Modification Program, and the ICAN program that provides grants to employers so they can acquire AT to hire or retain persons with disabilities. Collaboration with the Disability Budget Coalition is a key factor in obtaining continued state support for these programs, which are important resources for accessing and acquiring assistive technology.

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IT Access – In its role as the coordinating entity for the Mid-Atlantic Consortium on Accessible Electronic and Information Technology in Education (under a contract with Transcen, the Mid-Atlantic ADA and IT Information Center), PIAT staff completed work to enhance web accessibility in k-12 and community colleges. In Year 1, staff renewed PIAT’s contacts in the Office of Education Technology in the PA Department of Education, and in Year 2 will work with the Director of that office (as will as the Office of Information Technology in the Department of Administration) in the implementation web accessibility.

Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation – In Year 2, PIAT will continue its efforts to establish a written Memorandum of Understanding with the PATF, to facilitate acquisition of assistive technology for Pennsylvanians with disabilities and older Pennsylvanians. These efforts may require participation in “independent” mediation. Pending agreement and successful implementation of an MOU, additional planning will occur regarding collaboration in Year 3.

In addition to these collaborations, PIAT will engage in efforts to increase the availability of certain AT devices for specific populations and purposes during the three years of this Plan. In Year 2, PIAT will collaborate with disability organizations and other stakeholders in efforts to expand the income eligibility for free telecommunications equipment for individuals with disabilities and/or the types of equipment supplied, so that more Pennsylvanians will have access to devices and services necessary for telecommunications access. In Year 3, PIAT will develop a proposal to the Departments of Aging, Health, and /or the Department of Public Welfare for the free distribution of medication management systems (e.g. for older Pennsylvanians with disabilities). PIAT will seek public and/or private funding for a program to distribute free strobe fire/smoke/carbon monoxide alerting systems for individuals who are Deaf, modeled after a successful program funded by a local TV station to distribute smoke alarms to people who are low income.

PIAT anticipates continued success over the next two years of this plan in its coordination and collaboration with these agencies, and new partners as opportunities arise, on policies, procedures and resources that improve access to and acquisition of AT for Pennsylvanians of all ages.

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Attachment 9: Involvement of Public and Private Entities

- 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.

In addition to state support identified in Attachment 10.1, PIAT anticipates continued funding in Year 2 from the City of Philadelphia Mental Retardation Services to conduct training and provide technical assistance to interdisciplinary teams serving infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

During Year 1, PIAT continued its work with TransCen, the Mid-Atlantic ADA and IT Information Center, promoting IT accessibility in education and the range and scope of AT devices and services for IT and telecommunications access through demonstration, training, and technical assistance activities. At this point, it appears unlikely there will be similar funds for these activities in Year 2 or beyond.

Pending transfer of the implementation of the Telecommunications Device Distribution Program to PIAT in Year 2, we will seek additional funds for “consumer education” from the Public Utilities Commission, as generated by the telephone surcharge for this program. These funds will support travel for ATRCs as they provide equipment set-up for TDDP device recipients, as well as additional support for outreach activities.

- 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.

N/A

- 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).

In Year 1, meetings were held November 22, 2005 (in person/teleconference); March 7, 2006 (in person/teleconference); and July 12, 2006 (teleconference). The purposes of the meetings were to inform the Community Advisory Council (CAC) members and the “ad hoc” members of the Assistive and Accessible Technologies Committee of the activities as approved in the State Plan, to evaluate progress, and to discuss and seek advice related to activities for Year 2 of the Plan.

Two or three meetings, including one in-person meeting, are planned for Year 2. In late Spring 2007, the Advisory Council will convene (either in person or by teleconference) to review projected baseline data (based on data from the first seven or eight months of Year 2) and to set achievable, measurable goals for Year 3 based on that data. Progress will be assessed, and any changes to the State Plan for AT will also be proposed and

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reviewed at that time. Input and guidance from the CAC will be of particular importance, as several new initiatives were begun late in Year 1 or are beginning in Year 2.

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Attachment 10: State Support

- 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).

It is anticipated that State support, through the budget of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, will continue to fund Pennsylvania's Assistive Technology Lending Library. These funds are provided to Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology at the Institute on Disabilities to operate the program (including coordination of the Lending Library activities of PIAT's Assistive Technology Resource Centers; development and implementation of policies and procedures, including those to assure cost efficiencies while maintaining high customer satisfaction; coordination and oversight of the activities of the subcontractor responsible for inventory maintenance and circulation; identification and procurement of devices; and outreach and promotion of the program).

During Year 1, support was provided to Pennsylvania's Assistive Technology Lending Library at \$801,000. During Year 2, state support has been increased to \$1,001,000. This funding is available based on state appropriations and is not guaranteed.

- 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.

Through the Department of Public Welfare, Office of Mental Retardation (OMR), there are funds provided to support training and technical assistance. However, unlike most of PIAT's activities, these are focused on only one type of AT (augmentative and alternative communication [AAC]) rather than the spectrum of AT possibilities, and the implementation of AAC specifically with individuals with intellectual disabilities. These funds offset salaries, fringe, and travel expenses for designated staff. This support was provided during Year 1 and is expected to continue during Year 2. Funding is available based on OMR appropriations and is not guaranteed.

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Attachment 11: Allocation and Utilization of Funds

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

Pennsylvania’s Initiative on Assistive Technology, a program of the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University, uses Temple University’s accounting system along with an internal departmental system to track all federal AT Act grant expenditures. The University’s grant accounting department assigns a specific cost center number to the grant to track expenditures and revenues that are specific to the AT program. The internal budget system tracks expenditures as “state level” or “state leadership” by amount. In addition, expenditures related to transition training and technical assistance are tracked. A standardized report provides summary data on expenditure percentages to ensure the required distribution is met at the end of each fiscal year. The Program Director and Administrator will review and monitor expenditures on a quarterly basis, although more frequent reviews may be conducted as necessary (especially in the last quarter).

Assistive Technology Resource Centers will assure their compliance with proportional distribution of expenditures (60% on state level activities and 40% on state leadership activities) as stipulated in their subcontracts with the Institute on Disabilities.

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

Due to changes in the activities initially planned for Year 1, this section includes revisions in the distribution of funds within the State Level activities. Note the proportion of expenditures on state level and state leadership activities is unchanged.

In addition, proposed budget allocations for Year 2, along with an explanation of expenditures within the categories of State Level and State Leadership activities is provided. These numbers will serve as an estimate only for Year 3 of this State Plan.

Where expenditures are related to the total operation of the State AT Act Program (such as telephone, postage, duplicating/printing), they have been equally allocated (except for supplies, which are not attributed to device lending in Year 2) rather than pro-rated among activities. Percentages are calculated based on the total of “direct” expenditures in each category. Indirect is calculated at 10% on all lines; however, in accordance with Temple University policy, indirect is excluded from equipment and the portion of each subcontract in excess of \$25,000. Thus, the total indirect amount for the entire grant is actually less than 10% (approximately 7% in Year 2).

Total Award for Year 1:	\$514,074
Total Direct:	\$472,568
Total Indirect	\$ 41,506

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Total Award for Year 2: **\$545,247**
 Total Direct: \$505,225
 Total Indirect \$ 40,022

Year 1 State Level Activities	Amount	Revised Amount	% of Award	Revised %
State Financing	\$128,234	\$53,234	27%	11%
Device Reutilization	\$69,245	\$97,645	15%	21%
Device Loan	\$52,019	\$52,019	11%	11%
Device Demonstration:	\$67,550	\$114,150	14%	24%
TOTAL	\$317,048	\$317,048 (unchanged)	67%*	67% (unchanged)

Year 1 State Leadership Activities	Amount	% of Award
Training/TA	\$47,782	10%
<i>Transition</i>	\$ 7,776	<i>5% of leadership</i>
Public Awareness	\$70,998	15%
Coordination/Collaboration	\$36,738	8%
	\$155,520	33%*

Projected Year 2 State Level Activities	Amount	% of Award
State Financing	\$107,582	21%
Device Reutilization	\$63,313	13%
Device Loan	\$42,490	8%
Device Demonstration	\$90,168	18%
	\$303,553	60%*

Projected Year 2 State Leadership Activities	Amount	% of Award
Training/TA	\$88,134	17%
<i>Transition</i>	\$ 10,083	<i>5% of leadership</i>
Public Awareness	\$71,577	14%
Coordination/Collaboration	\$41,961	9%
TOTAL	\$201,672	40%*

**Percentages are rounded, and are based on per cent of total grant award exclusive of indirect (\$ 472,568 for Year 1 and \$505,225 for Year 2).*

Revised 9/13/2006