



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS  
ON THE  
*ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT*  
OF 1998, AS AMENDED,  
FOR FISCAL YEARS  
2009 AND 2010**





**ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS ON THE  
*ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998*,  
AS AMENDED, FOR FISCAL YEARS  
2009 AND 2010**

**REPORT ON FEDERAL ACTIVITIES**  
UNDER THE *ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998*, AS AMENDED

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES  
REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

2014

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### **May 2014**

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# CONTENTS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| LIST OF TABLES .....   | V  |
| ACRONYMS .....   | IX |
| PREFACE .....  | 1  |
| THE <i>ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT</i> : AN OVERVIEW .....  | 3  |
| THE <i>ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998</i> , AS AMENDED.....  | 3  |
| <i>TITLE III</i> OF THE <i>AT ACT OF 1998</i> .....  | 7  |
| PART I: SECTION 4 OF THE <i>ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998</i> , AS AMENDED: THE<br>STATE GRANT FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM .....           | 11 |
| DATA COLLECTION.....   | 13 |
| IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STATE GRANT FOR AT PROGRAM.....  | 14 |
| CONCLUSION.....  | 60 |
| PART II: <i>TITLE III</i> OF THE <i>ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998</i> :<br>ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM .....                                  | 61 |
| DATA COLLECTION AND LIMITATIONS.....   | 63 |
| TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING .....  | 63 |
| FY 2009 AND 2010 ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM DATA.....   | 70 |
| SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES FOR AT LOAN RECIPIENTS.....  | 79 |
| CONCLUSION.....  | 83 |
| PART III: SECTION 5 OF THE <i>ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998</i> , AS AMENDED:<br>PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM ..... | 85 |
| PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM<br>PERFORMANCE FOR FY 2009.....   | 86 |
| PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM<br>PERFORMANCE FOR FY 2010.....   | 95 |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| PART IV: APPENDIXES .....   | 105 |
| APPENDIX A : STATE-LEVEL ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN FY 2010 UNDER THE<br>STATE GRANT FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM..... | 107 |
| APPENDIX B : STATEWIDE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM PROFILES .....  | 121 |
| APPENDIX C : <i>TITLE III</i> ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILES.....   | 179 |
| APPENDIX D : CONTACT INFORMATION FOR STATE GRANT FOR<br>ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS .....                             | 217 |
| APPENDIX E : CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ALTERNATIVE FINANCING<br>PROGRAMS .....  | 227 |
| APPENDIX F : CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR<br>ASSISIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS .....                  | 233 |

# TABLES

|  |    |
|--|----|
| TABLE 1. TYPES OF ALTERNATIVE FINANCING MECHANISMS FOR THE PURCHASE OR LEASE OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES AND SERVICES.....   | 8  |
| TABLE 2. TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE STATE GRANT FOR AT PROGRAM: FY 2007–10.....  | 13 |
| TABLE 3. STATE-LEVEL ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED USING STATE GRANT FOR AT PROGRAM FUNDS, BY STATE AND CHANGES FROM 2009: FY 2010.....   | 15 |
| TABLE 4. FINANCING ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY STATES USING STATE GRANT FOR AT PROGRAM FUNDS: FY 2010.....   | 20 |
| TABLE 5. STATE FINANCING ACTIVITIES, BY LOAN DATA, TYPES OF LOANS, AND BY OTHER STATE AT ACQUISITION AND SAVINGS DATA: FY 2008–10.....   | 24 |
| TABLE 6. DEVICE REUTILIZATION ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY STATES USING STATE GRANT FOR AT REASSIGNMENT AND EXCHANGE: FY 2010.....  | 27 |
| TABLE 7. AT DEVICE REUSE, BY RECIPIENTS, ACQUISITIONS AND SAVINGS: FY 2008–10.....   | 30 |
| TABLE 8. AT DEVICE REUSE, BY TYPE OF DEVICE ACQUIRED AND SAVINGS: FY 2008–10.....  | 31 |
| TABLE 9. SUMMARY OF STATE-LEVEL AT DEVICE ACQUISITION ACTIVITY: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF DEVICE RECIPIENTS AND DEVICES ACQUIRED, AND VALUE OF DEVICES OR SAVINGS TO RECIPIENTS OF DEVICES ACQUIRED: FY 2010..... | 32 |
| TABLE 10. NUMBER OF AT DEVICE LOANS AND PERCENTAGE OF DEVICE LOANS, BY PURPOSE: FY 2008–10.....  | 35 |
| TABLE 11. AT DEVICE LOAN BORROWER TYPES: FY 2008–10.....   | 36 |
| TABLE 12. TYPES OF AT BORROWED: FY 2008–10.....  | 36 |
| TABLE 13. NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF AT DEVICE DEMONSTRATIONS, BY REFERRAL AND PARTICIPANT TYPES: FY 2008–10.....  | 39 |
| TABLE 14. PERCENTAGE OF AT DEVICES ACQUIRED AND ACCESSED THROUGH STATE PROGRAMS, BY ACQUISITION MECHANISM: FY 2010.....  | 40 |
| TABLE 15. SATISFACTION RATINGS FOR STATE-LEVEL AT ACTIVITIES: FY 2008–10.....  | 41 |
| TABLE 16. PERCENTAGE AND NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN AT TRAINING EVENTS: FY 2008–10.....   | 46 |

|  |    |
|--|----|
| TABLE 17. PERCENTAGE AND NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS OF AT INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE (I & A): FY 2008–10.....  | 50 |
| TABLE 18. NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF DEVICE LOAN BORROWERS, PARTICIPANTS IN DEVICE DEMONSTRATIONS, TRAINING PARTICIPANTS AND RECIPIENTS OF INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE, BY TYPE OF INDIVIDUAL: FY 2010.....                           | 52 |
| TABLE 19. DOLLAR AMOUNT AND PERCENTAGE OF <i>AT ACT</i> ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED WITH LEVERAGED FUNDING: FY 2010.....  | 55 |
| TABLE 20. DOLLAR AMOUNTS AND PERCENTAGE LEVERAGED TO SUPPORT <i>AT ACT</i> ACTIVITIES, BY TYPE OF FUNDING: FY 2010.....  | 56 |
| TABLE 21. DOLLAR AMOUNT AND PERCENTAGE OF LEVERAGED FUNDING FOR STATE-LEVEL ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED, BY FUNDING SOURCE: FY 2008–10.....   | 56 |
| TABLE 22. <i>TITLE III</i> OF THE <i>ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998</i> : REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAMS.....   | 63 |
| TABLE 23. NUMBER OF GRANTS AWARDED TO STATES AND AMOUNT OF FUNDING FOR ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAMS UNDER <i>TITLE III</i> OF THE <i>ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998</i> , BY TYPE OF FUNDING: FY 2000–06.....                  | 64 |
| TABLE 24. FEDERAL AND STATE-MATCHED FUNDING FOR ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAMS UNDER <i>TITLE III</i> OF THE <i>ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998</i> , BY STATE AND SELECTED YEARS: FY 2000–06.....                                | 66 |
| TABLE 25. ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PARTNERS UNDER <i>TITLE III</i> OF THE <i>ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998</i> , BY STATE: FY 2010.....  | 69 |
| TABLE 26. ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM LOAN APPLICATIONS, LOANS MADE AND LOAN AMOUNTS UNDER <i>TITLE III</i> OF THE <i>ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998</i> , BY STATE: FY 2009 AND FY 2010.....                                  | 73 |
| TABLE 27. NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM AT USERS UNDER <i>TITLE III</i> OF THE <i>ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998</i> , BY GENDER AND AGE: FY 2009 AND FY 2010.....                                      | 76 |
| TABLE 28. NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF LOANS APPROVED FOR AT DEVICES THROUGH THE ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM UNDER <i>TITLE III</i> OF THE <i>ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998</i> , BY TYPE OF DISABILITY: FY 2009 AND FY 2010..... | 77 |
| TABLE 29. DOLLARS AND PERCENTAGE OF DOLLARS LOANED FOR AT DEVICES UNDER <i>TITLE III</i> OF THE <i>ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998</i> , BY TYPE OF AT: FY 2009 AND FY 2010.....  | 78 |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| TABLE 30. NUMBER OF AT DEVICES PURCHASED AND AVERAGE AMOUNT LOANED UNDER <i>TITLE III</i> OF THE <i>ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998</i> , BY TYPE OF AT: FY 2009 AND FY 2010 .....                                  | 79  |
| TABLE 31. NUMBER OF LOANS MADE FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES, AND THE AMOUNT AND AVERAGE AMOUNT LOANED THROUGH ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAMS: FY 2000–10.....  | 83  |
| TABLE 32. NUMBER OF AT INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICES, AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES PROVIDED, AND INDIVIDUALS SERVED: FY 2009 AND FY 2010 .....  | 101 |
| TABLE 33. AT CASEWORK OUTCOMES, BY CASE ISSUES, TYPES OF AT RECEIVED, REASONS FOR CLOSING A CASE, PRIMARY DISABILITY OF THOSE RECEIVING CASE SERVICES, AND GENDER AND AGE OF THOSE SERVED: FY 2009 AND FY 2010 ..... | 101 |
| TABLE A. SELECTED STATE-LEVEL ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED UNDER THE STATE GRANT FOR AT PROGRAM, BY STATE: FY 2010.....  | 108 |



# ACRONYMS

|               |   |                |   |
|---------------|---|----------------|---|
| <b>ABLE</b>   | Assistive Bank of Loan-able Equipment                   | <b>ATEX</b>    | Arizona Assistive Technology Exchange                     |
| <b>ADRS</b>   | Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services           | <b>ATEX</b>    | Assistive Technology Exchange List                        |
| <b>AEA</b>    | Area Education Agency                                   | <b>ATEX</b>    | AT Exchange Program                                       |
| <b>AFP</b>    | Alternative Financing Program                           | <b>ATF</b>     | Access to Telework Fund                                   |
| <b>AFTAP</b>  | Alternative Financing Technical Assistance Project      | <b>AT/IL</b>   | Assistive Technology for Independent Living               |
| <b>ALSTAR</b> | Alabama Statewide Technology Access and Response        | <b>ATI</b>     | Access Technologies, Inc.                                 |
| <b>ARS</b>    | Arkansas Rehabilitation Services                        | <b>ATinNH</b>  | Assistive Technology in New Hampshire                     |
| <b>ASATS</b>  | American Samoa Assistive Technology Service Project     | <b>ATK</b>     | Assistive Technology for Kansans                          |
| <b>ASB</b>    | American Savings Bank                                   | <b>ATLA</b>    | Assistive Technology of Alaska                            |
| <b>AT</b>     | Assistive Technology                                    | <b>ATLFA</b>   | Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority                  |
| <b>ATAC</b>   | Assistive Technology Advocacy Center                    | <b>ATMn</b>    | Assistive Technology of Minnesota                         |
| <b>ATAP</b>   | Association of <i>Assistive Technology Act</i> Programs | <b>AT Ohio</b> | Assistive Technology of Ohio                              |
| <b>ATAP</b>   | Assistive Technology Access Partnership                 | <b>ATP</b>     | Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership                 |
| <b>ATDT</b>   | AT Development Team                                     | <b>ATPDC</b>   | Assistive Technology Program for the District of Columbia |
| <b>ATEL</b>   | Assistive Technology Equipment Loan                     | <b>ATRC</b>    | Assistive Technology Resource Centers                     |
| <b>ATELP</b>  | Assistive Technology Equipment Lending Program          | <b>ATTAIN</b>  | Assistive Technology through Action in Indiana            |

|                |  |                 |   |
|----------------|--|-----------------|---|
| <b>ATX</b>     | AT Xchange   | <b>CREATE</b>   | Citizens Reutilizing Assistive Technology Equipment |
| <b>AzLAT</b>   | Arizona Loans for Assistive Technology   | <b>CRRP</b>     | Computer Recycle and Redistribution Program         |
| <b>AzLAT-T</b> | Arizona Loans for AT-Telework  | <b>CRS</b>      | Children's Rehabilitation Service                   |
| <b>AzTAP</b>   | Arizona Technology Access Program  | <b>CTALF</b>    | Connecticut Tech Act Loan Fund                      |
| <b>BHSSC</b>   | Black Hills Special Services Cooperative   | <b>DATI</b>     | Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative            |
| <b>BOLD</b>    | Borrow-to-Own Low-vision Devices   | <b>DATLP</b>    | Delaware Assistive Technology Loan Program          |
| <b>CATP</b>    | Colorado Assistive Technology Partners   | <b>DC-ATFLP</b> | District of Columbia AT Financial Loan Program      |
| <b>CATS</b>    | California Assistive Technology Systems Program  | <b>DCCIL</b>    | District of Columbia Center for Independent Living  |
| <b>CBO</b>     | Community-Based Organization   | <b>DHH</b>      | Department of Health and Hospitals                  |
| <b>CCP</b>     | Coconut Connection Program   | <b>DHS</b>      | Department of Human Services                        |
| <b>CDD</b>     | Center for Disabilities and Development  | <b>DLEG</b>     | Department of Labor & Economic Growth               |
| <b>CEDDERS</b> | Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service (Guam) | <b>DOR</b>      | Department of Rehabilitation                        |
| <b>CIL</b>     | Center for Independent Living  | <b>DORS</b>     | Division of Rehabilitation Services                 |
| <b>CITE</b>    | Consumer Information and Technology Training Exchange (Maine)                              | <b>DRL</b>      | Disability Resource Library                         |
| <b>CNMI</b>    | Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands   | <b>DRS</b>      | Division of Rehabilitation Services                 |
|                |  | <b>DTELP</b>    | Delaware Telework Equipment Loan Program            |
|                |  | <b>DVR</b>      | Division of Vocational Rehabilitation               |

|                |   |                  |   |
|----------------|---|------------------|---|
| <b>ED</b>      | U.S. Department of Education                            | <b>IDEA</b>      | <i>Individuals with Disabilities Education Act</i>        |
| <b>EDGAR</b>   | Education Department General Administrative Regulations | <b>IEP</b>       | Individualized Education Program                          |
| <b>ELL</b>     | Equipment Loan Library                                  | <b>IFSP</b>      | Individualized Family Service Plan                        |
| <b>ERC</b>     | Equipment Restoration Center                            | <b>IHD</b>       | Institute for Human Development                           |
| <b>ETC</b>     | Equipment Technology Consortium                         | <b>ILH</b>       | Independent Living for the Handicapped                    |
| <b>FAAST</b>   | Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology  | <b>IPAT</b>      | Iowa Program for Assistive Technology                     |
| <b>FY</b>      | Fiscal Year   | <b>IPAT</b>      | North Dakota Interagency Program for Assistive Technology |
| <b>FY 2007</b> | Oct. 1, 2006, to Sept. 30, 2007                         | <b>IT</b>        | Information Technology                                    |
| <b>FY 2008</b> | Oct. 1, 2007, to Sept. 30, 2008                         | <b>KATCO</b>     | Kansas Assistive Technology Cooperative                   |
| <b>GDOL</b>    | Georgia Department of Labor                             | <b>KATLC</b>     | Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation            |
| <b>GGT</b>     | Get Guam Teleworking                                    | <b>KATS</b>      | Kentucky Assistive Technology Service                     |
| <b>GOAL-AT</b> | Guam Options for Alternative Loans-Assistive Technology | <b>KEE</b>       | Kansas Equipment Exchange                                 |
| <b>GSAT</b>    | Guam System for Assistive Technology                    | <b>LATAN</b>     | Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network             |
| <b>HAT</b>     | Hawaii Assistive Technology (HAT) Loan Program          | <b>LGP</b>       | Loan Guarantee Program                                    |
| <b>IATP</b>    | Illinois Assistive Technology Program                   | <b>MassMATCH</b> | Maximizing Assistive Technology in Consumer's Hands       |
| <b>ICAN</b>    | Increasing Capabilities Access Network                  | <b>MATP</b>      | Montana Assistive Technology Program                      |
| <b>IdATP</b>   | Idaho Assistive Technology Project                      |                  |   |

|               |  |                      |  |
|---------------|--|----------------------|--|
| <b>MDRC</b>   | Michigan Disability Rights Coalition                           | <b>OSERS</b>         | Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services                      |
| <b>MD TAP</b> | Maryland Technology Assistance Program                         | <b>PAAT</b>          | Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology                             |
| <b>MoAT</b>   | Missouri Assistive Technology                                  | <b>PIAT</b>          | Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology                            |
| <b>NATC</b>   | Nevada AT Collaborative  | <b>PLUK</b>          | Parents Let's Unite for Kids   |
| <b>NATTAP</b> | National Assistive Technology Technical Assistance Partnership | <b>PRATP</b>         | Puerto Rico Assistive Technology Program                                     |
| <b>NAU</b>    | Northern Arizona University                                    | <b>PSA</b>           | Public Service Announcement  |
| <b>NCATP</b>  | North Carolina Assistive Technology Program                    | <b>REEP</b>          | Recycled and Exchanged Equipment Partnership                                 |
| <b>NCF</b>    | National Cristina Foundation                                   | <b>REM</b>           | Refurbished Equipment Marketplace  |
| <b>NDAD</b>   | North Dakota Association for the Disabled                      | <b>RESNA</b>         | Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America |
| <b>NEAT</b>   | New England Assistive Technology                               | <b>RSA</b>           | Rehabilitation Services Administration                                       |
| <b>NIDRR</b>  | National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research   | <b>SCATP</b>         | South Carolina Assistive Technology Program                                  |
| <b>NISAT</b>  | National Information System for Assistive Technology           | <b>SCVRD</b>         | South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department                          |
| <b>NMTAP</b>  | New Mexico Technology Assistance Program                       | <b>SPD</b>           | Seniors and People with Disabilities   |
| <b>OASIS</b>  | Older Alabamians Systems of Information and Services           | <b>STAR</b>          | Minnesota System of Technology to Achieve Results (STAR) Program             |
| <b>OkAT</b>   | Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation                       | <b>Project START</b> | Success Through Assistive Rehabilitative Technology                          |
| <b>OMB</b>    | Office of Management and Budget                                |                      |  |
| <b>ORS</b>    | Office of Rehabilitation Services                              |                      |  |

|               |  |                |  |
|---------------|--|----------------|--|
| <b>STRAID</b> | Systems of Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals With Disabilities | <b>VATS</b>    | Virginia Assistive Technology System   |
| <b>SVRI</b>   | Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute                                  | <b>VITRAID</b> | Virgin Islands Technology Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities |
| <b>TA</b>     | Technical Assistance   | <b>VR</b>      | Vocational Rehabilitation  |
| <b>TAP</b>    | Telecommunications Access Program  | <b>VT-OCU</b>  | Vermont Opportunities Credit Union   |
| <b>TnTAP</b>  | Tennessee Technology Access Program  | <b>WATAP</b>   | <i>Washington Assistive Technology Act</i> Program                             |
| <b>TxTAP</b>  | Texas Technology Access Program  | <b>WATF</b>    | Washington Assistive Technology Foundation                                     |
| <b>TDDP</b>   | Telecommunications Device Distribution Program                             | <b>WATI</b>    | Wisconsin Assistive Technology Institute                                       |
| <b>TFL</b>    | Tools For Life   | <b>WATR</b>    | Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources   |
| <b>TRAID</b>  | Technology Related Assistance for Individuals With Disabilities            | <b>WIND</b>    | Wyoming Institute for Disabilities   |
| <b>UATF</b>   | Utah Assistive Technology Foundation                                       | <b>WRP</b>     | Wheelchair Recycling Program   |
| <b>UATP</b>   | Utah Assistive Technology Program  | <b>WVATS</b>   | West Virginia Assistive Technology System                                      |
| <b>UCHSC</b>  | University of Colorado Health Science Center                               |                |  |
| <b>UCP</b>    | United Cerebral Palsy  |                |  |
| <b>UEM</b>    | Used Equipment Marketplace   |                |  |
| <b>UERS</b>   | Used Equipment Referral Service  |                |  |
| <b>UIC</b>    | University of Illinois at Chicago  |                |  |
| <b>VATP</b>   | Vermont Assistive Technology Program                                       |                |  |



# PREFACE

The *Assistive Technology Act of 1998*, as amended by Public Law 108-364 (*AT Act of 1998*, as amended, will be referenced in this report as the *AT Act* and Act) requires that the Secretary of Education submit to Congress a report on the activities funded under the *AT Act*. Specifically, the Secretary of Education is required to provide annually to Congress: 1) A compilation and summary of the information provided by the states<sup>1</sup> in annual progress reports to the Department of Education; and 2) a summary of the state applications and an analysis of the progress of the states in meeting the measurable goals established in state applications under Sec. 4(d)(3) of the *AT Act*.

This document satisfies this requirement for FY 2009 and FY 2010. Following an overview of the legislation that preceded the *AT Act*, and description of the amendments made by P. L. 108-364, this report is organized as follows:

- Part I** Reports on the FY 2009 and FY 2010 performance of State Grant for Assistive Technology Programs as authorized under Sec. 4 of the *AT Act*.
- Part II** Describes the FY 2009 and FY 2010 performance of alternative financing programs (AFP) funded under *Title III* of the *Assistive Technology Act of 1998* as in effect prior to the amendments of 2004.
- Part III** Describes the FY 2009 and FY 2010 performance of Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT) programs funded under Sec. 5 of the *AT Act*.
- Part IV** Appendixes:
  - Appendix A** Includes a table describing the activities conducted under the State Grant for AT Program during FY 2010.
  - Appendix B** Includes a description of the activities each state planned to carry out over the three-year period from FY 2009 through FY 2011, as of May 2011.
  - Appendix C** Includes a description of the *Title III* alternative financing programs, as of May 2011.
  - Appendix D** Lists the contact information for State Grant for AT Programs (referred to as statewide AT programs).
  - Appendix E** Lists the contact information for alternative financing programs funded under *Title III* of the *AT Act of 1998*.
  - Appendix F** Lists the contact information for protection and advocacy for AT programs funded under Sec. 5 of the *AT Act*.

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<sup>1</sup> For purposes of this report, the term *states* includes, in addition to each of the 50 states of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, according to the *AT Act*, Sec. 3(14).



# THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT: AN OVERVIEW

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

The *Tech Act* was reauthorized again in 1998 as the *Assistive Technology Act of 1998* (P.L. 105-394) (*AT Act of 1998*). The *AT Act of 1998* required states to conduct capacity-building activities that increased the availability of funding for, access to and provision of AT devices and services and allowed states to conduct other discretionary activities as well. *Title III* of the *AT Act of 1998* authorized the Alternative Financing Program (AFP) to help individuals with disabilities and their families fund the purchase of AT devices or services. More information about *Title III* of the *AT Act of 1998* is found on pages 8–10 and in Part II of this document.

The *AT Act of 1998* was amended in 2004 by P. L. 108-364 (*AT Act*). The amendments significantly changed the preceding legislation. Rather than focusing the efforts of states on systems-change activities, the *AT Act* requires states to conduct activities that assist individuals with disabilities and others to access and acquire AT. As mandated by the 2004 amendments, the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), assumed responsibility for administering programs under the *Act* as of December 2004. Previously, the Department of Education's National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) administered the *Act*.

## THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998, AS AMENDED

Sec. 4 of the *AT Act* authorizes the State Grant for AT Program,<sup>2</sup> which is a formula grant program. Any funds appropriated above the FY 2004 level, which constitutes the base year amount, are allocated according to a formula that provides a portion of the funds equally to all states and a portion of funds based on the population of a state. With these grant funds, states develop and maintain statewide AT programs that conduct “state-level” activities and “state leadership” activities.

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<sup>2</sup> The State Grant for AT Program supports state efforts to improve the provision of assistive technology (AT) to individuals with disabilities of all ages through comprehensive, statewide programs that are consumer responsive. The State Grant for AT Program makes AT devices and services more available and accessible to individuals with disabilities and their families. The program provides one grant to each of the states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the outlying areas.

## State-level Activities

State-level activities include state financing activities and device reutilization and device loan programs. These include:

- A. State financing activities, including:
  - Systems for the purchase, lease or other acquisition of or payment for AT devices and services (though states may not directly pay for AT devices and services for individuals with disabilities); or
  - Alternative financing systems,<sup>3</sup> such as low-interest loan funds, interest buy-down programs, revolving loan funds, loan guarantees or insurance programs or other mechanisms for the provision of AT devices (or a state may conduct an initial one-year feasibility study for implementing an alternative financing system);
- B. Device reutilization programs that support the exchange, repair, recycling or other reutilization of AT devices;
- C. Device loan programs that provide short-term loans of AT so that individuals can try out devices or fill a temporary need for a device; and
- D. Device demonstration programs in which personnel familiar with AT demonstrate a variety of AT devices and services and provide information about AT vendors, providers and repair services.

## State Leadership Activities

These activities include:

- A. Training and technical assistance, which includes developing and disseminating training materials, conducting training, and providing technical assistance to enhance the AT knowledge, skills and competencies of appropriate individuals;<sup>4</sup>
- B. Public awareness activities designed to provide information on the availability, benefits, appropriateness and costs of AT devices and services, including a statewide information and referral system; and
- C. Coordination and collaboration of activities among public and private entities responsible for policies, procedures or funding for the provision of AT devices and services.

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<sup>3</sup> While they possess some similarities, “alternative financing systems,” as included under state financing activities, need not be the same as AFPs formerly funded under *Title III of the AT Act of 1998*, which contains many specific statutory requirements. See pages 6–10 and Part II of this document for information about *Title III of the AT Act of 1998*.

<sup>4</sup> States are required to spend 5 percent of their state leadership funds specifically to provide training and technical assistance to assist students with disabilities who receive transition services and adults who are maintaining or transitioning to community living.

Sec. 4(e)(1)(B) of the *Act* allows states not to fund a state-level activity if that activity is supported comparably with nonfederal funds. Sec. 4(e)(6) of the *Act* provides states with the “flexibility” to carry out only two or three of the state-level activities. States that carry out all four state-level activities may use up to 40 percent of their federal funds for state leadership activities. States that carry out two or three of the state-level activities may use up to 30 percent of their funds for state leadership activities.

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

The *AT Act* requires that states submit an application to receive a grant. RSA required this application to be in the form of a three-year state plan for assistive technology covering the period Oct. 1, 2009, to Sept. 30, 2011. During this three-year period, the states were required to submit amendments and updates. The full requirements for state plans for AT is available at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/atsg/applicant.html> and the state plans for AT for every state are available at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/atsg/performance.html>.

State plans for AT are used to:

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

State plans for AT describe how each state implements a statewide AT program that is comprehensive, meaning equally available to all individuals with disabilities residing in the state, regardless of the nature of their disability, age, income level, location of residence in the state, or the type of AT device or service required. Specific requirements of the state plan for AT includes a description of the:

- Entities responsible for implementing the statewide AT program;
- State’s advisory council;

- Activities to be conducted;
- State-level activities the state has elected not to conduct;
- Measurable goals to be achieved by the statewide AT program's activities;
- Involvement of public and private entities in the statewide AT program;
- Support for the statewide AT program provided by the state; and
- Proposed allocation and utilization of grant funds.

Sec. 5 of the *AT Act* authorizes grants for the Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT) Program. PAAT grantees are separate from other grantees under the *AT Act* and are identified in the *Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000*. Data on PAAT activities are provided in Part III of this report.

Sec. 6 of the *AT Act* authorizes "national activities" to improve the administration of the *Act*. These activities include training and technical assistance, data collection and reporting, and a national public Internet site on AT as described below:

- The Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) Catalyst Project supports the 56 statewide AT programs, the 57 protections and advocacy for AT programs, and the 33 alternative financing programs funded under the *AT Act of 1998*. The goal of this national-level program is to improve the effectiveness of the three entities as they work to get AT into the hands of individuals who need it. The National Assistive Technology Technical Assistance Partnership (NATTAP) also serves other entities nationwide that are not funded under the *Act*. NATTAP is conducted by RESNA.
- The National Information System for Assistive Technology (NISAT) received a grant in FY 2006, that operated through FY 2010, to develop a Web-based data collection and reporting tool to be used by states and outlying areas to report data on their activities under both the State Grant for AT Program under Sec. 4 of the *AT Act* and *Title III of the AT Act of 1998*. NISAT also provides training, technical assistance and support to states to improve their data collection. NISAT is conducted by the Association of *Assistive Technology Act* Programs (ATAP).
- The National Public Website on Assistive Technology is intended to increase the availability of and ease of access to information about AT and disability services and resources. The site provides 24-hour access to AT information for those with Internet connectivity and a toll-free telephone number for those without it. The website serves all people but focuses particularly on people with disabilities, their families, service providers, educators and employers. The National Public Website on Assistive Technology is hosted by the Georgia Institute of Technology at <http://assistivetech.net/about/index/php>.

## **TITLE III OF THE *AT ACT* OF 1998**

*Title III* of the *AT Act of 1998* authorized the Alternative Financing Program (AFP) to help individuals with disabilities and their families fund the purchase of AT devices or services. Congress first authorized grants for AFPs in 1994 under *Title III* of the *Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1988*, as amended (P.L. No. 103-218), and continued authorization for the AFPs when that *Act* was reauthorized and became the *AT Act of 1998*. This grant program was eliminated when the *AT Act of 1998* was amended by P.L. 108-364 Oct. 25, 2004, with the exception of a special rule that allowed grants in FY 2005 only. However, Congress also appropriated funds under this special rule in FY 2006.

*Title III* grants paid the federal share of establishing, expanding or maintaining state-level AFPs, which feature alternative financing mechanisms, such as low-interest loan funds, interest rate buy-down programs, revolving loan funds, loan guarantees or other mechanisms for the purchase or lease of AT. For descriptions of each of these mechanisms, and how they assist individuals with disabilities and their families to purchase AT, see table 1.

Unlike the formula State Grant for AT Program, grants were not awarded to every state under *Title III*. Grants were awarded competitively with states submitting applications containing assurances for the operation of their AFPs, including assurances related to consumer choice and control. Under *Title III* states must operate their AFPs in perpetuity, and must establish policies and procedures to ensure: (a) the timely processing of requests for assistance and (b) access to assistance regardless of the type of disability, income, location of residence in the state or type of AT needed by the consumer.

**Table 1. Types of Alternative Financing Mechanisms for the Purchase or Lease of Assistive Technology Devices and Services**

| <b>Mechanism</b>                      | <b>Description</b>   |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Revolving loan program</b>         | With a revolving loan (often called a direct loan) program, the alternative financing program (AFP) itself lends money directly to the borrower. The AFP determines the interest it will charge on the loan. The loan payments made by loan recipients are paid back to the AFP and are then available to fund new loans for individuals with disabilities.  |
| <b>Loan guarantee program</b>         | With a loan guarantee program, the AFP does not make a loan directly to the recipient but rather guarantees a portion of the loan made by a third-party lender, such as a conventional bank. By agreeing to cover all or part of a loan if the loan recipient should default, an AFP enables a bank to provide financing to individuals that the bank might otherwise deem too risky to receive a conventional loan. |
| <b>Interest rate buy-down program</b> | Through interest rate buy-down loans, an AFP uses its funds to reduce the interest rate on a lending institution's loan. For example, a loan that originally had an interest rate of 7 percent might be bought down by the AFP to 4 percent. This makes the loan more affordable because the borrower does not have to pay as much interest.   |

*(Continued on next page)*

**Table 1. Types of Alternative Financing Mechanisms for the Purchase or Lease of Assistive Technology Devices and Services (Continued)**

| <b>Mechanism</b>                               | <b>Description</b>  |
|--|---|
| <b>Nonguaranteed low-interest loan program</b> | Some people who seek AT financing may qualify for nonguaranteed low-interest loans. For those individuals who have high enough incomes and credit scores to obtain loans directly from a conventional lender, the nonguaranteed low-interest loans may be appropriate. For the most part, the AFPs refer those individuals to their lending partners, who provide financing at a preferred or reduced rate negotiated between the bank and the AFP. The AFP does not use its funds for these loans. |
| <b>Principal buy-down loan program</b>         | A principal buy-down loan is a partnership loan in which AFP funds are used to buy down the principal of a loan. The AFP uses funds to reduce the principal of the loan that lending institutions offer to consumers for loans to purchase AT. The AFP pays the lending institution for a portion of the principal on the loan, resulting in lower payments for the consumer over the term of the loan.   |
| <b>Preferred interest loan program</b>         | A preferred interest loan is a loan offered at an interest rate that is lower than the consumer would normally pay, but not as low as the prime rate.*  |
| <b>Low interest loan program</b>               | A low interest loan is a loan at interest rates that are at or below the prime rate.*   |

*(Continued from previous page)*

\* *Prime rate* is the average majority prime rate charged by banks on short-term loans to business, quoted on an investment basis. The Federal Reserve defines a bank prime loan as follows: "Rate posted by a majority of top 25 (by assets in domestic offices) insured U.S.-chartered commercial banks. Prime is one of several base rates used by banks to price short-term business loans." To determine whether a loan was made above, at or below prime rate, check the U.S. prime rate at the following website for the date on which the loan was closed: <http://www.federalreserve.gov/releases/h15/update>.

Source: Expanding the Reach of People With Disabilities. March 2005. National Assistive Technology Technical Assistance Partnership (NATTAP), Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North American (RESNA). Last accessed Dec. 11, 2010, from <http://www.resnaprojects.org/AFTAP/loan/RESNA.html>.

States that operate AFPs must enter into a contract with a community-based organization (CBO) to administer the program. This CBO must have individuals with disabilities involved in decision making at all organizational levels. In turn, the CBO must contract with a lending institution to facilitate administration of the program.

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

Though the AFP grants were for one year, states and their partners are required to use their federal and state funds in a manner that supports the permanent operation of their AFPs. Because these programs are to operate on a permanent basis, the reporting requirements also continue. Part II presents data from AFPs for FY 2009 and FY 2010.



# **PART I**

## **SECTION 4 OF THE *ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT* *OF 1998, AS AMENDED:* **THE STATE GRANT FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM****



## DATA COLLECTION

The *AT Act* includes specific data collection requirements for state-level and state leadership activities, state improvement outcomes, leveraged funding, performance measure outcomes and consumer satisfaction. During FY 2006, RSA worked with grantees and the public to develop a data collection instrument that states could use to meet their annual reporting obligation under Sec. 4(f) of the *Act*. This instrument was approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) at the end of FY 2006 and became effective as of January 2007. Therefore, RSA collected incomplete data for FY 2007. Using their FY 2007 partial year data, states set targets for the submission of the entire first year of data for FY 2008 and subsequently submitted second and third year data for FY 2009 and FY 2010. This report will highlight FY 2010 annual progress for Sec. 4 activities along with additional information about changes from FY 2009 and three-year comparisons for FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

### **AT Act Funding**

As shown in table 2 below, the State Grant for AT Program received a decrease in funding from FY 2007 to FY 2008, then an increase from FY 2008 to FY 2009 and level funding for FY 2010. With a total appropriation of \$25,660,000, the average grant award was \$483,846<sup>5</sup> and the median award was \$448,943 in FY 2010. The highest award to a state in FY 2010 was \$1,028,448, and the lowest award to a state was \$354,292.

| <b>2007</b>  | <b>2008</b>  | <b>2009</b>  | <b>2010</b>  |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| \$25,058,000 | \$24,620,237 | \$25,660,000 | \$25,660,000 |

Source: State Grant for AT Program

Based on the average grant award, a state using a minimum of 60 percent of its funds for state-level activities would have spent \$290,308 on those activities, leaving \$193,538 for state leadership activities (totals have been rounded). States are required to spend 5 percent of their state leadership funds specifically to provide training and technical assistance to assist students with disabilities who receive transition services and adults who are maintaining or transitioning to community living. Of the \$193,538, 5 percent or \$9,677 would have been used for training and technical assistance related to transition.

In addition to setting mandated allocations for state-level, state leadership and transition activities, the *AT Act* prohibits states from using grant dollars for direct payment for an assistive technology device or service for an individual with a disability (Sec. 4(e)(5)). As part of state financing activities, states can use grant dollars to administer programs that provide and pay for assistive technology devices and services (Sec. 4(e)(2)(A)).

<sup>5</sup> This average does not include American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or the U.S. Virgin Islands because doing so skews the average. That is, each of these outlying areas received the amount specified in the Act, \$125,000.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STATE GRANT FOR AT PROGRAM**

FY 2005 marked the first year of implementation of the *AT Act*. That year was a transition from the discretionary State Grant for AT Program authorized under *Title I* of the *Assistive Technology Act of 1998* to the formula grant program authorized under Sec. 4 of the revised *AT Act*. For more information about implementation during FY 2005, see the *Annual Report to Congress on the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 for Fiscal Years 2004 and 2005* at <http://www.ed.gov/about/reports/annual/rsa/atsg/2004/at-act-report-04-05.pdf>.

The activities conducted during FY 2005 primarily involved assisting states to create their state plans for AT to guide implementation of the four state-level and three state leadership activities beginning in FY 2006. States prepared and submitted their state plans and began implementing the state-level and state leadership activities in FY 2006. These state plans were effective for FY 2006 through FY 2008 and can be found at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/atsg/state-plans/2006>. For more information about implementation of activities during FY 2007 and FY 2008, see the “Annual Report to Congress on the *Assistive Technology Act of 1998*, as Amended, For Fiscal Years 2007 and 2008” at: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/reports/annual/rsa/atsg/2007-08/index.html>.

For FY 2009 and 2010, states prepared, submitted, and updated their state plans via the RSA Management Information System (MIS). These state plans can be accessed through MIS at <http://rsa.ed.gov> by using the ad hoc query function.

### **State-level Activities**

#### **Overview**

The majority of states and outlying areas conducted all four state-level activities during FY 2009 and FY 2010 (35 and 34 respectively). States are not required to fund a state-level activity if that activity is supported comparably with nonfederal funds, and states have the flexibility to conduct only two or three of the four state-level activities. The state-level activity for which states most frequently claimed comparability or flexibility was state financing. Eighteen states and outlying areas did not use funds to support state financing activities in FY 2010 (19 in FY 2009). Four states did not use funds to support device loan programs (two in FY 2009) and two states did not use funds to support device demonstrations (one in FY 2009). All states used funding to support reutilization activities in both FY 2010 and FY 2009.

Table 3 shows the state-level activities conducted by each state or outlying area in FY 2010, with asterisk notations for changes from FY 2009.

| <b>Table 3. State-level Activities Conducted Using State Grant for AT Program Funds, by State and Changes From 2009: FY 2010</b> |                                   |  |                               |  |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>State</b>   | <b>State Financing Activities</b> | <b>Device Reutilization Activities</b> | <b>Device Loan Activities</b> | <b>Device Demonstration Activities</b> |
| Alabama  | x                                 | x                                      | flexibility**                 | flexibility**                          |
| Alaska   | comparability                     | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| Arizona  | x                                 | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| Arkansas   | comparability                     | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| California   | x                                 | x                                      | x                             | flexibility                            |
| Colorado   | flexibility                       | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| Connecticut  | x                                 | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| Delaware   | x                                 | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| Florida  | x                                 | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| Georgia  | x                                 | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| Hawaii   | x                                 | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| Idaho  | x                                 | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| Illinois   | x                                 | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| Indiana  | x                                 | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| Iowa   | x                                 | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| Kansas   | x                                 | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| Kentucky   | comparability                     | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| Louisiana  | x                                 | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| Maine  | x                                 | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| Maryland   | x                                 | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| Massachusetts  | x                                 | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| Michigan   | x                                 | x                                      | flexibility                   | x                                      |
| Minnesota  | comparability                     | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| Mississippi  | flexibility                       | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |

*(Continued on next page)*

**Table 3. State-level Activities Conducted Using State Grant for AT Program Funds, by State and Changes From 2009: FY 2010 (Continued)**

| <b>State</b>   | <b>State Financing Activities</b> | <b>Device Reutilization Activities</b> | <b>Device Loan Activities</b> | <b>Device Demonstration Activities</b> |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Missouri       | x                                 | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| Montana        | x                                 | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| Nebraska       | x                                 | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| Nevada         | x                                 | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| New Hampshire  | comparability                     | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| New Jersey     | comparability                     | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| New Mexico     | x                                 | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| New York       | comparability                     | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| North Carolina | flexibility                       | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| North Dakota   | x                                 | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| Ohio           | x                                 | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| Oklahoma       | x                                 | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| Oregon         | x                                 | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| Pennsylvania   | x                                 | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| Rhode Island   | x                                 | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| South Carolina | comparability                     | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| South Dakota   | x                                 | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| Tennessee      | flexibility                       | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| Texas          | x*                                | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| Utah           | x                                 | x                                      | flexibility***                | x                                      |
| Vermont        | x                                 | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |
| Virginia       | flexibility                       | x                                      | x                             | x                                      |

*(Continued on next page)*

**Table 3. State-level Activities Conducted Using State Grant for AT Program Funds, by State and Changes From 2009: FY 2010 (Continued)**

| State                    | State Financing Activities | Device Reutilization Activities | Device Loan Activities | Device Demonstration Activities |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Washington               | x                          | x                               | x                      | x                               |
| West Virginia            | flexibility                | x                               | x                      | x                               |
| Wisconsin                | comparability              | x                               | x                      | x                               |
| Wyoming                  | comparability              | x                               | x                      | x                               |
| District of Columbia     | flexibility                | x                               | x                      | x                               |
| Puerto Rico              | x                          | x                               | x                      | x                               |
| American Samoa           | flexibility                | x                               | flexibility            | x                               |
| Guam                     | x                          | x                               | x                      | x                               |
| Northern Mariana Islands | x                          | x                               | x                      | x                               |
| U.S. Virgin Islands      | x                          | x                               | x                      | x                               |

(Continued from previous page)

Note: For purposes of this report, the term *state* includes, in addition to each of the 50 states of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, according to the *AT Act*, Sec. 3(14).

See pages 4–5 for descriptions of the state-level activities.

x = Activity conducted and reported on during FY 2010

comparability = claiming comparability. Sec. 4(e)(1)(B) of the *AT Act* allows states not to fund a state-level activity if that activity is supported comparably with nonfederal funds.

flexibility = claiming flexibility. Sec. 4(e)(6) of the *AT Act* provides states with the “flexibility” to carry out only two or three of the state-level activities.

\* Texas claimed flexibility in FY 2009 and implemented state financing activities in FY 2010.

\*\* Alabama implemented device loan and device demonstration in FY2009 and claimed flexibility in FY 2010.

\*\*\* Utah implemented device loan in FY2009 and claimed flexibility in FY 2010.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), Management Information System (MIS) State Grant for AT Program annual progress report data for FY 2010 and FY 2009. Last accessed June 2011 from <http://rsa.ed.gov>.

## State Financing

State financing activities assist individuals with disabilities to attain funding for AT devices and services. As noted previously, funds authorized under the *AT Act* cannot be used to directly pay for AT devices or services. Statewide AT programs have taken many approaches to state financing, including:

- Financial loan programs—A financial loan program may make loans directly (revolving loans) or may make loans using dollars from another source, usually a financial institution, so that individuals with disabilities and their families can purchase AT.
- Cooperative buying programs—States can purchase AT in bulk at a discount from AT suppliers and then pass the savings on to consumers through cooperative buying programs.

- Financing for home modifications programs—States use grant funds to administer a program that provides home modifications, including the addition of wheelchair ramps.
- Last resort fund programs—States use grant funds to administer programs that provide AT or funds to purchase AT for consumers when other options have been exhausted. The money for the last resort fund itself comes from sources other than the *AT Act*.
- Telecommunications distribution programs—Many states have programs in place to provide telecommunications equipment to individuals with disabilities. States purchase the equipment with non-*AT Act* funds, but the program is administered by the statewide AT program.
- Telework fund programs—Like alternative financing, telework funds provide loans that allow individuals with disabilities to purchase computers or other equipment (including adaptive equipment) for use in teleworking. Only telework loans provided for the purchase of AT are counted as state financing.

In FY 2010 the predominant state financing activity available to consumers was a financial loan program. Thirty-two of the 56 states and outlying areas used grant funds to support a financial loan program. In addition, 21 states provided nonfinancial loan activities (17 of those states also have a financial loan program) that resulted in the acquisition of AT or allowed a consumer to obtain AT for a reduced cost. These other activities included, but were not limited to, cooperative buying programs, lease or rental programs, last resort fund programs, telework programs and telecommunications equipment distribution programs.

Eleven states did not use funds to support state financing activities because a comparable program already existed, while an additional seven states exercised flexibility under Sec. 4(e)(6). Therefore, 49 states or outlying areas conducted some form of state financing activity for the acquisition of AT devices and services, and 38 of those activities were supported with Sec. 4 *AT Act* funds. (These data were the same for FY 2009 except that one additional state claimed flexibility. That state began a financial loan program in FY 2010 using *AT Act* dollars.)

Sec. 4(f) of the *AT Act* requires states to report to RSA the following information about their state financing activities:

- A. The type of state financing activity used by the state (see table 4 on pages 20–22);
- B. The amount and type of assistance given to consumers of the state financing activities (who shall be classified by type of assistive technology device or assistive technology service financed through the state financing activities and geographic distribution within the state), including:
  - The number of applications for assistance received;
  - The number of applications approved and rejected;
  - The default rate for the financing activities;

- The range and average interest rate for the financing activities;
- The range and average income of approved applicants for the financing activities; and
- The types and dollar amounts of assistive technology financed.

Table 4 on the following page summarizes the state financing activities conducted in FY 2010 as reported in the annual state progress reports.

**Table 4. Financing Activities Conducted by States Using State Grant for AT Program Funds: FY 2010**

**States Using Grant Funds to Support Financial Loan Programs for the Purchase or Lease of AT:**

|             |               |                   |
|-------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Alabama     | Iowa          | North Dakota      |
| Arizona     | Kansas        | Ohio              |
| California  | Louisiana     | Oklahoma          |
| Connecticut | Maine         | Pennsylvania      |
| Delaware    | Maryland      | Texas*            |
| Florida     | Massachusetts | Utah              |
| Georgia     | Michigan      | Washington        |
| Hawaii      | Missouri      | Guam              |
| Idaho       | Montana       | Northern Marianas |
| Illinois    | Nevada        | Virgin Islands    |
| Indiana     | New Mexico    |                   |

**States Using Grant Funds to Support Programs for the Purchase or Lease of Equipment to Telework:**

|          |            |            |
|----------|------------|------------|
| Arizona  | Maryland   | Washington |
| Delaware | Missouri   | Guam       |
| Iowa     | New Mexico |            |
| Kansas   | Utah       |            |

**States Exercising Flexibility to Not Use Grant Funds for State Financing:**

|                      |                |               |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| American Samoa       | Mississippi    | West Virginia |
| Colorado             | North Carolina |               |
| District of Columbia | Tennessee      |               |

**States Not Using Grant Funds Because Comparable State Financing Exists:**

|           |               |                |
|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| Alaska    | Wyoming       | South Carolina |
| Arkansas  | New Hampshire | Virginia       |
| Kentucky  | New Jersey    | Wisconsin      |
| Minnesota | New York      |                |

*(Continued on next page)*

**Table 4. Financing Activities Conducted by States Using State Grant for AT Program Funds: FY 2010 (Continued)**

**Other Activities Funded by States:**

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Delaware .....       | Borrow-to-own low-vision devices program                     |
| Georgia .....        | Last resort funding  |
| Kansas .....         | Funding eligibility review                                   |
| Maine .....          | Cooperative buying   |
| Maryland .....       | Cooperative buying   |
| Missouri.....        | Last resort funding; School reimbursement program            |
| Nebraska.....        | Financing for home modifications                             |
| Nevada.....          | Telecommunications distribution program; Last resort funding |
| New Mexico.....      | Last resort funding  |
| Oklahoma.....        | Fire safety equipment program; Last resort funding           |
| **Oregon .....       | Cooperative buying; Layaway program                          |
| Pennsylvania.....    | Telecommunications distribution program                      |
| **Rhode Island ..... | Telecommunications distribution program                      |
| **South Dakota ..... | Lease for vision equipment                                   |
| Vermont.....         | Funding eligibility review for children with autism          |
| Washington .....     | Lease for vision equipment                                   |
| **Puerto Rico.....   | Low-cost device design and development                       |
| Guam .....           | School AT funding  |

*(Continued from previous page)*

\* Texas claimed flexibility in FY2009 and began a financial loan program in FY 2010.

\*\* States in which no financial loan program is reported in the State Grant for AT Annual Progress Report (RSA-572) or the AFP Progress Report (RSA-664). All others also report a financial loan program.

Note: For purposes of this report, the term *state* includes, in addition to each of the several states of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, according to the *AT Act*, Sec. 3(14).

Source: State Grant for AT Program annual progress report data for FY 2010 and 2009. Last accessed June 2011.

According to FY 2010 State Grant for AT Annual Progress Reports for state financing activities:

- A. 1,533 financial loan applications were received and processed by financial loan programs. From those applications, 832 loans were made totaling \$7,899,327. An additional 139 loan applications were approved but not made because the consumer declined the offer. The remaining 562 applicants were denied loans. This is a 63 percent approval rate.
- B. 587 of the loans (71 percent) were issued by a lender, such as a bank, in partnership with an entity supported by the statewide AT program. These loans provided \$6,460,455 to consumers:
  - 198 (24 percent) of the loans provided by banks or other lenders were guaranteed only, 155 (19 percent) had only an interest rate buy-down, 190 (23 percent) were both guaranteed and had an interest rate buy-down, and 44 (5 percent) had neither a guarantee nor an interest rate buy-down.
- C. 245 of the loans provided (29 percent) were direct loans from revolving loan funds operated by an entity supported by the statewide AT program. These direct loans provided \$1,438,872 to consumers.
- D. The financial loans were used primarily to purchase vehicles or access to vehicles (76 percent of the dollars loaned) and hearing equipment, such as hearing aids (14 percent of the dollars loaned).
- E. Of the 832 loans provided, 58 percent of the applicants lived in metro areas while 42 percent of the applicants lived in non-metro areas.
- F. Of the 531 loan requests that were denied, 66 percent of the applicants were from metro areas and 34 percent were from non-metro areas.
- G. The average income of consumers nationally who received loans was \$41,696, while the state averages for income of loan recipients ranged from \$12,732 to \$93,984. The lowest individual income for a loan made reported by any of the states was \$1,191 and the highest was \$220,356.
- H. 48 percent of all loans made were to applicants with incomes of \$35,001 or greater, 28 percent were made to applicants with incomes between \$15,001 and \$35,000, and 24 percent were made to applicants with incomes of \$15,000 or less.
- I. Interest rates of loans made ranged from 0 percent to 9 percent with a national average of 3.76 percent. The majority of loans made (45 percent) had an interest rate of 4.1 percent to 6 percent.
- J. 82 loans (3.43 percent) went into default out of 2,311 active loans in FY 2010. The net dollar loss on those loans was \$424,084, which is 2.13 percent of the total dollar value of \$19,482,541 in active loans.

- K. 2,876 consumers were served by other state financing activities, such as those described on pages 17–19. Of these consumers, 73 percent lived in metro areas, while 27 percent lived in non-metro areas.
- L. For other state financing programs that provided direct acquisition of AT:
- 2,720 devices were provided with a total value of \$2,704,664. The two most frequently provided types of AT were hearing technologies (45 percent) and environmental adaptations (19 percent). However, environmental adaptations were the most costly to provide, making up 51 percent (\$1,382,001) of the total value of devices acquired.
- M. For other state financing programs that allowed consumers to obtain AT at reduced cost:
- 4,212 devices were acquired worth \$1,266,347. Consumers saved \$275,256 on these devices with an average savings of \$65 per device.
  - The two most frequently provided types of AT were speech communication systems (35 percent) and learning, cognition and developmental technologies (31 percent). However, the greatest cost savings was realized on vision technology, which represented 52 percent of the cost savings achieved.
- N. 81 percent of consumers involved in state financing activities reported themselves as “highly satisfied,” while 17 percent were “satisfied,” 1 percent were “satisfied somewhat” and less than 1 percent were “not at all satisfied.” The response rate was 61 percent of all recipients of state financing activities.

The assistance provided by state financing activities made a difference in the lives of consumers, as exemplified in various programs listed below.

*Financial Loan Program:* In the state of Michigan, a 60-year-old woman was in need of hearing aids. Her job was in jeopardy due to her difficulty hearing. "I have difficulty hearing staff across the room, and meetings and large group activities are difficult to hear and participate in," the consumer wrote on her loan application. "I am expected to participate in numerous teleconference calls (for work), and this is becoming the norm in today's business world." She recognized that wherever she was employed, hearing well was essential to her ability to perform her job. The woman was working with Michigan Rehabilitation Services, which agreed to pay \$2,500 of the total \$6,000 cost for the consumer's hearing aids. The woman was referred to the Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund for a low-interest loan for the remaining \$3,500 needed and the loan was approved. In addition to keeping her job, the loan program enabled the woman to improve her communications with her friends and family. She said the quality of her home life has improved, as communications between her and her family members are less frustrating and more fulfilling. She stated that the hearing aids have improved the quality of her life by improving the quality of her hearing, and have enabled her to be an active participant in her work, family, and community.

*The Florida Alternative Financing Program* was contacted by the parents of a 15-year-old with cerebral palsy. The parents applied and qualified for funding through the Assistive Technology Loan Program in the amount of \$18,000 to purchase a Dynavox Communication Device inclusive of the Eye Gaze System. This augmentative communication device is essential to allow this young lady to effectively communicate with family, friends, medical personnel, educators, and others in her community.

*Long-term Lease Program:* In Washington, an 81-year-old consumer has had macular degeneration for years. She has enough usable vision to put together the jigsaw puzzles she enjoys assembling, but not enough to read words and numbers. She wanted to keep in touch with her hometown community, but due to her condition, she was unable to read the letters and news from her former home. A closed-circuit television (CCTV) was a good solution to aid her in reading, but was something that was difficult to afford due to the high cost. The consumer was delighted to find that she was able to rent a CCTV through the Washington Access Fund's CCTV Rental program. Now the consumer uses her CCTV to stay in touch with friends and family. Each week, her friends and relatives send her the newspapers from her former home and she reads them with her CCTV, cherishing the news. The consumer regularly watches golf, as well as Seattle Sonics and Seattle Mariners games, but now with the CCTV, she can also read the sports page daily, to find out how her favorite teams and players are doing.

**Table 5. State Financing Activities, by Loan Data, Types of Loans, and by Other State AT Acquisition and Savings Data: FY 2008–10**

| <b>Financial Loan Data</b>           | <b>2008</b> | <b>2009</b> | <b>2010</b> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| States Reporting Financial Loan Data | 34          | 31          | 32          |
| Loans Made                           | 950         | 850         | 832         |
| Loan Application Approval Rate       | 66%         | 62%         | 63%         |
| Devices Acquired                     | 982         | 861         | 852         |
| Dollars Loaned                       | \$9,821,379 | \$8,733,346 | \$7,899,327 |
| Average Loan Amount                  | \$10,338    | \$10,275    | \$9,494     |
| Average Approved Applicant Income    | \$39,183    | \$42,260    | \$41,696    |
| Average Interest Rate                | 4.99%       | 3.99%       | 3.76%       |
| Loans in Default                     | 183         | 88          | 82          |
| Net Dollar Loss on Defaults          | \$1,119,454 | \$625,000   | \$424,084   |

*(Continued on next page)*

**Table 5. State Financing Activities, by Loan Data, Types of Loans, and by Other State AT Acquisition and Savings Data: FY 2008–10 (Continued)**

| <b>Types of Loans for AT Purchased</b> | <b>2008</b> | <b>2009</b> | <b>2010</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Revolving Loans                        | 21%         | 27%         | 29%         |
| Partnership Loans                      | 79%         | 73%         | 71%         |
| Revolving Loan Dollars                 | 8%          | 12%         | 18%         |
| Partnership Loan Dollars               | 92%         | 88%         | 82%         |
| Vehicle Modification Loans             | 45%         | 46%         | 38%         |
| Vehicle Modification Dollars Loaned    | 79%         | 74%         | 76%         |
| Vehicle Modification Average Loan      | \$17,527    | \$16,337    | \$18,534    |
| Hearing AT Device Loans                | 30%         | 30%         | 36%         |
| Hearing AT Device Dollars Loaned       | 10%         | 11%         | 14%         |
| Hearing AT Device Average Loan         | \$2,573     | \$3,766     | \$3,678     |

**Table 5. State Financing Activities, by Loan Data, Types of Loans, and by Other State AT Acquisition and Savings Data: FY 2008–10 (Continued)**

| <b>Other State AT Acquisition Data</b> | <b>2008</b> | <b>2009</b> | <b>2010</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| States Reporting Data                  | 28          | 20          | 18          |
| Individuals Served                     | 1883        | 2086        | 2023        |
| Devices Acquired                       | 2551        | 2835        | 2720        |
| Dollar Value of AT Acquired            | \$2,468,273 | \$2,783,805 | \$2,704,664 |
| Value per Device                       | \$968       | \$981       | \$994       |
| Hearing AT Devices                     | 49%         | 49%         | 45%         |
| Environmental Adaptations Value        | 45%         | 47%         | 51%         |

*(Continued on next page)*

**Table 5. State Financing Activities, by Loan Data, Types of Loans, and by Other State AT Acquisition and Savings Data: FY 2008–10 (Continued)**

| <b>Other State AT Savings Data</b> | <b>2008</b> | <b>2009</b> | <b>2010</b> |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| States Reporting Data              | 6           | 6           | 6           |
| Individuals Served                 | 993         | 933         | 1,011       |
| Devices Acquired                   | 4,847       | 5,273       | 4,212       |
| Cost Savings for AT Acquired       | \$305,265   | \$270,943   | \$275,256   |
| Savings per Device                 | \$63        | \$51        | \$65        |
| Speech AT Devices                  | 35%         | 29%         | 35%         |
| Learning/Cognition/Develop AT      | 31%         | 34%         | 31%         |
| Vision AT Savings                  | 63%         | 54%         | 52%         |

*(Continued from previous page)*

Source: U.S Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration, State Grant for AT Program annual progress report data.

### **Device Reutilization**

AT reutilization involves transferring a used device from someone who no longer needs it to someone who does. There are two general categories of device reutilization: Device exchange and device reassignment (which sometimes includes refurbishment and repair).

For device exchange, devices are listed in a “want-ad”-type posting either on the Internet or in print, and consumers can contact and arrange to obtain the device (either by purchasing it or obtaining it for free) from the current owner. Exchange programs do not involve warehousing inventory and do not include repair, sanitization or refurbishment of used devices. In some cases the statewide AT program acts as an intermediary during the exchange; in other cases the statewide AT program is not involved in the transaction.

For device reassignment, devices are accepted (usually by donation) into an inventory, are repaired, sanitized and refurbished as needed, and then offered for sale, loan, rental or giveaway to consumers as recycled products. Some states reassign only computers rather than all types of AT. Open-ended device loans, in which the device borrower can keep the device for as long as it is needed rather than for a specified period of time, are also a form of device reassignment.

Using State Grant for AT funds, all 56 states and outlying areas supported at least one device reutilization program in FY 2010. Thirty-six states and outlying areas reported device exchange data and 52 reported device reassignment data. Of those reporting reassignment data, 45 reported data where ownership transfers to the consumer and 33 reported open-ended loan data where ownership remains with the program. Table 6 summarizes the reutilization and acquisition Activities conducted in the states and outlying areas, respectively.

**Table 6. Device Reutilization Activities Conducted by States Using State Grant for AT Reassignment and Exchange: FY 2010**

| <b>States Using State Grant for AT Program Funds to Support AT Reassignment (Ownership Transfer and Open-ended Loans):</b> |                |                     |                 |
|--|----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Alaska*  | Illinois*      | Nebraska*           | Pennsylvania*   |
| Alabama  | Indiana*       | Nevada*             | Puerto Rico     |
| American Samoa**   | Iowa           | New Hampshire       | Rhode Island    |
| Arkansas*  | Kansas         | New Jersey*         | South Carolina* |
| California**   | Kentucky*      | New Mexico*         | South Dakota    |
| Connecticut*   | Louisiana*     | New York*           | Tennessee       |
| District of Columbia   | Maine          | North Carolina**    | Texas*          |
| Florida  | Massachusetts* | North Dakota*       | Utah            |
| Georgia*   | Minnesota*     | Northern Marianas** | Vermont*        |
| Guam*  | Mississippi*   | Ohio                | Virginia        |
| Hawaii*  | Missouri       | Oklahoma            |                 |
| Idaho*   | Montana**      | Oregon              |                 |
| <b>States Using State Grant for AT Program Funds to Support AT Exchange:</b>   |                |                     |                 |
| Alaska   | Hawaii         | Michigan            | Oklahoma        |
| Arizona  | Idaho          | Minnesota           | Oregon          |
| Arkansas   | Illinois       | Missouri            | Pennsylvania    |
| California   | Iowa           | Montana             | Rhode Island    |
| Colorado   | Kentucky       | New Hampshire       | South Carolina  |
| Connecticut  | Louisiana      | New Jersey          | South Dakota    |
| Delaware   | Maine          | New York            | Vermont         |
| Georgia  | Maryland       | North Carolina      | West Virginia   |
| Guam   | Massachusetts  | North Dakota        | Wyoming         |

Note: For purposes of this report, the term *state* includes, in addition to each of the 50 states of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, according to the *AT Act*, Sec. 3(14).

\* States that reported at least some device reassignments as open-ended loans, in which the borrower can keep the device for as long as needed.

\*\* States that reported only open-ended loans as device reassignment.

Source: State Grant for AT Program annual progress report data for FY 2010. Last accessed June 2010.

Sec. 4(f) of the *AT Act* requires states to report to RSA the following information about their device reutilization activities:

- A. The number, type, estimated value and scope of assistive technology devices exchanged, repaired, recycled or reutilized; and
- B. An analysis of the individuals with disabilities that benefited from the device reutilization program.

According to FY 2010 State Grant for AT Program annual progress reports for device reutilization activities:

- A. 27,610 people received reutilized devices, with 81 percent obtaining reassigned devices with ownership transferring to them and 14 percent obtaining such devices on an open-ended loan basis. The remaining 5 percent obtained reutilized devices via exchange programs.
- B. 35,844 devices were reutilized, with 79 percent reassigned transferring ownership, 17 percent placed on open-ended loan and 4 percent exchanged.
  - 1. 1,331 devices were exchanged. The majority of exchanges were made for mobility, positioning and seating (28 percent) and daily living equipment (20 percent).
  - 2. 28,389 devices were reassigned with ownership transferring to the recipient. The majority of devices reassigned were mobility, positioning and seating (53 percent), and daily living (33 percent).
  - 3. 6,124 devices were loaned on a long-term basis. The majority of devices on long-term loan were mobility, positioning and seating (65 percent).
- C. Reutilization saved consumers \$17,978,046 with 74 percent of those savings realized through reassignment with ownership transfer, 16 percent realized through device exchange, and 10 percent realized through open-ended device loans.
  - 4. \$2,826,996 was saved through device exchange. The majority of savings was realized for vehicle modifications (55 percent) and for mobility, positioning and seating (29 percent).
  - 5. \$13,355,432 was saved through reassignment with ownership transferring to the recipient. The majority of savings was realized for mobility, positioning and seating (77 percent) and daily living (13 percent).

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<sup>6</sup> Cost savings is estimated by subtracting how much the reutilized device cost the consumer from the cost of the device if it was purchased new.

6. \$1,795,618 was saved through open-ended loan type reassignment. The majority of savings was realized for mobility, positioning and seating (57 percent) and speech communication technology (18 percent).

D. Consumer satisfaction for all reutilization activities was reported as “highly satisfied” by 86 percent of those recipients responding; “satisfied” by 14 percent; “satisfied somewhat;” and “not at all satisfied” by less than 1 percent each. (The response rate was 90 percent of all recipients of reutilization activities.)

The assistance provided by device reutilization activities made a difference in the lives of consumers, as exemplified in the following examples:

- *Exchange:* The Oklahoma Equipment Exchange program worked very successfully for an individual in his early 90s who needed a motorized hospital bed. With a variety of disabilities and decreased mobility, the individual contacted the Oklahoma AT program to ask for assistance. He had been sleeping in a lift recliner chair which gave him the ability to raise and lower his positioning and to aid his ability to get out of the chair, but the recliner was not sufficient for him to sleep in all night. The chair was causing sores and did not allow him to lay flat or to extend fully. The exchange and reutilization program connected him with an individual donating a used electric hospital bed valued at \$3,500. The individual was highly satisfied with the program, as he received a substantial cost savings from the donation, as well as a health and rehabilitative benefit since he reported that he now sleeps through the night more comfortably.
- *Reassignment:* In Idaho, the AT program received a call from a gentleman who was a farmer by trade. While working, he got in a 4-wheeler accident. He had no insurance and did not qualify for Medicaid or Medicare. The Idaho Assistive Technology Reutilization Program was able to loan him a tilting/lift power chair, bed with specialized mattress to prevent bed sores, and a Hoyer lift. With these items, he was able to go home from the hospital. He subsequently applied for and received Medicare and Medicaid, and after receiving new equipment through those programs, he returned the loaned equipment to the program so it could be reassigned to someone else.
- In Kentucky, a consumer needed a method of communicating after having a stroke which left him ventilator dependent. The reutilization program provided the consumer with a Zam communicator and paper communication boards, and the family was instructed on how to use the items. The consumer was then able to communicate with his family members, nursing staff, and doctors while in the hospital during the last weeks of his life.
- An older couple came to the Refurbished Equipment Marketplace in New Hampshire with an unusual request. They were both Segway owners who enjoyed riding their Segways on the many beautiful hiking trails near their country home in New Hampshire. The woman now has Multiple Sclerosis and can no longer operate her Segway. Naturally, this was extremely disappointing to her. They wondered if there might be a solution. The program found her a used four-wheel Pride Victory Scooter which she fell in love with right away. Her husband tells us it works great for chasing him down their favorite hiking trails.

**Table 7. AT Device Reuse, by Recipients, Acquisitions and Savings: FY 2008-10**

|                                    | <b>2008</b>         | <b>2009</b>         | <b>2010</b>         |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>States Reporting Reuse Data</b> | <b>56</b>           | <b>56</b>           | <b>56</b>           |
| Reporting Exchange                 | 43                  | 36                  | 36                  |
| Reporting Refurbish/Reassign       | 40                  | 44                  | 44                  |
| Reporting Open Loan                | 28                  | 31                  | 33                  |
| <b>Total Device Recipients</b>     | <b>24,805</b>       | <b>27,004</b>       | <b>27,610</b>       |
| Exchange                           | 1180                | 1271                | 1293                |
| Refurbish/Reassign                 | 20,020              | 22,500              | 22,501              |
| Open Loan                          | 3605                | 3233                | 3816                |
| <b>Total Devices Acquired</b>      | <b>31,069</b>       | <b>34,702</b>       | <b>35,844</b>       |
| Exchange                           | 1312                | 1450                | 1331                |
| Refurbish/Reassign                 | 23,738              | 26,936              | 28,389              |
| Open Loan                          | 6019                | 6316                | 6124                |
| <b>Total Savings</b>               | <b>\$17,333,283</b> | <b>\$17,229,179</b> | <b>\$17,978,046</b> |
| Exchange                           | \$3,365,398         | \$3,559,476         | \$2,826,996         |
| Refurbish/Reassign                 | \$11,959,901        | \$12,236,872        | \$13,355,432        |
| Open Loan                          | \$2,414,725         | \$1,432,831         | \$1,795,618         |

Source: U.S Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration, State Grant for AT Program annual progress report data for FY 2010.

**Table 8. AT Device Reuse, by Type of Device Acquired and Savings: FY 2008–10**

| <b>Reuse Activities</b>                     | <b>2008<br/>Devices</b> | <b>2008<br/>Savings</b> | <b>2009<br/>Devices</b> | <b>2009<br/>Savings</b> | <b>2010<br/>Devices</b> | <b>2010<br/>Savings</b> |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Vision                                      | 1%                      | 2%                      | 1%                      | 1%                      | 1%                      | 2%                      |
| Hearing                                     | 1%                      | --                      | --                      | --                      | 1%                      | --                      |
| Speech<br>Communication                     | 2%                      | 4%                      | 1%                      | 3%                      | 2%                      | 3%                      |
| Learning/Cognition/<br>Developmental        | 3%                      | --                      | 1%                      | --                      | 2%                      | --                      |
| Mobility/Seating/Posi<br>tioning            | 59%                     | 61%                     | 59%                     | 63%                     | 54%                     | 67%                     |
| Daily Living                                | 18%                     | 9%                      | 25%                     | 12%                     | 28%                     | 11%                     |
| Environmental<br>Adaptations                | 2%                      | 4%                      | 2%                      | 2%                      | 2%                      | 2%                      |
| Vehicle<br>Modifications/<br>Transportation | 1%                      | 10%                     | 1%                      | 12%                     | --                      | 9%                      |
| Computers and<br>Related                    | 10%                     | 10%                     | 9%                      | 7%                      | 9%                      | 6%                      |
| Recreation/Leisure                          | 2%                      | --                      | 1%                      | --                      | 1%                      | --                      |
| Other                                       | 1%                      | --                      | --                      | --                      | --                      | --                      |

Source: U.S Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration, State Grant for AT Program annual progress report data for FY 2010.

**Table 9. Summary of State-level AT Device Acquisition Activity: Number and Percentage of Device Recipients and Devices Acquired, and Value of Devices or Savings to Recipients of Devices Acquired: FY 2010**

| Type of Loan  | Number of Device Recipients: Count | Number of Device Recipients: Percent | Number of Devices Acquired: Count | Number of Devices Acquired: Percent | Value of Devices or Savings to Recipient: Count                   |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Financial Loan Programs                                   | 832                                | 3%                                   | 852                               | 2%                                  | \$7,899,327 loan amount   |
| Other State Financing Programs That Provide AT            | 2,023                              | 6%                                   | 2,720                             | 6%                                  | \$2,704,664 value of AT provided                                  |
| Other State Financing Programs That Reduce the Cost of AT | 1011                               | 3%                                   | 4,412                             | 10%                                 | \$275,256 savings to AT recipients                                |
| Exchange Programs   | 1,293                              | 4%                                   | 1,331                             | 3%                                  | \$2,826,996 savings to AT recipients                              |
| Recycling, Repair, and Reassignment Programs              | 22,501                             | 72%                                  | 28,389                            | 65%                                 | \$13,355,432 savings to AT recipients                             |
| Open-ended Loan Programs                                  | 3,816                              | 12%                                  | 6124                              | 14%                                 | \$1,795,618 savings to AT recipients                              |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>31,476</b>                      | <b>100%</b>                          | <b>43,628</b>                     | <b>100%</b>                         | <b>\$28,857,293</b><br>value of devices and savings to recipients |

Source: U.S Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration, State Grant for AT Program annual progress report data for FY 2010.

## DEVICE LOANS

A short-term device loan program allows consumers and professionals to borrow AT devices for use at home, school, work, and in the community. Although the length varies by individual program policy, based on FY 2010 data, the average loan time was 36 calendar days and the median was 30. The purpose of a device loan may be to assist in decision making, to fill a gap while the consumer is waiting for device repair or funding, to provide an accommodation on a short-term basis, to provide self-education by a consumer or professional, and to provide training.

All but four states reported device loan data in FY 2010; the remaining four grantees, Alabama, Michigan, Utah, and American Samoa, exercised flexibility under Sec. 4(e)(6). As described in this section of the *AT Act*, a state may carry out any two or more of the required state-level activities, meaning a state can choose not to conduct up to two activities.

Sec. 4(f) of the *AT Act* requires states to report to RSA the following information about their device loans:

- A. Number, type and length of time of loans of assistive technology devices provided; and
- B. An analysis of the individuals with disabilities who benefited from the device loan program.

According to FY 2010 State Grant for AT annual progress reports for device loan activities:

- A. 37,436 device loans were provided with 70 percent used to assist in decision making regarding device options, 21 percent used for a short-term accommodation, 6 percent used as a loaner during repair or while waiting for funding, and the remaining 3 percent used for other purposes, such as for training or professional development activities.
- B. Of the 37,436 device loans, 35 percent of the borrowers were individuals with disabilities, 23 percent were representatives of education, 16 percent were family members and 16 percent were representatives of health, allied health and rehabilitation.
- C. Nationally, the average loan length of time according to policies and procedures was 35 calendar days. The majority of programs (90 percent) reported loan periods of 48 days or less.
- D. The majority of devices loaned were learning, cognition and developmental devices (24 percent), speech communication systems (22 percent), and computers and related (12 percent).
- E. Consumer satisfaction for device loan activities was reported as “highly satisfied” by 81 percent of those borrowers responding; “satisfied” by 16 percent; “satisfied somewhat” by 2 percent; and “not at all satisfied” by less than 1 percent. (The response rate was 77 percent of all borrowers.)

The assistance provided by device loan activities made a difference in the lives of consumers, as exemplified in the categories as listed below:

- *Decision Making:* During a summer speech-language clinic in Alaska, a speech-language pathologist (SLP) wanted to borrow an iTouch with the Delayed Auditory Feedback (DAF) application for a 7-year-old client who stuttered about 45–50 percent of the time. The SLP borrowed the iTouch with the DAF application installed for four weeks. With the application, the young girl's stuttering reduced to 0–15 percent. The client's family was unaware of this AT and that they could borrow the device. The family was very appreciative and planned to purchase the iTouch and DAF application for their daughter.
- *Decision Making:* In Oregon, an individual with a hearing impairment was referred to Oregon's Device Loan Program to determine what assistive technology would allow him to work more efficiently in his current position. Over four months, he borrowed a variety of assistive listening devices (ALDs) and tried each in the environments where he experienced not only difficulties hearing, but also understanding conversations. As he returned each device, he would describe what worked or did not work, and would try another ALD, until one day, he was excited to report that the FM System was the perfect accommodation in all the environments he tested it in. The employer was referred to a local vendor, and was even able to take advantage of a special pricing through his association with the Oregon AT Program, reducing the overall cost. He was also able to work out an arrangement with his employer where they shared the cost of the accommodation, allowing him to use the ALD for both work and pleasure.
- *Short-term Accommodation:* A man with quadriplegia expressed an interest in participating in deer hunting during rifle season. Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK) staff provided a short-term loan that covered the rifle seasons for Kansas. ATK staff conducted a demonstration for the man, his personal attendant and two hunting companions at a local shooting range. The device is an adapted mount for a rifle that uses two toggle switches to aim and fire the device. An adapted scope was mounted that provided a 3x4 inch screen for the scope since the rifle is mounted too far away to use a traditional scope. The device was loaned to the individual for a four-week period.
- *Provide Access During Repair:* A young man with autism from Illinois was recently invited to testify on Capitol Hill regarding adult services for individuals with autism spectrum disorder. His entire testimony was typed on a Lightwriter; however, his device was experiencing technical problems prior to traveling to DC. A loaner device was provided by the Illinois AT Program so he could complete his testimony, print it and use the voice output to respond to questions at the hearing. It was explained to the hearing participants that the least restrictive means of communication for this young man would be to use his augmentative communication system.

- *Provide Access While Waiting for Funding:* In New York, a man with quadriplegia found it extremely difficult and physically demanding to get in and out of his home. He and his wife contacted a regional center of the New York AT Program and were able to borrow a temporary ramp that provided them the freedom to get outside, enjoy the outdoors, and schedule and keep doctors' appointments, as well as visit friends and family. They worked with a local agency to secure funding for a permanent ramp and continued to use the borrowed temporary ramp until it arrived to keep them from being isolated due to inaccessibility.
- *Support Professional Development:* Students in the school of special education at Indiana University are required to borrow at least one assistive technology device from the Indiana AT Program as part of a classroom project and demonstration. Students participate in an activity in which a device is selected, reviewed and demonstrated to other students in a classroom presentation. This experience provides future special educators with a hands-on experience with AT that increases their awareness and ability to utilize AT to include students with disabilities in classrooms.

**Table 10. Number of AT Device Loans and Percentage of Device Loans, by Purpose: FY 2008–10**

| <b>Device Loan</b>            | <b>2008</b> | <b>2009</b> | <b>2010</b> |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| States Reporting Device Loans | 54          | 54          | 52          |
| Number of Device Loans        | 38,411      | 37,833      | 37,436      |
| Number of Devices Loaned      | 47,419      | 51,415      | 50,462      |
| <b>Loan Purpose</b>           |             |             |             |
| Decision Making               | 57%         | 66%         | 70%         |
| Loaner During Repair/Funding  | 4%          | 5%          | 6%          |
| Accommodation                 | 33%         | 24%         | 21%         |
| Other (Including Training)    | 6%          | 5%          | 3%          |

Source: U.S Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration, State Grant for AT Program annual progress report data.

**Table 11. AT Device Loan Borrower Types: FY 2008–10**

| <b>Device Loan Borrower Types</b>                        | <b>2008</b> | <b>2009</b> | <b>2010</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Individuals With Disabilities                            | 48%         | 38%         | 36%         |
| Family Members   | 13%         | 17%         | 16%         |
| Representatives of Education                             | 20%         | 22%         | 23%         |
| Representatives of Employment                            | 3%          | 2%          | 2%          |
| Representatives of Health, Allied Health, Rehabilitation | 12%         | 15%         | 16%         |
| Representatives of Community Living                      | 2%          | 3%          | 4%          |
| Representatives of Technology                            | 1%          | 2%          | 3%          |
| Other  | 1%          | 1%          | --          |

Source: U.S Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration, State Grant for AT Program annual progress report data.

**Table 12. Types of AT Borrowed: FY 2008–10**

| <b>Types of AT Borrowed</b>              | <b>2008</b> | <b>2009</b> | <b>2010</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Vision                                   | 6%          | 7%          | 7%          |
| Hearing                                  | 4%          | 6%          | 6%          |
| Speech Communication                     | 21%         | 20%         | 22%         |
| Learning/Cognition/Developmental         | 22%         | 24%         | 24%         |
| Mobility/Seating/Positioning             | 8%          | 9%          | 10%         |
| Daily Living                             | 9%          | 8%          | 9%          |
| Environmental Adaptations                | 7%          | 7%          | 5%          |
| Vehicle Modifications and Transportation | 0%          | 0%          | 0%          |
| Computers and Related                    | 13%         | 11%         | 12%         |
| Recreation/Leisure                       | 8%          | 8%          | 5%          |
| Other                                    | 2%          | 0%          | 0%          |

Source: U.S Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration, State Grant for AT Program annual progress report data.

## DEVICE DEMONSTRATION

The purpose of a device demonstration is to enable an individual to make an informed choice about an AT device. Device demonstrations compare the features and benefits of a particular AT device or category of devices for an individual or small group of individuals. Whenever possible, the participant is shown a variety of devices. Guided experience with the devices is provided to the participants with the assistance of someone who has technical expertise with them. This expert may be in the same location as the participant or may assist the participant through an Internet or distance-learning mechanism that provides real-time, effective communication to deliver the necessary device exploration. Along with providing demonstrations, grantees are required to provide to individuals comprehensive information about state and local assistive technology vendors, providers and repair services.

As shown in table 13, 54 grantees provided device demonstration programs in FY 2010. Alabama and California are the two grantees that did not provide demonstrations. This is because they claimed flexibility under Sec. 4(e)(6).

Sec. 4(f) of the *AT Act* requires states to report to RSA the following information about their device demonstrations:

- A. Number and type of device demonstrations and referrals provided; and
- B. Analysis of individuals with disabilities who benefited from the demonstrations and referrals.

According to FY 2010 State Grant for AT Program annual progress reports for device demonstration activities:

- A. 37,213 device demonstrations were provided, with 49,937 participants in those demonstration events.
- B. The types of devices demonstrated were fairly evenly distributed across a number of assistive technology types, as shown in table 14, with 21 percent being computers and related; 15 percent speech communication; 14 percent hearing; 13 percent daily living; 11 percent vision; 11 percent learning, cognition and developmental; and 9 percent mobility, seating and positioning.
- C. The majority of individuals participating in demonstrations, as shown in table 13, were individuals with disabilities (44 percent), their family members and authorized representatives (25 percent) and representatives from the field of education (13 percent).
- D. 27,380 referrals were made as a result of device demonstrations, with the majority of referrals made to assistive technology vendors (49 percent). Another 25 percent of referrals were made to a funding source, and 24 percent were made to a service provider. (See table 13.)

- E. Consumer satisfaction for device demonstration activities was reported as “highly satisfied” by 71 percent of those participants responding; “satisfied” by 23 percent; “satisfied somewhat” by 5 percent; and “not at all satisfied” by less-than-1 percent. (The response rate was 76 percent of all participants in device demonstrations.)

The assistance provided by device demonstration activities made a difference in the lives of consumers. For example:

- A high school senior diagnosed with dyslexia requested and received a demonstration of literacy software at the South Carolina AT Program Resource Center. Prior to the demonstration, he required his mother and a classmate to read all his textbooks and assignments out loud because his reading skills were commensurate with a child in the second grade. However, his auditory comprehension was excellent and at grade level. During the demonstration, he tried several different types of software and chose the one he thought suited his needs best. He used a trial version of the software during the next month, and experienced a dramatic increase in independence in his school work. His mother was so impressed with his independence and achievement that she purchased the software for him. After he used the software for a semester, he cheerfully said he was able to “fire his mother” because he no longer needed her to help with his reading requirements. Subsequently, he has entered college and expects a successful collegiate experience.
- In North Dakota, a woman dropped into the Technology Access Center to see if there might be something available to make keyboarding easier. She was actively employed but was experiencing decreased efficiency at work due to the side effects of cancer treatments. The treatments had severely limited the use of her right arm and hand, which was making her job in data entry difficult, inefficient, and painful. IPAT staff helped her explore numerous keyboard alternatives and, after comparing the features and benefits of various devices, she opted to try a half-keyboard. This solution seemed to work well for her, but she soon found inputting numbers was tedious on the half-keyboard and returned to further explore her options. Once again, while at the device demonstration center, she was able to identify a possible device solution, a standalone numeric keypad used in conjunction with the half-keyboard. The combination of devices was a winner, and together increased her efficiency while decreasing her pain and fatigue. Her boss purchased both devices, and she used them to remain productive at work until she passed away.

**Table 13. Number and Percentage of AT Device Demonstrations, by Referral and Participant Types: FY 2008–10**

|  | <b>2008</b> | <b>2009</b> | <b>2010</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>States Reporting Device Demonstrations</b>            | 55          | 55          | 54          |
| Number of Device Demonstrations                          | 31,947      | 32,868      | 37,213      |
| Number of Demonstration Participants                     | 40,371      | 46,420      | 49,937      |
| <b>Referrals Made Subsequent to Demonstration</b>        | 16,252      | 22,919      | 27,380      |
| To Vendors   | 43%         | 41%         | 49%         |
| To Funding Source  | 25%         | 34%         | 25%         |
| To Service Provider                                      | 21%         | 22%         | 24%         |
| To Repair Service  | 3%          | 2%          | 1%          |
| To Others  | 8%          | 1%          | 1%          |
| <b>Participant Types</b>                                 |             |             |             |
| Individuals with Disabilities                            | 46%         | 42%         | 44%         |
| Family Members, Guardians, Authorized Representatives    | 21%         | 23%         | 25%         |
| Representatives of Education                             | 14%         | 12%         | 13%         |
| Representatives of Employment                            | 3%          | 4%          | 3%          |
| Representatives of Health, Allied Health, Rehabilitation | 8%          | 10%         | 8%          |
| Representatives of Community Living                      | 5%          | 7%          | 6%          |
| Representatives of Technology                            | 1%          | 2%          | 1%          |
| Other  | 2%          | --          | --          |

Source: U.S Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration, State Grant for AT Program annual progress report data.

**Table 14. Percentage of AT Devices Acquired and Accessed Through State Programs, by Acquisition Mechanism: FY 2010**

|  | Financial Loan | Other Provided | Other Saved | Exchange    | Recycle Repair | Open End Loan | Device Loan | Device Demo |
|--|----------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| Vision Devices                                   | 4%             | 10%            | 5%          | 6%          | 1%             | 2%            | 7%          | 11%         |
| Hearing Devices                                  | 36%            | 45%            | —           | 3%          | 1%             | 1%            | 6%          | 14%         |
| Speech Communication Devices                     | —              | 3%             | 35%         | 15%         | 1%             | 7%            | 22%         | 15%         |
| Learning, Cognition and Developmental Devices    | —              | 1%             | 31%         | 6%          | 1%             | 5%            | 24%         | 11%         |
| Mobility, Seating and Positioning Devices        | 8%             | 7%             | 5%          | 28%         | 53%            | 64%           | 10%         | 9%          |
| Daily Living Devices                             | 2%             | 7%             | 6%          | 20%         | 32%            | 8%            | 9%          | 13%         |
| Environmental Adaptations                        | 4%             | 19%            | 7%          | 7%          | 1%             | 6%            | 5%          | 3%          |
| Vehicle Modifications and Transportation Devices | 38%            | 3%             | —           | 8%          | —              | —             | —           | —           |
| Computers and Related Devices                    | 7%             | 4%             | 11%         | 3%          | 9%             | 6%            | 12%         | 21%         |
| Recreation, Sports and Leisure Devices           | 1%             | 1%             | —           | 4%          | 1%             | 1%            | 5%          | 3%          |
| <b>Total for All Devices</b>                     | <b>100%</b>    | <b>100%</b>    | <b>100%</b> | <b>100%</b> | <b>100%</b>    | <b>100%</b>   | <b>100%</b> | <b>100%</b> |

Source: U.S Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration, State Grant for AT Program annual progress report data for FY 2010

**Table 15. Satisfaction Ratings for State-Level AT Activities: FY 2008–10**

| <b>Satisfaction Rating</b> | <b>2008</b> | <b>2009</b> | <b>2010</b> |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Highly Satisfied           | 70.70%      | 79.88%      | 78.30%      |
| Satisfied                  | 26.05%      | 17.88%      | 18.56%      |
| Satisfied Somewhat         | 2.43%       | 1.88%       | 2.66%       |
| Not at all Satisfied       | .82%        | .35%        | .49%        |
| Response Rate              | 67.28%      | 70.39%      | 79.06%      |

Source: U.S Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration, State Grant for AT Program annual progress report data.

### **State-level Activities and Measurable Goals**

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

Working with stakeholders, including representatives of statewide AT programs, AFPs, vocational rehabilitation, education, community living and information technology, RSA decided that the measurable goals established for the program should focus on access to and acquisition of AT, which is consistent with the findings and purposes of the *AT Act*. It also is consistent with the four state-level activities (state financing, device reutilization, device demonstration and device loan) that improve access and acquisition to AT. Specifically, device demonstration programs and device loan programs improve access to AT, while state financing and device reutilization improve acquisition of AT.

RSA determined that all states need to use, at a minimum, the same set of measurable goals in order to provide a meaningful picture of the program’s success in meeting the AT needs of individuals with disabilities.<sup>7</sup> Use of common goals provides RSA with a national picture of program performance and permits comparisons of performance among states. Therefore, all states are required to set one goal for improving access to AT and one goal for improving acquisition of AT for individuals with disabilities for use in the domains of education, employment and community living;<sup>8</sup> and states must set one goal to improve access to AT only in the domain of information technology and telecommunications. The result is seven measurable goals—four “access goals” and three “acquisition goals”—as described below. All states were required to include these seven measures in their state plans.

<sup>7</sup> States may adopt additional goals if they so desire.

<sup>8</sup> A state must set an access goal and an acquisition goal in each of the domains of education, employment and community living.

## A. Goals for Improving Access to AT

Device demonstrations and device loans improve access to AT because they provide individuals with information and experiences that enable them to make informed decisions about AT. Therefore, an appropriate goal is that targeted individuals and entities make a decision about an AT device or service based on the information they receive from a device demonstration or device loan program. A way to measure improvement in access to AT, then, is through an increase in the percentage of appropriate individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service as a result of the assistance they received. States established baselines for the access performance measures during FY 2007. Data were collected in the FY 2009 and FY 2010 State Grant for AT Annual Progress Report on current year performance and compared to the performance of short-term goals. The highest performance for any of the three years reported (FY 2008, FY 2009 and FY 2010) was used as the benchmark of progress toward the long-term goal.

The access goals are as follows:

1. An increase in the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service *for educational purposes* as a result of the assistance they received. In FY 2010, 85 percent of states met or exceeded their target percentage of individuals and entities that accessed assistive technology device demonstrations and/or device loan programs and made a decision about the assistive technology device or services for educational purposes as a result of the assistance they received from their state's assistive technology program.
2. An increase in the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service *for employment purposes* as a result of the assistance they received. In FY 2010, 84 percent of states met or exceeded their target percentage of individuals and entities that accessed assistive technology device demonstrations and/or device loan programs and made a decision about the assistive technology device or services for employment purposes as a result of the assistance they received from their state's assistive technology program.
3. An increase in the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service *for community living* as a result of the assistance they received. In FY 2010, 82 percent of states met or exceeded their target percentage of individuals and entities that accessed assistive technology device demonstrations and/or device loan programs and made a decision about the assistive technology device or services for community living purposes as a result of the assistance they received from their state's assistive technology program.

4. An increase in the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service *that meets an information technology and telecommunications need* as a result of the assistance they received. In FY 2010, 84 percent of states met or exceeded their target percentage of individuals and entities that accessed assistive technology device demonstrations and/or device loan programs and made a decision about the assistive technology device or services for information technology and telecommunications purposes as a result of the assistance they received from their state's assistive technology program.

## **B. Goals for Improving Acquisition of AT<sup>9</sup>**

State financing systems and device reutilization programs are most likely to improve acquisition because they reduce cost barriers that prevent individuals from obtaining AT. As a result, individuals and entities obtain AT devices or services from state financing systems or device reutilization programs despite the otherwise prohibitive cost of such devices or services. A way to measure improvement in acquisition of AT, then, is through an increase in the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from state financing activities or reutilization programs who otherwise would not have obtained the AT. States established baselines for the acquisition performance measures during FY 2007. Data were collected in the FY 2009 and FY 2010 State Grant for AT Annual Progress Report on current year performance and compared to the performance of short-term goals. The highest performance for any of the three years reported (FY 2008, FY 2009 and FY 2010) was used as the benchmark of progress toward the long-term goals.

The acquisition goals are as follows:

1. An increase in the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from state financing activities or reutilization programs *for educational purposes* who otherwise would not have obtained the AT device or service. In FY 2010, 87 percent of states met or exceeded their target percentage of individuals and entities who obtained assistive technology devices or services for educational purposes through state financing activities or device reutilization programs who otherwise would not have obtained the device or service.
2. An increase in the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from state financing activities or reutilization programs *for employment purposes* who otherwise would not have obtained the AT device or service. In FY 2010, 79 percent of states met or exceeded their target percentage of individuals and entities who obtained assistive technology devices or services for employment purposes through state financing activities or device reutilization programs who would not have obtained the device or service.

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<sup>9</sup> States are not required to set goals related to acquiring AT that meets an information technology or telecommunications need, which are required for improving access to AT. This is because once an individual acquires AT that improves access to information technology or telecommunications, the AT is actually used for employment, education or community living purposes. Thus, unlike the prior section for improving access to AT, which has four categories of goals, this section has only three.

3. An increase in the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from state financing activities or reutilization programs *for community living purposes* who otherwise would not have obtained the AT device or service. In FY 2010, 81 percent of states met or exceeded their target percentage of individuals and entities who obtained assistive technology devices or services for community living purposes through state financing activities or device reutilization programs who otherwise would not have obtained the device or service.

## **State Leadership Activities**

Unlike state-level activities, the *AT Act* requires all grantees to conduct all of the state leadership activities. During FY 2010, all grantees engaged in training and technical assistance, public awareness (including information and referral) and coordination and collaboration.

## **Training**

Training activities are instructional events, usually planned in advance for a specific purpose or audience, that are designed to increase participants' knowledge, skills and competencies regarding AT. Such events can be delivered to large or small groups, in-person or via telecommunications or other distance education mechanisms. Examples of training include classes, workshops and presentations that have a goal of increasing skills, knowledge and competency, as opposed to training intended only to increase general awareness of AT. Training activities have more depth and breadth than public awareness activities and are focused on skill-building and competency development. In some cases, training may be a component of technical assistance but is not considered technical assistance as a stand-alone activity.

Sec. 4(f) of the *AT Act* requires states to report to RSA the following information about their training activities:

- A. Number and general characteristics of individuals who participated in training;
- B. Topics of training; and
- C. To the extent practicable, the geographic distribution of individuals who participated in the training.

According to FY 2010 State Grant for AT Program annual progress reports for training activities:

- A. 88,388 individuals participated in training activities.
  - 59,736 (68 percent) of the participants came from metro areas.
  - 23,338 (26 percent) of the participants came from non-metro rural areas.

- 5,314 (6 percent) of the participants did not classify themselves as either metro or non-metro.
- B. 44 percent of trainings increased knowledge and skills related to specific AT devices and services. A combination of topics, such as assistive technology products and services, along with funding and policy information, made up 30 percent of the training provided. Transition-focused training was 12 percent of all training provided, singularly focused assistive technology funding and policy focused training made up 9 percent of the total, and training on information technology and telecommunication access was 5 percent.
- C. Many of the participants in training events were representatives of the education field (30 percent). Individuals with disabilities made up 27 percent of the training participants, 11 percent were representatives of the health, allied health and rehabilitation field, 11 percent were family members, guardians, or authorized representatives, and 9 percent were representatives of the community living field. Examples of training provided in FY 2010 include the following:
- In Iowa, the AT Program contracted to develop a five-module online training course for building contractors about universal design and accessible housing. The training had previously been provided in person, statewide and at community college home building trade programs. The online training will increase the number of knowledgeable contractors across the state on an on-demand basis and in a cost-effective manner.
  - With leveraged federal stimulus funds received through the entity responsible for implementing programs for children, ages 3-5, with disabilities, the Pennsylvania AT Program developed and produced a train-the-trainer curriculum on AT in early intervention, "Helping Tools for Young Pennsylvanians and their Families." This curriculum, along with several AT device training kits purchased with the funds, have been used in one full-day and one half-day training this year, serving 35 early childhood educators, child care providers and other professionals about how AT devices can help include young children with disabilities in their programs and promote their development. Several attendees borrowed devices after the training to train others and/or conduct assessments to identify the AT that can support these children and their families.
- In Puerto Rico, the AT Program (PRATP) provided technical training to the Puerto Rico Department of Justice (DOJ) to increase the knowledge of court personnel and police officers on the use of AT devices to facilitate the participation of people with disabilities in judicial processes. Training was also provided on the selection and implementation of AT solutions with victims who acquire a severe disability as a result of a criminal act. During this reporting period, PRATP trained 424 DOJ participants from four judicial regions on the island.

**Table 16. Percentage and Number of Participants in AT Training Events: FY 2008–10**

| <b>Comparison Data</b>                                    | <b>2008</b>   | <b>2009</b>   | <b>2010</b>   |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Individuals With Disabilities                             | 22%           | 23%           | 27%           |
| Family Members, Guardians, Authorized Representatives     | 7%            | 8%            | 11%           |
| Representatives of Education                              | 33%           | 33%           | 30%           |
| Representatives of Employment                             | 6%            | 6%            | 5%            |
| Representatives of Health, Allied Health & Rehabilitation | 11%           | 11%           | 11%           |
| Representatives of Community Living                       | 12%           | 10%           | 9%            |
| Representatives of Technology                             | 4%            | 3%            | 3%            |
| Other   | 2%            | 1%            | 1%            |
| Unable to Categorize                                      | 3%            | 5%            | 3%            |
| <b>Total Training Participants</b>                        | <b>62,344</b> | <b>70,174</b> | <b>88,388</b> |

Source: U.S Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration, State Grant for AT Program annual progress report data.

### **Technical Assistance**

While training is designed to impart knowledge, skills and competencies, technical assistance (TA) involves extensive consultation with state or local agencies or other entities (rather than individuals) and generally involves problem solving to achieve a mutually agreed upon goal. TA may involve multiple contacts and interactions over an extended period of time. TA may be provided in person, by electronic media, such as telephone, video or e-mail, or by other means. The following are areas in which technical assistance may be provided: needs assessment; program planning or development; curriculum or materials development; administrative or management consultation; program evaluation and site reviews of external organizations; and policy development.

Sec. 4(f) of the *AT Act* requires states to report to RSA the frequency and nature of technical assistance provided.

According to FY 2010 State Grant for AT annual progress reports for technical assistance activities:

- A. 55 of 56 states and outlying areas reported at least one technical assistance initiative.
- B. The person hours devoted to technical assistance initiatives reported ranged from one to 850, with an average of 77 person hours per initiative reported and a median of 45 hours per initiative reported.

- C. The technical assistance initiatives reported were most frequently provided in the product and service areas of specific AT device assistance, AT service delivery options and AT purchasing using cost-effective options.
- D. The technical assistance initiatives reported were most frequently provided in the policy areas of the *Americans with Disabilities Act*, and Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act*, the *Work Force Investment Act*, the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*, as reauthorized in 2004, and Section 508 of the *Rehabilitation Act*, and Section 255 of the *Telecommunications Act*.

Examples of technical assistance provided in FY 2010 include:

- The California AT Program provided technical assistance to the Sutter Health Medical Group, a network of 24 hospitals, 23 foundations and 3,500 physicians throughout Northern California. Sutter is in the process of creating policies for their member centers on accessible medical equipment (AME), including scales, lifts, hospital beds and exam tables. An AT Program staff member with a background in health care accessibility issues and barriers was a member of a work group that reviewed Sutter's proposed AME policy and provided feedback for consideration. The feedback of the work group is currently being reviewed by Sutter for inclusion in its AME policy.
- The Assistive Technology Program for the District of Columbia (ATPDC) and a network of disability rights consumers, advocates and other volunteers provided technical assistance to University Legal Services (ULS) to survey the accessibility of 122 of the District of Columbia 143 voting precincts for the 2010 primary election. The goal was to determine the structural and operational accessibility of the precincts and to ensure the participation of people with disabilities. After tabulating the survey results, ULS found that 41 percent of the 122 precincts surveyed during the 2010 primary election were operationally inaccessible. This was due to structural barriers, dysfunctional touch screen voting equipment, no signage or improper signage, and poll workers' lack of the knowledge of the *Help America Vote Act (HAVA)* requirements. ULS issued a report to the staff of the District of Columbia Board of Elections and Ethics (BOEE), as well as its Board of Commissioners and the public, which outlined the accessibility concerns that arose at each precinct that was surveyed and the recommendations for improving access at the polls. The ATPDC staff also provided technical training for the poll workers on the use of the touch-screen voting equipment.

### **Transition Training and Technical Assistance**

States are required to provide training and technical assistance specifically related to transition. The *AT Act* does not require the separate reporting of data related to these activities, but data are reported within the training and technical assistance sections of the annual progress report.

According to annual state progress report data for FY 2010:

- A. 44 states reported 11,137 participants in training that focused on education transition and AT (such as school-to-work or postsecondary education; or *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*, Part C (birth through 2-years-of-age) to Part B (ages 3 through 21) transition) or community transition (such as institution to community).
- B. 39 states reported technical assistance initiatives focused on community transition, and 35 states reported technical assistance initiatives focused on education transition.

Examples of transition training and transition-related technical assistance provided in FY 2010 include the following:

- Missouri's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education held a 2010 transition institute for transition personnel throughout the state. Missouri AT Program staff presented two sessions, attended by a total of 150 transition coordinators, vocational rehabilitation, employment and higher education representatives. The first session focused on reading and writing AT for students transitioning from secondary to higher education. The second focused on the resources available from the Missouri AT Program for agencies, students, and parents in the transition process. As a result of the sessions, the Missouri AT Program provided additional training to three school districts on transition topics specific to their schools.
- In South Dakota, the AT Program provided training for 15 community hospital discharge planners on the use of several different environmental control systems and their potential benefit to patients transitioning from the hospital environment to their homes following a surgical procedure requiring additional in-home recovery. This training helped decrease the days of in-patient care for several patients due to more efficient discharge planning.
- Georgia's statewide Money Follows the Person Program expressed a need for more education on assistive technology and how to match AT with individuals transitioning out of nursing homes. The Georgia AT Program assisted in developing an in-depth training focused on understanding AT, exploring AT solutions and learning about AT resources throughout Georgia. This interactive training included wheelchair experiences, hands-on learning, exploration of successful practices and development of a detailed AT resource packet.
- In Louisiana, two of the AT program's staff members worked diligently with the State Office of Aging and Adult Services and its various committees to develop a new Medicaid waiver, Community Choices. This waiver is designed to provide the opportunity for adults to transition from nursing homes and other institutional settings to live and participate in the community. One of the services to be provided under the waiver is AT, and the Louisiana AT Program developed that section and gave information and expertise related to the types and credentials of providers that could do assessments, and that could provide other AT services. The waiver has been approved and will be implemented in the next few months.

- In Wyoming, hands-on technical assistance was provided to disability coordinators at Central Wyoming Community College to increase the use of accessible instructional materials and associated assistive technology devices and services. The assistance request was made because students were transitioning to the college having used navigable formats of instructional materials, yet the college staff did not have the expertise to provide similarly formatted materials. Wyoming AT Program staff provided on-site and case-specific file downloads and then worked with the staff to explore different file types and resources for materials, as well as hands-on learning about appropriate devices to access the materials.

## **Public Awareness**

Public awareness activities are designed to reach large numbers of people; these activities include public service announcements, radio talk shows and news reports, newspaper stories and columns, newsletters, brochures, and public forums. Actual numbers of information recipients for these types of public awareness activities are often difficult to know for certain and estimates must be reported. The *AT Act* includes information and referral activities under public awareness. Information and referral activities are those in which the grantee responds to requests for information or puts individuals in contact with other agencies, organizations or companies that can provide them with needed information on or intensive assistance with AT products, devices, services, funding sources or other related disability topics. This information may be provided in person, over the telephone, via e-mail or by other means.

Sec. 4(f) of the *AT Act* requires states to report to RSA the number of individuals reached by means of public awareness activities and the statewide information and referral system.

According to FY 2010 State Grant for AT Program annual progress reports for public awareness activities:

- A. Some 277,433 individuals were recipients of information and assistance (I & A) activities provided by the 56 grantees.
- B. Almost half of those receiving assistance were individuals with disabilities (44 percent) and another 16 percent were their family members. Representatives of various fields also utilized I & A services, with representatives of education at 12 percent, representatives of community living at 11 percent, and representatives of health, allied health and rehabilitation at 9 percent.
- C. The topic for the majority of I & A support was assistive technology devices and services (62 percent). I & A related to assistive technology funding and policy issues was 16 percent of the total and the remaining 22 percent was for related disability topics.

- D. An estimated 17,425,375 individuals were reached through a variety of public awareness activities.
- The majority of these individuals (43 percent) were reached through a public service announcement, such as a radio or television ad, in which the number of individuals reached was by necessity estimated.
  - Another 6,122,645 individuals (35 percent) were estimated as reached through Internet information, such as the State Grant AT Program website along with 313,444 (2 percent) through list serves, resulting in 37 percent reached via the Internet and e-mail.
  - Some 1,097,124 individuals (6 percent) were reached with print materials and another 791,035 (5 percent) with print newsletters, for a total of 11 percent reached through more traditional print means.
  - In addition, 908,390 individuals (5 percent) were reached through presentations at expositions, conferences and other live events.

Because interaction with consumers during information and referral and public awareness activities is generally short, specific examples of these activities are not collected in the annual progress report.

**Table 17 Percentage and Number of Recipients of AT Information and Assistance (I & A): FY 2008–10**

| <b>I &amp; A Recipients</b>                              | <b>2008</b>    | <b>2009</b>    | <b>2010</b>    |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Individuals With Disabilities                            | 36%            | 35%            | 44%            |
| Family Members, Guardians and Authorized Representatives | 19%            | 20%            | 16%            |
| Representatives of Education                             | 11%            | 13%            | 12%            |
| Representatives of Employment                            | 8%             | 4%             | 3%             |
| Representatives of Health, Allied Health, Rehabilitation | 9%             | 11%            | 9%             |
| Representatives of Community Living                      | 10%            | 13%            | 11%            |
| Representatives of Technology                            | 3%             | 3%             | 3%             |
| Other  | 4%             | 1%             | 2%             |
| <b>Total I&amp;A Recipients</b>                          | <b>252,647</b> | <b>218,955</b> | <b>277,433</b> |

Source: U.S Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration, State Grant for AT Program annual progress report data.

## **Participant Summary Data**

For state-level and state leadership activities in which recipient data was reported in 2010, table 18 provides an overview of the type of participants by activity. For device loan, device demonstration, and information and assistance, individuals with disabilities make up the largest recipient and participant group. For training, the largest participant group is representatives of education and the next largest group is individuals with disabilities. Family members, guardians and authorized representatives are the second largest group for device demonstrations and information and assistance, while representatives of education is second largest for device loan.

**Table 18. Number and Percentage of Device Loan Borrowers, Participants in Device Demonstrations, Training Participants and Recipients of Information and Assistance, by Type of Individual: FY 2010**

| Type of Individual   | Device Loan Borrowers Count | Device Loan Borrowers Percent | Device Demonstration Participants Count | Device Demonstration Participants Percent | Training Participants Count | Training Participants Percent | I & A Recipients Count | I & A Recipients Percent |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Individuals with Disabilities                                | 13,271                      | 36%                           | 22,142                                  | 44%                                       | 24,191                      | 27%                           | 123,391                | 44%                      |
| Family Members, Guardians, & Authorized Representatives      | 6,147                       | 16%                           | 12,702                                  | 25%                                       | 10,018                      | 11%                           | 43,975                 | 16%                      |
| Representatives of Education                                 | 8,682                       | 23%                           | 6,339                                   | 13%                                       | 25,971                      | 30%                           | 32,337                 | 12%                      |
| Representatives of Employment                                | 660                         | 2%                            | 1,463                                   | 3%  | 4,297                       | 5%                            | 9,244                  | 3%                       |
| Representatives of Health, Allied Health, and Rehabilitation | 6,006                       | 16%                           | 3,765                                   | 8%  | 9,797                       | 11%                           | 24,687                 | 9%                       |
| Representatives of Community Living                          | 1,523                       | 4%                            | 2,765                                   | 6%  | 7,952                       | 9%                            | 30,319                 | 11%                      |
| Representatives of Technology                                | 1,080                       | 3%                            | 584                                     | 1%  | 2,877                       | 3%                            | 8,413                  | 3%                       |
| Others   | 67                          | --                            | 177                                     | --  | 873                         | 1%                            | 5,067                  | 2%                       |
| Unable to Categorize   | NA                          | NA                            | NA                                      | NA  | 2,412                       | 3%                            | NA                     | NA                       |
| <b>Totals</b>  | <b>37,436</b>               | <b>100%</b>                   | <b>49,937</b>                           | <b>100%</b>                               | <b>88,388</b>               | <b>100%</b>                   | <b>277,433</b>         | <b>100%</b>              |

Source: U.S Department of Education, State Grant for AT Program annual progress report data for FY 2010.

## Coordination and Collaboration

Grantees also coordinate activities among public and private entities that are responsible for policies, procedures or funding for the provision of AT devices and services to improve access to AT for individuals with disabilities of all ages in the state. States are required to describe their most significant coordination and collaboration efforts as related to one state-level activity and to describe one state leadership activity. Examples of coordination and collaboration activities for FY 2010 include:

- In Arkansas, the AT Program entered into an agreement to provide ongoing assistance in tandem with the state's new AgrAbility project, which is administered by the University of Arkansas, Division of Agriculture Extension Service to enable agricultural workers with disabilities and their communities to continue to succeed as farm workers in rural Arkansas. The AT Program will work with the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services' AT@Work Program to provide assistive technology assessments and will directly provide training, AT presentations, loans, demonstrations, and distribution of recycled devices.
- With a memorandum of agreement, the Arizona AT Program collaborated with the Foundation for Senior Living to install environmental control units in their Caregiver House for the purpose of demonstration to caregivers. The house is a demonstration model used for training of caregivers. The AT Program installed the environmental control units, provided staff training, produced a training video that is used as part of the demonstration and provides technical assistance and support to the Foundation and its clients. Demonstrations take place individually or in groups almost weekly. In addition, as part of the agreement, the AT Program uses the Caregiver House to demonstrate environmental control devices to people with disabilities, caregivers, and occupational and physical therapists.
- The Delaware AT Program completed the transfer of assets from the W. E. Tobin Foundation for the Visually Impaired to the University of Delaware for the establishment of its Tobin Fund. This fund will be used by the Delaware AT Program as a payer of last resort for individuals who need visual assistive technologies and cannot acquire them through insurance, state agencies or other means.
- The West Virginia AT Program collaborates with the West Virginia Commission on the Arts' Peer Assistance Network, providing technical assistance to arts organizations statewide to help increase accessibility and compliance with the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)* for both physical environment and programming. The AT program provides information on assistive devices to make activities at the centers more inclusive, as well as suggestions for marketing and improving access to programs and services. This includes on-site assessments, individualized trainings and other supports, including special devices for centers that are available through the AT program loan library.
- Nebraska RentWise is a statewide tenant education program focused on reducing barriers individuals may face when accessing and maintaining decent, safe and affordable housing critical to community-based independent living. The coalition is a collaborative partnership between the Nebraska AT Program and other state/community service agencies. The coalition, with the Nebraska AT Program in a

lead role, has assisted in developing and implementing training networks and incentive programs across the state. Property owners in some parts of the state offer incentives for completing the class, such as reduced security deposits and rents. In addition, as part of its 2011 Proposed Annual Action Plan, the Nebraska Department of Economic Development has decided to add completion of the Nebraska RentWise training to its scoring criteria for Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund (NAHTF) rental property assistance applications.

Sec. 4(f) also requires states to report the outcomes of any state improvement initiatives, including a description of any written policies, practices and procedures that the state has developed and implemented regarding access to, provision of and funding for AT devices and services. Since these improvement initiatives are typically related to coordination and collaboration activities and technical assistance provided, the results are reported here.

According to FY 2010 State Grant for AT annual progress reports for state improvement outcomes:

- A. 32 of the 56 grantees reported at least one state improvement outcome. Of those reported, the majority were state legislative or policy improvements.
- B. Examples of state improvement outcomes reported in FY 2010 include the following:
  - The Connecticut AT Program collaborated with the state Department of Labor (DOL), the state VR agency, the state VR agency for the blind and the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant known as Connect-ability to assess the assistive technology devices available to DOL consumers with disabilities. Once an inventory was taken and gaps were identified, recommendations were made for assistive technology devices to be added to each one-stop career center, which are designed to offer a full range of assistance to job seekers and to provide consumers with disabilities greater access to their services. Through a separate DOL grant, the AT devices were ordered and installed so that each one-stop career center now has assistive technology available for consumers with a variety of disabilities, including vision, reading or writing disabilities and mobility.
  - The Maine AT Program provided leadership in convening a collaborative group of interested organizations to work with the Medicaid policy staff in writing the current rules, as well as providing technical assistance in understanding the impact of a proposed rule change. Maine's proposed Medicaid policy on reimbursement rates for durable medical equipment (DME) was revised to establish a rate that was satisfactory to DME businesses and resulted in these vendors being able to stay in business.

## ADDITIONAL AND LEVERAGED FUNDING

Sec. 4(f) of the *AT Act* requires states to report the following information about leveraged funding or other contributed resources from public and private entities to carry out the grant: The source of the leveraged funding or other contributed resources, the number of individuals serviced with the contributed resources and other outcomes accomplished.

According to FY 2010 State Grant for AT Program annual progress reports for additional and leveraged funding activities:

- A total of \$12,703,843 was leveraged by state AT programs to support *AT Act* activities.
- This leveraged funding was used primarily to support state-level activities, specifically state financing activities (31 percent), device loan (26 percent), device demonstration (10%) and reutilization (9%).
- State leadership activities were funded with leveraged dollars at a lesser level with technical assistance at 9 percent, training at 8 percent, and public awareness and information and assistance at 7 percent.
- The majority of all leveraged funding (53 percent) was provided through contracts or other agreements with state agencies or other public entities. An additional 31 percent was a direct appropriation of state general revenue dollars to the state AT program. The remainder of leveraged funding the state AT program received directly from a federal agency (8 percent) and 8 percent was through private funding.

Table 19 shows the amount and percent of AT activities supported with leveraged funding reported for FY 2010 and table 20 provides a summary of the types of dollars leveraged.

| <b>Table 19. Dollar Amount and Percentage of <i>AT Act</i> Activities Supported With Leveraged Funding: FY 2010</b> |                     |                |
|---|---------------------|----------------|
| <b>Activity Supported</b>   | <b>Dollars</b>      | <b>Percent</b> |
| State Financing   | \$3,908,975         | 31%            |
| Reutilization   | \$1,127,066         | 9%             |
| Device Loan   | \$3,273,711         | 26%            |
| Device Demonstration  | \$1,234,367         | 10%            |
| Training  | \$1,079,219         | 8%             |
| Technical Assistance  | \$1,127,458         | 9%             |
| Public Awareness, Information & Assistance  | \$953,047           | 7%             |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$12,703,843</b> | <b>100%</b>    |

Source: U.S Department of Education, State Grant for AT annual progress report data for FY 2010.

**Table 20. Dollar Amounts and Percentage Leveraged to Support AT Act Activities, by Type of Funding: FY 2010**

| <b>Total Leveraged Funding</b> |                     |                |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| <b>Dollar Type</b>             | <b>Dollars</b>      | <b>Percent</b> |
| Federal                        | \$969,031           | 8%             |
| Public/State Agency            | \$6,716,082         | 53%            |
| State Appropriations           | \$3,968,875         | 31%            |
| Private                        | \$1,049,855         | 8%             |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>\$12,703,843</b> | <b>100%</b>    |

Source: U.S Department of Education, State Grant for AT annual progress report data for FY 2010.

Table 21 below shows a 3-year comparison of leveraged funding for state-level and state leadership activities.

**Table 21. Dollar Amount and Percentage of Leveraged Funding for State-level Activities Supported, by Funding Source: FY 2008–10**

| <b>Activities Supported</b> | <b>2008 Dollars</b> | <b>2008 %</b> | <b>2009 Dollars</b> | <b>2009 %</b> | <b>2010 Dollars</b> | <b>2010 %</b> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|
| State Financing             | \$5,527,452         | 34%           | \$3,852,132         | 28%           | \$3,908,975         | 31%           |
| Device Reuse                | 1,843,722           | 12%           | 1,754,769           | 13%           | 1,127,066           | 9%            |
| Device Loan                 | 2,914,357           | 18%           | 2,701,304           | 20%           | 3,273,711           | 26%           |
| Device Demo                 | 1,871,265           | 12%           | 1,717,337           | 13%           | 1,234,367           | 10%           |
| Training                    | 1,797,768           | 11%           | 1,471,490           | 11%           | 1,079,219           | 8%            |
| Technical Assistance        | 1,036,438           | 6%            | 636,414             | 5%            | 1,127,458           | 9%            |
| Information & Assistance    | 1,117,192           | 7%            | 1,417,577           | 10%           | 953,047             | 7%            |
| <b>Total Activities</b>     | <b>\$16,108,194</b> | <b>100%</b>   | <b>\$13,551,023</b> | <b>100%</b>   | <b>\$12,703,843</b> | <b>100%</b>   |

*(Continued on next page)*

**Table 21. Dollar Amount and Percentage of Leveraged Funding for State-level Activities Supported, by Funding Source: FY 2008–10 (Continued)**

| <b>Source of Funding</b>          | <b>2008<br/>Dollar</b> | <b>2008<br/>%</b> | <b>2009<br/>Dollar</b> | <b>2009<br/>%</b> | <b>2010<br/>Dollar</b> | <b>2010<br/>%</b> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Federal Funding                   | \$2,281,032            | 14%               | \$1,651,620            | 12%               | \$969,031              | 8%                |
| Public Agency Agreement/Contract  | \$9,317,978            | 58%               | \$6,749,690            | 50%               | \$6,716,082            | 53%               |
| State Appropriation to AT Program | \$3,517,490            | 22%               | \$3,955,929            | 29%               | \$3,968,875            | 31%               |
| Private Funding                   | \$991,694              | 6%                | \$1,193,784            | 9%                | \$1,049,855            | 8%                |
| <b>Total Funding</b>              | <b>\$16,108,194</b>    |                   | <b>\$13,551,023</b>    |                   | <b>\$12,703,843</b>    |                   |

*(Continued from previous page)*

Source: U.S Department of Education, State Grant for AT Annual Progress Report data for FY 2010.

## CONCLUSION

The 2004 amendments made by P.L. 105-395 to the *AT Act* were significant, and FY 2008 was the first year that complete data were collected in accordance with the provisions of Sec. 4(f). FY 2009 and FY 2010 have now been added to the repository of *AT Act* Program data. This report provides an initial comparison of data over the three-year period of FY 2008 through FY 2010 and begins to paint a robust picture of the services provided as a result of and beneficiaries of the *AT Act*.

States have remained fairly stable in providing state-level activities across the three-year period. To support the acquisition of AT, all programs conducted one or more types of device reutilization activity all three years. The majority of statewide AT programs conducted one or more types of state financing activity during the three-year period (66 percent to 73 percent). To improve access to AT, more than 90 percent of AT programs provided short-term device loans and device demonstrations in each of the three fiscal years of 2008 through 2010.

The type of assistive technology acquired or accessed through statewide AT Program activities varies significantly with each activity but is consistent across years based on the FY 2008 through FY 2010 data. This provides a picture of the degree to which the different activities are suited to improving the access to or acquisition of particular AT devices and services. For example, in the case of reutilization activities, the vast majority of the devices recycled, refurbished or repaired or provided on open-ended loan relate to mobility, seating and positioning and daily living. In the case of state financing activities, the majority of financial loans and dollars loaned are made for vehicle modifications and transportation devices or for hearing devices (including hearing aids). These trends have been stable across all three years of data reported.

The picture is somewhat different for device-access activities. Almost all types of AT devices were reasonably well accessed as part of device loan and device demonstration activities. While short-term device loan activities frequently involved speech communication and learning, cognition and developmental devices, most types of AT were borrowed or demonstrated in significant numbers except for vehicle modifications and transportation devices. The data over three years suggests that device demonstration and device loans are well situated to provide access to a full range of AT devices through these activities.

For those activities in which recipient or participant type is reported (short-term device loan, device demonstration, training, and information and assistance), individuals with disabilities were consistently the largest recipient group except for training activities. Family members, guardians and authorized representatives, combined with individuals with disabilities, represent a majority of recipients or participants for all activities except training. Representatives from education are consistently the largest participant group reported for training and the second largest group for device loans. Tables 18, 19 and 21 provide a summary of the recipient and participant data across all three years for these activities.

As shown in table 5, specific data trends for financial loan programs include a fairly stable approved applicant income amount as supported by little change in the average over the three-year period of FY 2008 through FY 2010. The average interest rate for approved loans decreased from 4.99 percent in FY 2008 to 3.76 percent in FY 2010, which is consistent with the decline in the prime interest rate over that same period. A slight shift of loan types is seen with revolving loans increasing slightly (and partnership loans decreasing). Revolving loans increased by 8 percent and the dollars loaned via revolving loans increased by 10 percent over the three-year period. The mean loan amount decreased slightly from \$10,338 to \$9,494, and the mean approved applicant annual income remained fairly stable, between about \$39,000 and \$42,000.

Data trends for reuse activities showed a slight decrease in the number of states conducting exchange activities offset by an increase in the number conducting refurbish/reassignment and open-ended loan activities, as shown in tables 7 and 8. Total numbers of device recipients increased as did the number of devices reused. The types of AT most often reused remained very stable over three years with mobility, seating and positioning as the most common type of AT reused and also the type of AT with the largest associated savings.

For device loans, the three-year data trend shows a fairly stable number of loans along with devices loaned. Decision-making is the primary purpose for device loans and that has steadily increased over the three-year period. Borrower types have also remained stable, with individuals with disabilities being the largest group, followed by representatives of education. AT type is also stable with learning, cognition, and developmental devices and speech communication devices being the most commonly borrowed. This data is shown in table 12.

As shown in table 13, the overall number of device demonstrations steadily increased over the three-year period, as did the number of demonstration participants. Individuals with disabilities were the most common demonstration participants for all three years. Referrals as a result of the demonstration significantly increased over this same period with almost half the referrals made to AT vendors.

Participants in training steadily increased over the three-year period while the participant types remained stable, with representatives of education as the largest group, followed closely by individuals with disabilities. The number of recipients of information and assistance fluctuated over the three-year period with the largest number in FY10. However, the types of recipients were similar, with individuals with disabilities as the largest group all three years. These data are shown in tables 16 and 17.

As illustrated in table 15, consumer satisfaction for all three years has been very high and steadily increasing along with the overall response rate to the satisfaction query. Less than 1 percent report being “not at all satisfied” in all three years.

Overall leveraged funding decreased over the three-year period, with the sharpest decline in federal funding and dollars obtained through a public agency agreement or contract with state AT programs. State appropriations to the AT Program actually increased over the three-year period. Even with the decline in dollars received through public agency contracts/agreements that type of funding made up over half of all leveraged funding for each of the three years. The use of leveraged funding was fairly stable over the period, with state financing activities as the most common use of such funding and device loan the next most common. Those two uses accounted for about half the leveraged funding for all three years. These data can be found in table 21.

In summary, well over 400,000 recipients or participants acquired or accessed AT or received training or information and assistance from statewide AT programs in each of the three fiscal years reported (the number of recipients and participants in FY 2010 was 471,946). In addition, data reported over the three-year period indicate that AT device value or savings for recipients consistently totaled around \$29 million and states were able to use federal funds provided under the *AT Act* to leverage over \$10 million each year.



# **PART II**

## ***TITLE III* OF THE *ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT* *OF 1998:* **ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM****



## DATA COLLECTION AND LIMITATIONS

*Title III* of the *AT Act of 1998* (as opposed to the *AT Act of 1998*, as amended) requires the secretary of education to report to Congress on the progress of the Alternative Financing Program (AFP). The legislative reporting requirements of *Title III* are shown in table 22 below.

| Table 22. <i>Title III</i> of the <i>Assistive Technology Act of 1998</i> : Reporting Requirements for the Alternative Financing Programs  |
|--|
| Number of grant applications received and approved, and the amount of each grant awarded.  |
| Ratio of funds provided by each state for the Alternative Financing Program to funds provided by the federal government for the program.   |
| Type of alternative financing mechanisms used by each state and the community-based organization with which each state entered into a contract under the program.  |
| Amount of assistance given to consumers through the program (who shall be classified by age, type of disability, type of assistive technology device or assistive technology service financed through the program, geographic distribution within the state, gender and whether the consumers are part of an underrepresented population or rural population). |

Source: Assistive Technology Act of 1998, Title III.

In FY 2009 and FY 2010, AFPs collected and reported data about the loans they provided directly or supported through lending institutions. Program data are submitted annually by all grantees to the management information system (MIS) of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) of the US Department of Education. All data for FY 2009 and FY 2010 are from the MIS.

Prior year data for FY 2007 and FY 2008 are not from the MIS and consist of a different set of data elements. As a result, four-year data tables are provided only when the data elements between the two systems are the same.

## TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING

Total federal funding of the AFP from FY 2000 to FY 2006 was \$60.3 million. Funding provided by nonfederal match (states provide the nonfederal share of the cost of the AFP in cash, from state, local or private sources) during the same period totaled \$22 million, for a combined total of \$81.8 million invested in the loan programs (see table 23).

**Table 23. Number of Grants Awarded to States and Amount of Funding for Alternative Financing Programs Under *Title III* of the *Assistive Technology Act of 1998*, by Type of Funding: FY 2000–06**

| <b>Fiscal Year</b> | <b>Number of Grants</b> | <b>Federal Funds</b> | <b>Nonfederal Match</b> | <b>Total Program Funds</b> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>2000</b>        | 6                       | \$3,792,576          | \$3,792,576             | \$7,585,152                |
| <b>2001</b>        | 14                      | \$14,083,286         | \$4,636,876             | \$18,270,162               |
| <b>2002</b>        | 0                       | \$0                  | \$0                     | \$0                        |
| <b>2003</b>        | 26                      | \$35,859,229         | \$11,414,145            | \$47,273,374               |
| <b>2004</b>        | 0                       | \$0                  | \$0                     | \$0                        |
| <b>2005</b>        | 8                       | \$3,942,109          | \$1,314,703             | \$5,256,812                |
| <b>2006</b>        | 3                       | \$2,608,060          | \$869,354               | \$3,477,414                |
| <b>Total*</b>      | 57                      | \$60,285,260         | \$22,027,654            | \$81,862,914               |

\*The total number of grants does not equal the total number of AFPs because some states received multiple AFP grants.

Note: *Nonfederal match* is the share that states provide of the cost of the AFP in cash, from state, local or private sources.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration, Grant Administration Payment System (GAPS) for FY 2000–10. AFP grants were not awarded in 2004, or in 2007-10.

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

In FY 2001, the match requirement was changed from one state dollar for every federal dollar to one state dollar for every three federal dollars. This change continued to be in effect for subsequent years of funding under *Title III* of the *AT Act* of 1998.

In FY 2001, \$14.1 million in federal funds was awarded, with an additional \$4.6 million contributed by states in matching funds. Fourteen states received FY 2001 AFP grants. Of these states, 10 started AFPs for the first time and four states used the FY 2001 grants to expand their existing loan programs. States receiving new AFP grants in FY 2001 were Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Nevada, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin. States receiving an additional AFP grant in FY 2001 were Maryland, Pennsylvania, Utah, and Virginia. No funds to support additional AFP grants were awarded in FY 2002.

While no funds for *Title III* were appropriated in FY 2002, a total of \$35.8 million in federal funds was awarded to states and outlying areas in FY 2003. Twenty-six states submitted applications for FY 2003 and all received AFP grants, contributing \$11.4 million in state matching funds.

Eleven states that received FY 2003 grants had received AFP grants in prior years and used the new funds to expand their existing AFPs. These were Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Utah, Virginia and Wisconsin. The remaining 15 states and outlying areas that received FY 2003 grants established AFPs for the first time. These states and outlying areas were Delaware, Georgia, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Carolina, Vermont, Washington, Wyoming, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. These states and outlying areas began to implement their grants in FY 2004. No funds to support additional AFP grants were awarded in FY 2004.

In FY 2005, \$3.9 million was awarded for AFP grants under Sec. 4(b)(D) Special Rule for Fiscal Year 2005 in the *AT Act* and the states matched the FY 2005 federal awards with \$1.3 million. Priority for the grants was given to states that did not have existing AFPs. Priority also was given to states that had received less than \$1 million in federal funds for the operation of an AFP and to states that applied with a commitment of match in hand. Eleven states submitted applications for these grants and eight states received awards. Two of the eight states, Alabama and Maine, started AFPs for the first time. The six remaining states had received AFP grants in prior years and used the new grant funds to expand existing programs. The states were Illinois, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Utah. Illinois received only a partial grant, however, because funds were not sufficient to meet its full request. States that received FY 2005 grants began to implement those grants during FY 2006.

In FY 2006, RSA awarded grants to the three applicants that qualified for AFP grants in FY 2005 but did not receive them. These states were Michigan, North Dakota and Wisconsin. In addition, the state of Illinois, which received a partial AFP award in FY 2005, was awarded the remainder of its funding request in FY 2006. A total of \$2.6 million in federal AFP funds was awarded to these four states in FY 2006, with states contributing \$869,354 for a combined total of \$3.5 million. No additional funds were requested or appropriated in FY 2007 or FY 2008 because the program was no longer authorized under the *AT Act*.

Table 24 on the following page provides a full list of the states with *Title III* AFPs and the amount of state and federal funds provided in FY 2000–06.

**Table 24. Federal and State-matched Funding for Alternative Financing Programs Under *Title III* of the *Assistive Technology Act of 1998*, by State and Selected Years: FY 2000–06**

| <b>State</b>  | <b>Fiscal Year</b> | <b>Federal Grant</b> | <b>State Match<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>Total Program</b> |
|---------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Alabama       | 2005               | \$1,500,000          | \$500,000                      | \$2,000,000          |
| Arizona       | 2001               | \$150,000            | \$50,000                       | \$200,000            |
| Arkansas      | 2001               | \$1,200,000          | \$400,000                      | \$1,600,000          |
| Delaware      | 2003               | \$905,756            | \$301,918                      | \$1,207,674          |
| Florida       | 2001               | \$630,000            | \$210,000                      |                      |
|               | 2003               | \$1,270,981          | \$423,660                      | \$2,534,641          |
| Georgia       | 2003               | \$1,563,307          | \$521,103                      | \$2,084,410          |
| Illinois      | 2001               | \$2,250,000          | \$750,000                      |                      |
|               | 2003               | \$3,228,292          | \$1,076,098                    |                      |
|               | 2005               | \$191,940            | \$63,980                       |                      |
|               | 2006               | \$408,060            | \$136,020                      | \$8,104,390          |
| Iowa          | 2003               | \$482,973            | \$160,991                      | \$643,964            |
| Kansas        | 2000               | \$742,576            | \$742,576                      |                      |
|               | 2003               | \$7,343,450          | \$2,447,816                    | \$11,276,418         |
| Kentucky      | 2001               | \$1,500,000          | \$500,000                      |                      |
|               | 2003               | \$142,350            | \$47,450                       | \$2,189,800          |
| Louisiana     | 2001               | \$1,500,000          | \$500,000                      | \$2,000,000          |
| Maine         | 2005               | \$750,000            | \$250,000                      | \$1,000,000          |
| Maryland      | 2000               | \$500,000            | \$500,000                      |                      |
|               | 2001               | \$1,104,974          | \$368,325                      |                      |
|               | 2003               | \$1,270,981          | \$423,660                      | \$4,167,940          |
| Massachusetts | 2003               | \$1,694,641          | \$564,880                      |                      |
|               | 2005               | \$375,000            | \$125,000                      | \$2,759,521          |
| Michigan      | 2001               | \$431,700            | \$143,900                      |                      |
|               | 2003               | \$635,491            | \$211,830                      |                      |
|               | 2006               | \$450,000            | \$150,000                      | \$2,022,921          |
| Minnesota     | 2003               | \$1,270,981          | \$423,660                      | \$1,694,641          |
| Missouri      | 2000               | \$550,000            | \$550,000                      | \$1,100,000          |
| Nebraska      | 2003               | \$635,490            | \$211,830                      | \$847,320            |
| Nevada        | 2001               | \$902,612            | \$393,317                      | \$1,295,929          |

*(Continued on next page)*

**Table 24. Federal and State-matched Funding for Alternative Financing Programs Under *Title III* of the *Assistive Technology Act of 1998*, by State and Selected Years: FY 2000–06 (Continued)**

| <b>State</b>                          | <b>Fiscal Year</b> | <b>Federal Grant</b> | <b>State Match<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>Total Program</b> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| New Mexico                            | 2003               | \$1,270,981          | \$423,660                      |                      |
|                                       | 2005               | \$100,000            | \$34,000                       | \$1,828,641          |
| North Dakota                          | 2003               | \$1,293,937          | \$431,312                      |                      |
|                                       | 2006               | \$1,000,000          | \$333,334                      | \$3,058,583          |
| Oklahoma                              | 2001               | \$225,000            | \$75,000                       |                      |
|                                       | 2003               | \$597,361            | \$199,120                      |                      |
|                                       | 2005               | \$485,169            | \$161,723                      | \$1,743,373          |
| Pennsylvania                          | 2000               | \$500,000            | \$500,000                      |                      |
|                                       | 2001               | \$450,000            | \$150,000                      |                      |
|                                       | 2003               | \$1,270,981          | \$423,660                      |                      |
|                                       | 2005               | \$450,000            | \$150,000                      | \$3,894,641          |
| South Carolina                        | 2003               | \$406,714            | \$135,571                      | \$542,285            |
| Utah                                  | 2000               | \$500,000            | \$500,000                      |                      |
|                                       | 2001               | \$525,000            | \$175,000                      |                      |
|                                       | 2003               | \$254,196            | \$84,732                       |                      |
|                                       | 2005               | \$90,000             | \$30,000                       | \$2,158,928          |
| Vermont                               | 2003               | \$635,490            | \$211,830                      | \$847,320            |
| Virginia                              | 2000               | \$1,000,000          | \$1,000,000                    |                      |
|                                       | 2001               | \$2,464,000          | \$821,334                      |                      |
|                                       | 2003               | \$4,941,575          | \$1,647,192                    | \$11,874,101         |
| Washington                            | 2003               | \$635,491            | \$211,830                      | \$847,321            |
| Wisconsin                             | 2001               | \$750,000            | \$250,000                      |                      |
|                                       | 2003               | \$2,287,766          | \$762,589                      |                      |
|                                       | 2006               | \$750,000            | \$250,000                      | \$5,050,355          |
| Wyoming                               | 2003               | \$167,770            | \$55,923                       | \$223,693            |
| Guam <sup>b</sup>                     | 2003               | \$508,392            | \$0                            | \$508,392            |
| Northern Mariana Islands <sup>b</sup> | 2003               | \$508,392            | \$0                            | \$508,392            |

*(Continued on next page)*

**Table 24. Federal and State-matched Funding for Alternative Financing Programs Under *Title III* of the *Assistive Technology Act of 1998*, by State and Selected Years: FY 2000–06 (Continued)**

| <b>State</b>                     | <b>Fiscal Year</b> | <b>Federal Grant</b> | <b>State Match<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>Total Program</b> |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| U.S. Virgin Islands <sup>b</sup> | 2003               | \$635,490            | \$11,830                       | \$647,320            |
| <b>Totals</b>                    |                    | <b>\$60,285,260</b>  | <b>\$22,027,654</b>            | <b>\$82,312,914</b>  |

*(Continued from previous page)*

<sup>a</sup> State AFP grantees provided a nonfederal share not less than 25 percent of the cost of the AFP grant award in cash from state, local or private sources. The grantee identified: 1) the amount of federal funds the state requested; 2) the amount of cash the state provided as a match; and 3) the source of the cash as required in Sec. 303(b)(1) of the *AT Act of 1998*. The nonfederal state match was not less than 50 percent for those programs that received AFP grant awards during the first round of funding in FY 2000.

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

Note: For purposes of this report, the term *state* includes, in addition to each of the 50 states of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, according to the *Assistive Technology Act of 1998*, Sec. 3(13).

Only certain years are listed for states because not all states submitted applications or received grant awards for each round of federal funding.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, covering awards for FY 2000-10, Rehabilitation Services Administration, Grant Administration Payment System (GAPS) for FY 2000–10.

## **FY 2009 AND 2010 ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM DATA**

### **Program Partners**

An AFP has a lead agency (a public entity) that is responsible for its overall administration. The community-based organization (CBO) is an entity that involves individuals with disabilities in decision making at all organizational levels and it is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the AFP. The CBO partners with a lending institution or state financing authority to provide loans. Information provided in table 25 identifies these three entities: Lead agency, CBO and lending institution for FY 2010.

**Table 25. Alternative Financing Program Partners Under *Title III* of the *Assistive Technology Act of 1998*, by State: FY 2010**

| <b>State</b> | <b>Partners</b>  |
|--------------|--|
| Alabama      | Agency: Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services<br>CBO: Southern Disability Foundation<br>Lender: Auburn Bank  |
| Arizona      | Agency: AZ Technology Access Program, Northern Arizona University<br>CBO: Arizona Community Foundation<br>Lender: Arizona MultiBank  |
| Arkansas     | Agency: Arkansas Rehabilitation Services<br>CBO: Arkansas Alternative Technology Revolving Loan Fund<br>Lender: Arkansas State Treasury  |
| Delaware     | Agency: Delaware Division of Vocational Rehabilitation<br>CBO: Easter Seals Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore<br>Lender: DEXSTA Federal Credit Union   |
| Florida      | Agency: Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation<br>CBO: Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology (FAAST)<br>Lender: SunTrust Bank   |
| Georgia      | Agency: Georgia Department of Labor, Vocational Rehabilitation Program, Tools for Life<br>CBO: Center for Financial Independence and Innovation<br>Lenders: Credit Union of Georgia, Georgia's Own Credit Union, Gwinnett Federal Credit Union |
| Illinois     | Agency: Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services<br>CBO: Illinois Assistive Technology Program (IATP)<br>Lender: Illinois Assistive Technology Program (IATP)  |
| Iowa         | Agency: Iowa Finance Authority<br>CBO: Iowa Able Foundation<br>Lender: Bankers Trust Company   |

*(Continued on next page)*

**Table 25. Alternative Financing Program Partners Under *Title III* of the *Assistive Technology Act of 1998*, by State: FY 2010 (Continued)**

| <b>State</b>  | <b>Partners</b>   |
|---------------|---|
| Kansas        | Agency: University of Kansas<br>CBO: Kansas Assistive Technology Cooperative (KATCO)<br>Lender: Golden Plains Credit Union  |
| Kentucky      | Agency: Office of Vocational Rehabilitation<br>CBO: Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation<br>Lender: Fifth Third Bank  |
| Louisiana     | Agency: Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals<br>CBO: Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network (LATAN)<br>Lender: Regions Bank  |
| Maine         | Agency: Maine Department of Education, Maine CITE<br>CBO: Kim Wallace Adaptive Equipment Loan Program, mPower Loan Board<br>Lender: mPower Loan Fund  |
| Maryland      | Agency: Maryland Department of Disability Services, Maryland Assistive Technology Program<br>CBO: AT Loan Program Board of Directors<br>Lenders: State Employees Credit Union of Maryland, 1st Mariner Bank |
| Massachusetts | Agency: Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission<br>CBO: Easter Seals Massachusetts<br>Lender: Sovereign Bank  |
| Michigan      | Agency: Michigan Department of Human Services, Rehabilitation Services<br>CBO: United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan<br>Lender: Option 1 Credit Union   |
| Minnesota     | Agency: Minnesota Department of Administration, STAR Program<br>CBO: Assistive Technology of Minnesota, DBA EquipALife<br>Lenders: Bremer Banks, N.A., Klein Bank, NA, Marshall & Ilsey, NA                 |
| Missouri      | Agency: Missouri Assistive Technology Council<br>CBO: Show Me Loan Application Review Committee<br>Lender: Missouri State Treasurer   |
| Nebraska      | Agency: Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership<br>CBO: Easter Seals Nebraska<br>Lender: First National Bank of Omaha   |

*(Continued on next page)*

**Table 25. Alternative Financing Program Partners Under Title III of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, by State: FY 2010 (Continued)**

| <b>State</b>   | <b>Partners</b>  |
|----------------|--|
| Nevada         | Agency: Department of Health & Human Services, Aging and Disability Services Division<br>CBO: CARE Chest of Sierra Nevada<br>Lenders: Nevada State Bank, First Independent Bank of Nevada          |
| New Mexico     | Agency: New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation<br>CBO: San Juan Center for Independence<br>Lender: Four Corners Community Bank   |
| North Dakota   | Agency: North Dakota Protection and Advocacy<br>CBO: In Transition<br>Lender: To Be Determined   |
| Oklahoma       | Agency: Oklahoma ABLE Tech<br>CBO: Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation<br>Lender: BancFirst of Stillwater   |
| Pennsylvania   | Agency: Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development<br>CBO: Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation<br>Lender: Sovereign Bank, Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation |
| South Carolina | Agency: South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department<br>CBO: Allied Opportunités, Inc.<br>Lender: South Carolina State Credit Union   |
| Utah           | Agency: Center for Persons with Disabilities, Utah State University<br>CBO: Utah Assistive Technology Foundation<br>Lender: Zions First National Bank  |
| Vermont        | Agency: Vermont Department of Aging and Independent Living/Vermont Assistive Technology Project<br>CBO: Opportunities Ventures, Inc.<br>Lender: Opportunities Credit Union                         |
| Virginia       | Agency: Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services<br>CBO: New Well Fund/Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority<br>Lender: SunTrust Bank   |
| Washington     | Agency: Washington Department of Commerce<br>CBO: Washington Access Fund<br>Lender: Washington Access Fund   |

*(Continued on next page)*

**Table 25. Alternative Financing Program Partners Under *Title III* of the *Assistive Technology Act of 1998*, by State: FY 2010 (Continued)**

| State                    | Partners   |
|--------------------------|--|
| Wisconsin                | Agency: Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services<br>CBO: IndependenceFirst<br>Lender: Marshall and Ilsley Bank   |
| Wyoming                  | Agency: Wyoming Institute for Disabilities, University of Wyoming<br>CBO: Wyoming Independent Living Rehabilitation, Inc.<br>Lender: First Interstate Bank of Laramie                            |
| Guam                     | Agency: Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education Research & Service, University of Guam/CEDDERS<br>CBO: Pacific Islands Micro Credit Institute<br>Lender: Bank of Guam |
| Northern Mariana Islands | Agency: CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities<br>CBO: Coalition for Anti-Stigma of Mental Illness in the CNMI (CAMI)<br>Lender: Bank of Saipan  |
| U.S. Virgin Islands      | Agency: University of Virgin Islands, Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities<br>CBO: Virgin Islands Assistive Technology Foundation<br>Lender: Banco Popular de Puerto Rico, Inc.   |

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Note: For purposes of this report, the term *states* includes, in addition to each of the 50 states of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, according to the *Assistive Technology Act of 1998*, Sec. 3(13).

CBO—Community-based organization.

Source: RSA MIS (<http://rsa.ed.gov>). Last accessed July 2011.

## Loan Overview

In FY 2010, 32 AFPs made new loans. Data from these AFPs show that they received 2,612 applications and provided 1,423 loans for a total amount of \$14,938,380. In FY 2009, 32 AFPs also made new loans. During that year, the programs received 2,662 applications and provided 1,468 loans for a total amount of \$15,673,953. The Northern Mariana Islands didn't make any loans in FY 2009 and FY 2010.

Table 26 shows the AFP loan activity by state grantees for FY 2009 and FY 2010.

**Table 26. Alternative Financing Program Loan Applications, Loans Made and Loan Amounts Under *Title III* of the *Assistive Technology Act of 1998*, by State: FY 2009 and FY 2010**

| State          | 2009 Applications Processed (count) | 2009 Loans Made (count) | 2009 Amount of Loans Made (\$) | 2010 Applications Processed (count) | 2010 Loans Made (count) | 2010 Amount of Loans Made (\$) |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Alabama        | 35                                  | 22                      | \$394,644                      | 56                                  | 27                      | \$478,000                      |
| Arizona        | 17                                  | 9                       | \$30,819                       | 14                                  | 7                       | \$20,224                       |
| Arkansas       | 27                                  | 25                      | \$208,562                      | 28                                  | 19                      | \$150,341                      |
| Delaware       | 4                                   | 3                       | \$81,025                       | 2                                   | 1                       | \$22,100                       |
| Florida        | 38                                  | 12                      | \$215,570                      | 59                                  | 20                      | \$298,978                      |
| Georgia        | 95                                  | 30                      | \$384,869                      | 128                                 | 41                      | \$545,365                      |
| Illinois       | 53                                  | 38                      | \$640,030                      | 38                                  | 12                      | \$154,918                      |
| Iowa           | 56                                  | 20                      | \$138,214                      | 30                                  | 11                      | \$67,963                       |
| Kansas         | 345                                 | 190                     | \$2,230,885                    | 161                                 | 103                     | \$1,362,618                    |
| Kentucky       | 158                                 | 80                      | \$881,218                      | 182                                 | 113                     | \$931,134                      |
| Louisiana      | 27                                  | 15                      | \$328,028                      | 57                                  | 26                      | \$546,869                      |
| Maine          | 40                                  | 33                      | \$174,349                      | 33                                  | 32                      | \$377,152                      |
| Maryland       | 124                                 | 47                      | \$497,981                      | 123                                 | 32                      | \$428,102                      |
| Massachusetts  | 119                                 | 67                      | \$1,396,741                    | 129                                 | 72                      | \$1,245,578                    |
| Michigan       | 98                                  | 15                      | \$134,683                      | 104                                 | 18                      | \$151,564                      |
| Minnesota      | 49                                  | 40                      | \$598,348                      | 56                                  | 41                      | \$520,504                      |
| Missouri       | 80                                  | 41                      | \$146,655                      | 86                                  | 42                      | \$188,584                      |
| Nebraska       | 33                                  | 23                      | \$384,206                      | 29                                  | 24                      | \$294,581                      |
| Nevada         | 13                                  | 5                       | \$44,899                       | 16                                  | 6                       | \$85,876                       |
| New Mexico     | 21                                  | 11                      | \$184,893                      | 18                                  | 8                       | \$118,235                      |
| North Dakota   | 12                                  | 10                      | \$161,767                      | 30                                  | 19                      | \$341,909                      |
| Oklahoma       | 88                                  | 73                      | \$378,032                      | 105                                 | 86                      | \$506,203                      |
| Pennsylvania   | 342                                 | 214                     | \$2,361,059                    | 341                                 | 215                     | \$2,576,024                    |
| South Carolina | 28                                  | 8                       | \$123,055                      | 21                                  | 9                       | \$123,574                      |
| Utah           | 153                                 | 105                     | \$570,133                      | 177                                 | 144                     | \$734,058                      |

*(Continued on next page)*

**Table 26. Alternative Financing Program Loan Applications, Loans Made and Loan Amounts Under *Title III* of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, by State: FY 2009 and FY 2010 (Continued)**

| State                    | 2009                           |                         |                                | 2010                           |                         |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                          | Applications Processed (count) | 2009 Loans Made (count) | 2009 Amount of Loans Made (\$) | Applications Processed (count) | 2010 Loans Made (count) | 2010 Amount of Loans Made (\$) |
| Vermont                  | 122                            | 47                      | \$424,290                      | 78                             | 19                      | \$123,103                      |
| Virginia                 | 181                            | 99                      | \$1,006,364                    | 223                            | 109                     | \$1,289,286                    |
| Washington               | 50                             | 33                      | \$130,802                      | 62                             | 35                      | \$124,923                      |
| Wisconsin                | 183                            | 103                     | \$886,510                      | 153                            | 84                      | \$597,017                      |
| Wyoming                  | 32                             | 22                      | \$420,695                      | 33                             | 26                      | \$415,216                      |
| Guam                     | 6                              | 5                       | \$13,689                       | 13                             | 10                      | \$53,346                       |
| Northern Mariana Islands | 0                              | 0                       | --                             | 0                              | 0                       | --                             |
| U.S. Virgin Islands      | 33                             | 23                      | \$100,938                      | 27                             | 12                      | \$65,035                       |
| <b>Totals</b>            | <b>2,662</b>                   | <b>1,468</b>            | <b>\$15,673,953</b>            | <b>2,612</b>                   | <b>1,423</b>            | <b>\$14,938,380</b>            |

<sup>a</sup> Northern Mariana Islands was restructuring its program in FY 2009 and FY 2010 and did not process loans.

Note: For purposes of this report, the term *state* includes, in addition to each of the 50 states of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, according to the *Assistive Technology Act of 1998*, Sec. 3(13).

\*Applications processed\* are those applications for which a decision is made in that particular fiscal year.

Source: RSA MIS (<http://rsa.ed.gov>). Last accessed July 2011.

According to FY 2010 Alternative Financing Program progress reports:

- A. 2,612 financial loan applications were received and processed, and of those, 1,423 loans were made totaling \$14,938,380. An additional 279 loan applications were approved but not made because the consumer declined the offer. The remaining 910 applicants were denied loans. This is a 65 percent approval rate.
- B. 1,045 of the loans (73 percent) were issued by a lender, such as a bank, in partnership with an entity supported by the statewide AT program. These loans provided \$13,008,172 to consumers.
  - 479 (34 percent) of the loans provided by banks or other lenders were guaranteed only, 267 (19 percent) had only an interest rate buy-down, 266 (19 percent) were both guaranteed and had an interest rate buy-down, and 33 (2 percent) had neither a guarantee nor an interest rate buy-down.

- C. 378 of the loans provided (27 percent) were direct loans from revolving loan funds operated by an entity supported by the statewide AT program. These direct loans provided \$1,930,208 to consumers.
- D. The financial loans were used to purchase 1,457 AT devices, primarily vehicles or access to vehicles (80 percent of the dollars loaned) and hearing equipment, such as hearing aids (10 percent of the dollars loaned).
- E. Of the 1,423 loans provided, 67 percent of the applicants lived in metro areas while 33 percent of the applicants lived in non-metro areas.
- F. Of the 910 loan requests that were denied, 63 percent of the applicants were from metro areas and 37 percent were from non-metro areas.
- G. The average loan amount was \$10,498. 35 percent of all loans made were for an amount of \$10,001 or greater, 16 percent were made for an amount of between \$10,000 and \$5,001, 39 percent were made for an amount of between \$5,000 and \$1,001 and 10 percent were made for an amount of \$1,000 or less.
- H. Interest rates of loans made ranged from 0 percent to 10.24 percent. The majority of loans made (71 percent) were with an interest rate that was greater than prime and 29 percent of the loans made were with an interest rate of prime or less.
- I. 142 loans (3.74 percent) went into default out of 3,654 active loans in FY 2010. The net dollar loss on those loans was \$629,652, which is 2.22 percent of the total dollar value of \$27,752,827 in active loans.

### **Characteristics of Borrowers**

Demographic information, including age, gender and disability type, was reported by borrowers for FY 2009 and FY 2010 and is shown in tables 27 and 28. FY 2010 data showed that slightly more males than females were borrowers and that the largest percentage of borrowers (42 percent) were between 50 and 69 years of age.

**Table 27. Number and Percentage of Alternative Financing Program AT Users Under *Title III* of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, by Gender and Age: FY 2009 and FY 2010**

| <b>By Gender</b> |                        |  |                        |  |
|------------------|------------------------|--|------------------------|--|
| <b>Gender</b>    | <b>2009<br/>Number</b> | <b>2009<br/>Percentage of<br/>Approved Loans</b> | <b>2010<br/>Number</b> | <b>2010<br/>Percentage of<br/>Approved Loans</b> |
| Male             | 770                    | 51.57%   | 739                    | 51.43%   |
| Female           | 723                    | 48.43%   | 698                    | 48.57%   |
| <b>By Age</b>    |                        |  |                        |  |
| <b>Age</b>       | <b>2009<br/>Number</b> | <b>2009<br/>Percentage of<br/>Approved Loans</b> | <b>2010<br/>Number</b> | <b>2010<br/>Percentage of<br/>Approved Loans</b> |
| 0–9              | 46                     | 3.08%  | 49                     | 3.41%  |
| 10–19            | 63                     | 4.22%  | 77                     | 5.36%  |
| 20–29            | 139                    | 9.31%  | 130                    | 9.05%  |
| 30–39            | 145                    | 9.71%  | 96                     | 6.68%  |
| 40–49            | 238                    | 15.94%   | 184                    | 12.80%   |
| 50–59            | 297                    | 19.89%   | 308                    | 21.43%   |
| 60–69            | 309                    | 20.70%   | 302                    | 21.02%   |
| 70–79            | 175                    | 11.72%   | 176                    | 12.25%   |
| 80+              | 81                     | 5.43%  | 115                    | 8.00%  |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>1,493</b>           | <b>100%</b>                                      | <b>1,437</b>           | <b>100%</b>                                      |

Source: RSA MIS (<http://rsa.ed.gov>). Last accessed July 2011.

**Table 28. Number and Percentage of Loans Approved for AT Devices Through the Alternative Financing Program Under *Title III* of the *Assistive Technology Act of 1998*, by Type of Disability: FY 2009 and FY 2010**

| <b>Type of Disability</b> | <b>2009 Count</b> | <b>2009 Percentage of Approved Loans</b> | <b>2010 Count</b> | <b>2010 Percentage of Approved Loans</b> |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| Vision                    | 40                | 2.68%                                    | 87                | 6.05%                                    |
| Hearing                   | 383               | 25.65%                                   | 458               | 31.87%                                   |
| Communication             | 82                | 5.49%                                    | 85                | 5.92%                                    |
| Mobility                  | 994               | 66.58%                                   | 876               | 60.96%                                   |
| Handling Objects/Reaching | 53                | 3.55%                                    | 77                | 5.36%                                    |
| Learning New Information  | 112               | 7.50%                                    | 95                | 6.61%                                    |
| Remembering               | 22                | 1.47%                                    | 49                | 3.41%                                    |
| Socialization             | 239               | 16.01%                                   | 234               | 16.28%                                   |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>1,925</b>      | <b>128.93%</b>                           | <b>56</b>         | <b>136.46%</b>                           |

Note: The AT users may have multiple disabilities addressed by the AT purchased with a single AFP loan. Therefore, the count column total exceeds the total approved loans and the percentages calculated based on the approved loan number exceed 100%.

Source: RSA MIS (<http://rsa.ed.gov>). Last accessed July 2011.

### **Types of AT Purchased**

The amount of loan dollars used to purchase AT by device types is shown in table 29. In FY 2009 and FY 2010, the majority of dollars were used to purchase vehicle modifications and transportation devices and hearing devices. The number of devices purchased with approved loans for FY 2009 and FY2010 are shown in Table 30 along with the average loan amount by AT type.

**Table 29. Dollars and Percentage of Dollars Loaned for AT Devices Under Title III of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, by Type of AT: FY 2009 and FY 2010**

| <b>Type of Assistive Technology</b>            | <b>2009 Dollars Loaned</b> | <b>2009 Percentage of Dollars Loaned</b> | <b>2010 Dollars Loaned</b> | <b>2010 Percentage of Dollars Loaned</b> |
|--|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| Vision   | \$130,695                  | 0.84%                                    | \$134,794                  | 0.90%                                    |
| Hearing  | \$1,166,659                | 7.44%                                    | \$1,533,805                | 10.27%                                   |
| Speech Communication                           | \$50,077                   | 0.32%                                    | \$26,593                   | 0.18%                                    |
| Learning, Cognition & Developmental            | \$3,549                    | 0.02%                                    | \$4,428                    | 0.03%                                    |
| Mobility, Seating & Positioning                | \$597,105                  | 3.81%                                    | \$313,082                  | 2.09%                                    |
| Daily Living                                   | \$125,034                  | 0.80%                                    | \$82,121                   | 0.55%                                    |
| Environmental Adaptations & Home Modifications | \$852,565                  | 5.44%                                    | \$685,425                  | 4.59%                                    |
| Vehicle Modifications & Transportation         | \$12,582,821               | 80.28%                                   | \$11,970,507               | 80.13%                                   |
| Computers and Related                          | \$81,972                   | 0.52%                                    | \$51,056                   | 0.34%                                    |
| Recreation, Sports & Leisure                   | \$83,476                   | 0.53%                                    | \$111,569                  | 0.75%                                    |
| Other  | 0                          | 0.00%                                    | \$25,000                   | 0.17%                                    |
| <b>Total</b>                                   | <b>\$15,673,953</b>        | <b>100%</b>                              | <b>\$14,938,380</b>        | <b>100%</b>                              |

Source: RSA MIS (<http://rsa.ed.gov>). Last accessed July 2011.

**Table 30. Number of AT Devices Purchased and Average Amount Loaned Under Title III of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, by Type of AT: FY 2009 and FY 2010**

| Type of Assistive Technology                   | 2009 Devices Purchased | 2009 Average Loan Amount | 2010 Devices Purchased | 2010 Average Loan Amount |
|--|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Vision   | 31                     | \$4,216                  | 41                     | \$3,288                  |
| Hearing  | 347                    | \$3,362                  | 458                    | \$3,349                  |
| Speech Communication                           | 7                      | \$7,154                  | 6                      | \$4,432                  |
| Learning, Cognition & Developmental            | 2                      | \$1,775                  | 4                      | \$1,107                  |
| Mobility, Seating & Positioning                | 126                    | \$4,739                  | 87                     | \$3,599                  |
| Daily Living                                   | 34                     | \$3,677                  | 32                     | \$2,566                  |
| Environmental Adaptations & Home Modifications | 113                    | \$7,545                  | 92                     | \$7,450                  |
| Vehicle Modifications & Transportation         | 767                    | \$16,405                 | 674                    | \$17,760                 |
| Computers and Related                          | 64                     | \$1,281                  | 47                     | \$1,086                  |
| Recreation, Sports & Leisure                   | 9                      | \$9,275                  | 15                     | \$7,438                  |
| Other  | 0                      |                          | 1                      | \$25,000                 |
| <b>Total</b>                                   | <b>1,500</b>           | <b>\$10,449</b>          | <b>1,457</b>           | <b>\$10,253</b>          |

Source: RSA MIS (<http://rsa.ed.gov>). Last accessed July 2011.

## SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES FOR AT LOAN RECIPIENTS

AFPs have provided loans to help people with disabilities access all types of assistive technology. The success stories presented in this section, collected from anecdotes submitted in the annual progress reports for FY 2009 or FY 2010, show how AFPs have provided individuals with disabilities with an essential lending resource for the purchase of AT that has aided their participation at work, school and home and in community settings.

### Arizona Loan\$ for Assistive Technology Program—Helping Maintain Employment

Maintaining employment is often a vital part of independence and, in Arizona, a man with low vision who was employed but could not drive found that he was in jeopardy of losing his job. City transportation services were limited along the route from his home to his workplace. He knew he would need assistance. The man contacted Arizona Loan\$ for

Assistive Technology (AzLAT). Through this program, he was able to apply for a loan at favorable interest rates, which would allow him to afford telescope glasses. These glasses would allow him to drive himself and no longer be reliant on public transportation. Thanks to the assistance of this program, the man was approved for the amount needed to purchase his glasses, and he immediately enrolled in driver's education classes. Still employed, the man is now able to drive himself to and from work.

The AzLAT program helps residents of Arizona afford the devices they need to maintain independent lives. It is housed within and operated by the Northern Arizona University Institute for Human Development.

### **The Guam Options for Alternative Loans—Keeping Families Together**

As young people who have disabilities continue to grow and mature, caregivers often find it more and more difficult to independently care for them, as in the case of a young woman from Guam. Due to the young woman's increasing size and weight, through normal growth and development, her caregiver no longer had the strength to transfer her from a wheelchair into the family vehicle. This meant that the young woman was often unable to participate in family outings.

Through referral information from the University of Guam, the young woman's family soon learned of the assistive device options available, such as turning car seats and wheelchair hoists. The young woman and her family applied for financing through the Guam Options for Alternative Loans—Assistive Technology (GOAL-AT) program. They were able to get a \$30,000 loan at an interest rate of 2.25 percent, which could be repaid over seven years. Thanks to the favorable terms offered through GOAL-AT, this young woman was able to afford a new vehicle with the adaptations needed to accommodate her wheelchair. She feels as though a level of normalcy has returned, and she is able to fully participate in all that life has to offer.

The GOAL-AT Program, which is housed within the University of Guam, has helped scores of Guam residents with disabilities afford the devices they need to keep their independence.

### **Illinois Loans for Independent Living—Strengthening Communities**

Through volunteering at a local hospital, an Illinois woman with vision impairments felt as though she was able to give back to her community. However, she often found it difficult to read printed information while at her volunteer position, or even for personal business. She was unable to afford an assistive technology device on her own, and past credit stumbles led her to believe that she would not be able to get financing.

Through the Illinois Loans for Independent Living Program, she applied, and was approved, for a low-interest loan to purchase a handheld magnifier device, as well as an update for her computer screen magnifier program. The woman even installed the screen reader program on the computer she used while volunteering at the hospital. After seeing how effective this technology was, hospital administrators purchased multiple versions of

this program for other full-time employees' use. This program has not only helped this volunteer continue her work, but also assists other employees to keep their jobs.

The Illinois Loans for Independent Living Program assists individuals with maintaining their independence and increasing their credit worthiness through both personal and small business loans.

### **The Maryland Assistive Technology Loan Program—Smoothing Out Communication**

Sometimes a person with a disability will feel very self-conscious, and those feelings can lead to isolation and being cut off from others. In Maryland, a man with a significant stutter began working with a local hearing and speech agency when he was evaluated for and recommended to use the Speech Easy System. This is a device that helps an individual reduce stuttering and communicate effectively. The cost of these systems can be prohibitive for many people as a signature loan can easily cost 18 percent in interest through a local lender.

This man was referred to the Maryland AT Loan Program, where he was able to secure a low-interest loan at only 3 percent to purchase the Speech Easy System. The program allowed this man to afford the device, and enabled him to increase his fluency and decrease stuttering. He reports feeling much more social and confident at home and in the workplace.

For the past 10 years, the Maryland Assistive Technology Loan Program has helped individuals with disabilities secure low interest financing to purchase those devices necessary to maintain independence. It is administered by the Maryland Technology Assistance Program (MTAP).

### **Missouri Alternative Financing Loan Program—Strengthening Clients' Lives**

In Missouri, a man acquired a traumatic brain injury in a vehicle accident. As a result, he experienced paralysis on his left side and was gradually losing more function. He found he could use an adapted spinning cycle to increase the strength in his legs and get some additional exercise. He approached the Missouri Show Me Loan Program for a loan to purchase a cycle, as he was not able to get credit or a loan from other sources due to a bankruptcy seven years prior as a result of the accident.

Since that time the man worked to rebuild his credit and the loan review committee approved him for a loan. The man took out a two-year loan for \$1,076 with a 3 percent interest rate. After several months of exercising using the cycle, the borrower reports that the cycle has helped him regain some balance and strength. He feels that the loan and resulting AT "has positively impacted every aspect of (his) life." He continues to use the spinning bicycle and keeps his left side as strong as he can.

The Show Me Loan Program offers affordable loans at below market rate to consumers with disabilities in Missouri. It helps its borrowers build credit through repayment of loans. The financial loan program is administered by the Missouri Assistive Technology Program.

### **Virginia NewWell Fund—Providing Accessible Housing**

Many individuals do not realize they can remain in their homes after acquiring a disability or a medical diagnosis that ultimately leads to a permanent disabling condition. A Virginia woman was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1990 and three years later was forced to move into a nursing facility. She used a wheelchair for mobility and needed access to a roll-in shower chair.

The woman and her son applied for a loan from the Virginia NewWell Fund to purchase an accessible vehicle and to modify the bathroom to accommodate the mother's mobility limitations. They were given a \$13,000 five-year loan with a 5 percent interest rate. Because of the loan, the mother has been able to return home from the nursing facility where she lived for over 10 years. Her son reports "She can take a shower and not have to be bathed in bed. With the modified van, she can visit her family in the northern part of the state, which she was not able to do previously."

The NewWell Fund has been in existence since 1995 and has helped thousands of Virginians with disabilities afford their assistive technology of choice.

### **Washington Access Fund—Filling Funding Needs Not Met by Insurance**

A teacher in Washington realized her hearing aids were failing and she could no longer effectively communicate with students and staff. With hearing aids costing several thousands of dollars she was panicked and unsure how to pay for them. Upon exploring her options, she learned that neither her health insurance nor Vocational Rehabilitation would cover the cost of her hearing aids. She applied to the Washington Access Fund for a loan. Her application was approved with a monthly payment plan that fit her budget.

She received a three-year loan with a 5.25 percent interest rate. The woman was able to maintain her employment as a teacher and repaid her loan on time. She says, "You need to know that hearing aid costs are not typically covered by insurance. That is why WATF is so important! They offer a great option for people with hearing loss who are unable to pay for the cost of hearing aids up front."

The Washington Access Fund is a service of the Washington Assistive Technology Foundation. The Access Fund offers extensive outreach services to inform consumers with disabilities about the availability of loans for AT needs.

Table 31 on the next page shows a ten-year data summary of loans for assistive technology devices.

**Table 31. Number of Loans Made for Assistive Technology Devices, and the Amount and Average Amount Loaned Through Alternative Financing Programs: FY 2000–10**

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Number of Loans Made</b> | <b>Dollars Loaned</b> | <b>Average Loan Amount</b> |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 2000        | 88                          | \$1,161,710           | \$13,201                   |
| 2001        | 271                         | \$2,462,842           | \$9,088                    |
| 2002        | 604                         | \$6,219,142           | \$10,297                   |
| 2003        | 829                         | \$8,843,075           | \$10,667                   |
| 2004        | 1,218                       | \$11,909,123          | \$9,778                    |
| 2005        | 1,227                       | \$13,913,373          | \$11,339                   |
| 2006        | 1,281                       | \$14,539,411          | \$11,350                   |
| 2007        | 1,404                       | \$18,021,789          | \$12,836                   |
| 2008        | 1,377                       | \$15,622,494          | \$11,345                   |
| 2009        | 1,468                       | \$15,673,953          | \$10,677                   |
| 2010        | 1,423                       | \$14,938,380          | \$10,498                   |

Source: Annual Report to Congress on the AT Act for Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010 and RSA MIS (<http://rsa.ed.gov>). Last accessed July 2011.

## **CONCLUSION**

In their 10 years of operation, AFPs have served individuals with disabilities throughout the nation by providing increased acquisition of assistive technology through affordable loans. The foundational investment of \$60.3 million in federal funding from FY 2000 through FY 2006, with associated state matches of \$22 million, has resulted in 11,190 financial loans totaling \$123.3 million to individuals with disabilities and their families to purchase assistive technology. Due to the successes described above, it is anticipated that the Alternative Financing Program will continue to be effectively utilized to meet the specific assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities and their families.



## **PART III**

# **SECTION 5 OF THE *ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998*, AS AMENDED: PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM**

## **PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PERFORMANCE FOR FY 2009**

Through the programs and activities described in this report, Congress and the federal government are doing much to improve opportunities for employment and community integration for persons with disabilities. However, full independence cannot be achieved if individuals are not able to protect their rights under the law. Recognizing this need, Congress has created a number of programs to assist and advocate on behalf of individuals with disabilities. Several of these programs are administered by RSA and include the Client Assistance Program (CAP), the Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights (PAIR) program and the Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT) program. Each of these programs directs its advocacy efforts to a particular group of persons with disabilities or to a specific issue. This section of the annual report provides data and information concerning the activities and performance of the PAAT program. Information pertaining to the CAP and PAIR programs is contained in the *Annual Report to Congress on the Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, as amended.

The PAAT program is a mandatory component of the protection and advocacy (P & A) system, established in each of the 56 states and territories. In addition, the PAAT program helps to fund a P & A system to serve the American Indian consortium pursuant to Part C of the *Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000* (DD Act). The 57 PAAT programs provide information, advocacy and legal representation to individuals with disabilities who are seeking funding for an AT device or service, regardless of the type of disability. PAAT program activities are driven by a fundamental goal: To get appropriate AT devices and services into the hands of individuals with disabilities in a timely manner. When appropriate, this goal should include ensuring that the AT devices or services are obtained at no cost or at a limited cost to the individual. To a lesser extent, PAAT program activities are directed toward ensuring that any individual with a disability can benefit from AT devices supplied by public or private entities to allow that individual to fully participate in or benefit from the services offered by the entity in question.

PAAT grantees receive a minimum allotment of \$50,000 in federal funds each year, except Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the American Indian consortium, each of which receive a minimum allotment of \$30,000. Additional funds are awarded on the basis of population. PAAT programs are generally staffed by both attorneys and non-attorney advocates, with advocates handling the bulk of the casework. Typically, attorneys handle litigation, complex systemic issues and administrative hearings. Advocates carry out activities such as outreach, intake, technical assistance, information and referral, and non-litigation advocacy under an attorney's supervision (including administrative hearings in some states).

Total federal funding for the PAAT program in FY 2009 was \$4.3 million. That amount went to 57 different state, territory, and American Indian P & A agencies.

## **Case Services for FY 2009**

The heart of PAAT work lies with the direct services to individuals with disabilities. This work includes both information and referral services (generally very brief contacts by telephone) and individual representation. Individual representation cases include negotiated resolutions, complaints to governmental agencies, administrative hearings and litigation. In some cases, the resolution of a case issue for one person also results in changing a policy that will impact on many other individuals.

During FY 2009, PAAT programs reported representing 2,255 individuals and responded to 6,388 requests for information or referral. Of the cases handled by PAAT programs in that year, the greatest number of specified issues involved healthcare (37 percent), education (25 percent), and architectural accessibility (10 percent). The programs, collectively, served a very diverse range of children and adults with physical, cognitive, neurological and sensory disabilities. Additionally, in FY 2009, 1,407 individuals received one or more AT devices or services as a result of PAAT casework. Of the AT devices or services received as a result of PAAT casework in that year, the greatest number of specified AT devices or services involved mobility (29 percent), school learning (11 percent) and communication (10 percent). The overwhelming majority of individuals served obtained either a fully favorable outcome or partially favorable outcome as a result of PAAT services.

## **Case Resolution Highlights for FY 2009**

### **Virginia**

The Virginia PAAT program represented a 16-year-old student with autism who is non-verbal. The student had a broken augmentative communication board, a device used to assist people to express themselves, which was paid for by the school. The client's mother was not pleased that the board was broken and her child had no means to communicate. Additionally, the mother had doubts about the effectiveness of the board for her child. As a result of the PAAT program's advocacy, the client's board was immediately repaired and given back to the child. Additionally, using the strength of the new educational evaluation language in the regulations, a new assessment was requested and carried out by the school to determine if another device was more appropriate for the client. As a result, the student was given new AT, including a more suitable communication board.

### **Illinois**

The largest school district in Illinois was not providing appropriate access to a student's father who has multiple sclerosis and uses a wheelchair. The high school and the district's administration building had multiple physical access barriers. This lack of accessibility prevented students with disabilities, as well as family members and members of the public with disabilities, from accessing certain school and district activities and events. The Illinois PAAT program filed a complaint against the school

district with the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (DOE-OCR) on behalf of students with disabilities as well as all members of the public with disabilities who wished to attend events held within this school district's facilities. A comprehensive settlement agreement between the school district and DOE-OCR was finalized in March 2009, which addressed widespread accessibility concerns.

In another example, the Illinois PAAT program (and other P & A staff) took on a longstanding *Americans with Disabilities Act* case on behalf of nine individuals and one organizational plaintiff to address the failure of the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) to make its buses and trains accessible to people with disabilities. When settled, the case was converted to a class action. The settlement agreement required various improvements to the CTA, including automated audio/visual announcements on buses, extensive train station elevator rehabilitation and extended repair hours, increased staff to monitor disability issues, and revised complaint and disciplinary policies. PAAT monitoring of the settlement continued during FY 2009 through meetings with the CTA to discuss the use of a \$500,000 Operational Improvement Fund to address accessibility issues beyond those delineated in the settlement agreement, including installation of accessible signage directing CTA customers to call the Control Center if the elevator is not functioning, development and marketing of a video explaining all of the CTA's accessibility, which is currently posted on the CTA website, and improvements to CTA's public address system to allow for the broadcast of audio and visual messages to CTA customers at CTA rail stations.

## **Iowa**

The Iowa PAAT program represented a 3-year-old child with congenital quadriplegia, profound mental retardation and a seizure disorder. He was in foster care, pending adoption. The child's foster family was waiting for the acquisition of an enclosed safety bed before finalizing the adoption proceedings. The PAAT program assisted the client in obtaining the bed, and the family was able to finalize the adoption.

## **California**

The California PAAT program participated in meetings and negotiations with the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) about the provision of wheelchairs for Medi-Cal (Medicaid) recipients. Some individuals with disabilities need custom wheelchairs because of unique medical or physical needs. DHCS proposed a process that would have required people to use only a limited number of vendors and thereby severely restrict the availability of custom wheelchairs. Due to the PAAT program's input and advocacy, DHCS decided not to go forward with that process. One of the people who would have been negatively affected by the restriction is a man with quadriplegia who receives Medicare and Medi-Cal, and who had been using a heavy-duty front-wheel-drive power wheelchair for 25 years, which allowed close accessibility to his workspace, eating, toileting and counter-top areas. The front wheel system had a tighter turning radius, enabling him to use his van and function in his home, and the wheelchair had other features that the client needs, such as a power recliner for pressure relief and

bladder management and a seat elevator, which allowed him to reach his files and desktop items using mouth sticks. When his current wheelchair began to give him problems, he was evaluated by a physical therapist for a new chair. Medicare would not approve the recommended wheelchair because it determined that it was not necessary. Medi-Cal also refused to approve the wheelchair, but instead approved one that did not have the appropriate suspension to be able to absorb vibrations and jostling, which is necessary to help control the severe chronic pain the client experiences in his neck, shoulders and back. The PAAT program advocated on the client's behalf and the wheelchair was approved. If the proposed DHCS restrictions had been implemented, the client would have encountered additional barriers, including a limited number of vendors who might not have been able to provide him with the custom wheelchair he needed to live independently in his community.

### **Connecticut**

The Connecticut PAAT program filed a lawsuit against a Canadian company that had sold and installed a defective porch lift. After various attempts to resolve this case through negotiation, a lawsuit was filed and the defendant company defaulted by failing to answer it. After a damages hearing, the client was awarded full compensation to cover the cost of the lift. A Canadian firm was then hired to collect the funds, and several months later the award was collected and paid to the individual who now has the money to replace the lift or purchase alternative AT.

### **Maine**

In Maine, MaineCare (the Medicaid program) revised its policy that barred funding of AT utilizing microprocessors and adopted a policy allowing for a case-by-case review of funding or reimbursement for such devices. This decision resulted, in part, from the PAAT program's representation of a man who used a C-leg, a microprocessor controlled knee prosthesis, as well as a string of prior cases in which PAAT was involved pertaining to the non-funding of microprocessor technology.

### **Ohio**

In Ohio, the PAAT program reported that the parents of a young child with a cochlear implant asked the school to stop signing and use more speech so the child's speech skills would develop. The school wished to continue to use an FM system to augment teachers' speech; however, the child would have then needed to wear a device that interfered with the implant. The dispute was resolved in the child's favor, with his teachers accommodating his learning needs and favored communication method.

In another example, in Ohio, several individuals with disabilities sought designated parking spaces at their condominiums, but this accommodation was refused by their condominium association. The PAAT program assisted the clients in filing a charge of housing discrimination with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission (OCRC) and prepared a complaint to be filed in federal district court alleging discrimination under the federal *Fair*

*Housing Act.* At that point the condominium association entered into a conciliation agreement under OCRC and promptly installed designated parking signs on the spaces directly in front of each individual's respective unit.

## **Oregon**

In Oregon, a woman went to a local hospital voluntarily for psychiatric care. The hospital would not permit her to bring her motorized scooter, which she requires due to back and leg pain. She was also denied the use of a wheelchair for most of her stay. The client was concerned about the hospital policy for the use of scooters and wheelchairs for patients on the psychiatric ward and that the hospital staff does not believe patients about their medical needs. The PAAT program attorney obtained the hospital policy on wheelchairs and scooters from the Mental Health Program director. The PAAT attorney suggested revisions to the policy that would specifically incorporate ADA requirements and an interactive process, including believing the patient who indicates he or she needs a wheelchair or other AT device. The hospital changed its policy to meet ADA requirements and trained staff to be more patient focused.

## **Minnesota**

In Minnesota, a man diagnosed with multiple sclerosis obtained a standing device to use in his home therapy program. However, his home care agency refused to help him transfer in and out of the device. As a result, he could not use it. The PAAT program contacted the home care agency. The home care agency agreed to train its staff and provide the necessary assistance for the client to use the standing device as recommended by his rehabilitation therapist.

## **Wisconsin**

The Wisconsin PAAT program attorneys, in collaboration with other P & A attorneys, commenced litigation because the Milwaukee public schools were failing to timely identify and evaluate children for special education services or were not identifying them at all. As a result, children that needed special education supports and services were not getting them. This litigation, if passed, will help children get needed supports and services including AT. Many children in need of AT could potentially be affected by changes resulting from the litigation.

## **Vermont**

The Vermont PAAT program initiated an administrative hearing involving the state Medicaid agency's interpretation of the term "suitable for use in the home" in relation to wheelchairs and other mobility devices. The hearing found that the state's definition was too narrow in scope. The PAAT program then negotiated with the state on revisions to its policy. As a result of negotiations a more expansive interpretive memo was issued creating greater access to wheelchairs and other mobility devices.

## Training Activity Highlights for FY 2009

P & A agencies offer training sessions for individuals with disabilities, their families, service provider staff and other attorneys/advocates. Training takes many forms, including in person and distance learning (e.g., teleconferences and Web-based training), short presentations and full- or multi-day conferences. Nearly every PAAT project devotes some resources to training. The intent of these activities is most often to increase awareness about how AT gets funded so that individuals with disabilities are more likely to obtain appropriate AT devices and services on a timely basis.

During FY 2009, PAAT programs reported delivering 1,512 training sessions to 67,450 persons. (See Table 32— Number of AT Information and Referral Services, and Training Activities Provided, and Individuals Served: FY 2009 and FY 2010.)

- The Alabama PAAT program did a one-day conference in Birmingham for the purpose of educating and convincing home builders, policymakers, architects, housing authority administrators and real estate agents that new homes and apartments in Alabama should be built with “visitability” features (defined as a home having at least one entrance with no more than a half inch threshold, one restroom on the main floor large enough to accommodate a wheelchair, following the *Americans with Disabilities Act* measurements, and all doorways being at least 32 inches wide).
- The Arizona PAAT program presented “Your Rights to Assistive Technology for Voting” for secretary of state election officer training in Phoenix. The training focused on voting accessibility requirements under the *Help America Vote Act* and related federal laws. It provided information on how to use accessible voting equipment, as well as the right to use AT in the voting booth.
- The Maryland PAAT program trained social workers who serve children with disabilities in the foster care system on the topic of special education, including access to AT through the special education system, so that the social workers can better advocate for the foster children's needs.
- The Northern Mariana Islands PAAT program collaborated with its other P & A programs to conduct a number of trainings, including one for 20 taxi drivers from the Saipan City Taxi Association, about the *Americans with Disabilities Act* and its relevance to transporting persons who may require special accommodations.
- The Tennessee PAAT program reported a training on creating an AT device use plan within the special education system’s transition plan (i.e., for students who will move from the public school to adult activities, including higher education, vocational training, work and independent living), accessing vocational rehabilitation services as a part of transition, the legal issues of transition and example of cases from across the country on the issue. Attendees included educators and school administrators.

## FY 2009 Significant Accomplishments and Collaborations

Some PAAT programs have used approaches other than case representation to further the goals of getting more AT devices into the hands of the end user. These have included innovative outreach strategies, serving on key boards and committees, and a range of collaborative activities to maximize the outcome from the investment of PAAT resources.

- The Idaho PAAT program participated in a year-long, interstate project with Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse and the Eastern Washington Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing, which addressed issues faced by people with disabilities in rural counties of Idaho and Eastern Washington who live with or under the threat of domestic violence (DV) or sexual assault. Many of the areas addressed focused on the lack of available AT interventions (e.g., phone systems for the hearing impaired, alternative formats, hand rails, magnifiers, adapted keyboards) within DV shelters and service centers. The group continues to work toward providing resources, information and funding for requested AT in area DV shelters and service centers.
- The Michigan PAAT program (and its larger P & A agency) joined social media and launched a Facebook page as an outreach strategy to the younger-aged disability population.
- The Arkansas PAAT Program has been involved with ICAN (Increasing Capabilities Access Network), the state *AT Act* program, since its inception. ICAN and PAAT do a good job of sending each other referrals and communicating about relevant AT trends and issues to help each other develop annual advocacy and systemic plans and activities. Maintaining collaborative networks such as the Arkansas Parent Information Exchange (ARPIE) listserv and having ARPIE meetings helps individuals with disabilities keep up with parent groups, training and support group activities, and knowledge about local and state resources. The P & A initiated ARPIE as an Internet Message Board for Special Education several years ago and had great success opening information avenues through its website to parents throughout the state with special education and AT issues.
- The Missouri PAAT program worked collaboratively with a number of organizations to secure AT devices and services for their clients. The organizations included RUSK Rehabilitation Center; AT Evaluation Center: Rehabilitation Institute; Mt. Vernon Rehabilitation Center; Department of Special Education; Autism Support Groups; Southwest Missouri University AT Department; United Seating and Mobility; Vocational Rehabilitation, Kansas City and St. Louis areas; Missouri AT Project; Children's Hospital, St. Louis; and the Don Johnson Technical Support Representatives for MO.
- The South Dakota PAAT Program maintains links with key agencies that deal with AT issues. These include the state Ombudsman Program within the state Department of Social Services created under the *Older Americans Act*, the Center for Disabilities at the University of South Dakota's Sanford School of

Medicine, the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities, the state Mental Health Planning and Coordination Advisory Council, the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Board for Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired, and other advocacy and information-providing agencies. These include Parent Connection (state Department of Education parent training program) and the Family Support Council within the Department of Human Services Division of Developmental Disabilities; and, agencies providing direct services, including state independent living centers (ILC), state Division of Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired, state health services offices within the state Department of Health, and Children's Care Hospital and School (pediatric orthopedic and convalescence hospital). The contacts vary in manner, type, and scope depending on the activity and situation. The PAAT agency's staff members also serve on several key boards, councils and commissions involving some of these same agencies. This provides an excellent opportunity to focus upon and raise AT issues and discussions to expand AT visibility and capacity in the state.

- The Florida PAAT program, in collaboration with staff at its state *AT Act* Program and Hyatt Hotels, developed a DVD/video, "Imagine the Possibilities," that highlights Hyatt employees with disabilities using AT in the workplace. This highly acclaimed video will be used to train hiring managers and human resource professionals to recruit persons with disabilities who will use AT in the workplace. Hyatt placed the video on its website and agreed to incorporate the video into its employee training for all hiring managers and human resources professionals to increase awareness of the talents of workers with disabilities and show how technology has been used to provide employment opportunities. The video and activities associated with it have led to an expansion to other Hyatt properties to utilize AT in the workplace for employees with disabilities and to new temporary and permanent positions.
- The Virginia PAAT program reorganized so that individuals with traumatic brain injury (TBI) may make use of a wider variety of AT devices and services. It drafted and distributed an article explaining TBI and its prevalence among military men and women in Virginia. It was distributed to the Paralyzed Veterans of America, a support group for veterans with spinal cord and brain injuries.

## FY 2009 Outreach to Underserved Populations

P & A agencies and their PAAT programs try to reach all potential client populations. They may face the challenges associated with reaching individuals living in remote parts of a state, individuals who speak a language other than English, individuals from a racial or ethnic minority, and individuals who are recent immigrants. Many PAAT programs reported innovative strategies to reach out to various hard-to-reach client groups.

- During FY 2009, the Alaska PAAT program continued to focus on serving the homeless population in its state. It participated in three different outreach events, including one specifically targeted to homeless veterans. These events are coordinated with many different kinds of service providers and are heavily attended. The Alaska P & A system is the only agency in the state providing legal advocacy, including information on an individual's potential right to access AT.
- A number of PAAT programs reported that they targeted the Native American community in some fashion. Nebraska reported a partnership with elders and members of the Winnebago reservation to conduct regular legal clinics serving people from the Winnebago, Omaha, Ponca, and Santee Sioux tribes. Montana reached out to Native American communities by providing and sponsoring disability rights and awareness trainings. North Dakota established a regional office on the Turtle Mountain reservation, staffed by an advocate who is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewas. Staff from the Maine PAAT program participated in a health and public services information fair held at the Micmac native tribe community center in Presque Isle, Maine. The New Mexico Native American Law Center collaborated with the Navajo Nation Head Start to train families of children with disabilities about the procedural safeguards and transitional services available under the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*.
- The Utah PAAT program targeted outreach at the Mexican consulate in Salt Lake City. Ten visits were made to the consulate, with approximately 250 people at each event. This was done in an open setting, similar to an information table, but requiring pro-active engagement with the Mexican nationals waiting for appointments with consulate officials.
- The Wyoming PAAT program distributed 110 CDs describing P & A agency services, including those of the PAAT program. The CD was produced in Shoshone, Arapaho and English languages as an outreach effort. Information on PAAT program services is available in Spanish, large print, and Braille, and has been made available in other alternate formats, including on the P & A website.

## **PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PERFORMANCE FOR FY 2010**

Total federal funding for the PAAT program in FY 2010 was again \$4.3 million. That amount went to 57 different state, territory and American Indian P & A agencies.

### **Case Services for FY 2010**

The heart of PAAT program activity during FY 2010 continued to lie with the direct services to individuals with disabilities. This work includes both information and referral services (generally very brief contacts by telephone) and individual representation. Individual representation cases include negotiated resolutions, complaints to governmental agencies, administrative hearings and litigation. In some cases, the resolution of a case issue for one person also results in changing a policy that will impact many other individuals.

During FY 2010, PAAT programs reported representing 2,317 individuals and responded to 3,687 requests for information or referrals. Of the cases handled by PAAT programs in that year, the greatest number of specified issues involved healthcare (34 percent), education (24 percent) and architectural accessibility (12 percent). The PAATs, collectively, continued to serve a very diverse range of children and adults with physical, cognitive, neurological and sensory disabilities. Additionally in FY 2010, 1,514 individuals received one or more AT devices or services as a result of PAAT casework. Of these devices or services received as a result of PAAT casework in that year, the greatest number involved mobility (24 percent), communication (11 percent), and school learning (11 percent). The overwhelming majority of individuals served in FY 2010 obtained either a fully favorable outcome or partially favorable outcome as a result of PAAT services. (See tables 32 and 33.)

### **Case Resolution Highlights for FY 2010**

- The Missouri PAAT program represented the mother of a 12-year-old boy with Asperger's Syndrome, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, Tourette's syndrome, and depression. The mother asked for assistance to help her in the special education program's individualized education plan (IEP) meeting, so that the school would find alternative AT that her child could use in his writing. The mother did not know what was available. The child did not like (or use) the device he currently had. The PAAT advocate sought an AT evaluation for the student, which the school agreed to provide. The school's evaluation indicated that the child had AT needs for both reading and math. The school purchased the new AT devices recommended in the evaluation on a trial basis. The child had so much success with the trial devices that the school planned to write the AT into his IEP for the coming year.
- The Tennessee PAAT program successfully resolved a complaint against a local entertainment venue and a nationally known speaker regarding the availability of assistive listening devices (ALDs) for individuals who are hard of hearing. Due to

a lack of communication between venue staff and the speaker's staff, ALDs were not made available during an event. As a result, individuals who were hard of hearing and needed ALDs to enjoy the event did not have full access to the event. As a result of the PAAT program's work, the arena agreed to provide appropriate training to staff and signage for patrons as to the location of ALDs provided by the arena in order ensure full access to ALDs for patrons with hearing impairments. They have also implemented procedures to ensure that the technology necessary for the ALDs is used at all future events. Additionally, the speaker's organization is exploring the possibility of making its own ALDs available for use by patrons with hearing impairments.

- The Georgia PAAT program represented a man in his 20s who lived in a nursing facility. The man used a sheet of paper with the alphabet written out to point to letters to form words and sentences. The PAAT program successfully advocated for him to be evaluated for and receive a speech device. During a stay in the hospital, the nursing facility did not send the man's speech device with him. He was without it in the hospital for five days before the PAAT program was notified. The program then contacted the nursing facility requesting he receive it immediately to enable him able to participate in his treatment decisions. The man moved out of the facility in March 2010 and he has used his speech device to give presentations to families, providers, and state employees about his experience in a nursing facility.
- The Iowa PAAT program filed suit against a contractor who built a defective ramp to the entrance of the client's home. Despite representations by the contractor that he was familiar with "ADA guidelines," the contractor built the ramp with a slope that was far too steep to make it usable. At the trial, the city's building inspector testified that the ramp, as built, violated numerous building code requirements. The court ruled in favor of the client, determining that the contractor had breached an express warranty that the ramp would be appropriate for her use and an implied warranty of fitness for a particular purpose. The court entered judgment for all payments she had already made as well as the cost to have the ramp removed.
- The Maryland PAAT program reported that Medicaid recipients were not able to get augmentative communication devices. They performed a thorough survey of the Medicaid managed care organizations' (MCOs) special needs coordinators and found that most of the MCOs could not explain how their members could obtain assessments for augmentative communication devices. Also, many special needs coordinators believed, incorrectly, that these devices were not a covered service for individuals. The PAAT agency met with state Medicaid officials and, after negotiation, settled on a policy that augmentative communication assessments are the responsibility of the MCOs, but the devices would be provided by Medicaid fee-for-service providers.
- The Minnesota Medicaid program denied coverage for functional electrical stimulation (FES) therapy using an adapted FES bicycle. An FES bicycle provides electrical stimulation to selected muscles in the arms or legs causing the muscles

to activate and provide exercise and therapeutic benefits. The basis of the denial was that the therapy was experimental and did not provide any medical benefit. Through its administrative hearing process, the PAAT program submitted evidence showing improvement in muscle strength, endurance, cardio-respiratory responses, cardiac responses, and blood pressure for people utilizing FES therapy. Based on this evidence, the Medicaid agency concluded that FES therapy provides numerous medical benefits and reversed its non-coverage decision.

- In North Carolina, a child with cerebral palsy who uses a power wheelchair was denied a wheelchair with a standing feature which would allow her to be more independent and accomplish more activities of daily living on her own. The Medicaid agency claimed it was not medically necessary. The PAAT staff represented the individual in a two-day administrative hearing. Thereafter, the administrative law judge (ALJ) ruled in the client's favor, ordering the Medicaid agency to pay for the power wheelchair with standing features. However, the state Medicaid agency overturned the ALJ's decision in its final decision, again denying approval. The PAAT program appealed to Superior Court and obtained a favorable ruling reversing the agency's decision.
- The North Dakota PAAT advocate helped the mother of a 3-year-old Native American child residing on a reservation to successfully appeal Medicaid's denial of funding for a wheelchair for her child. Without a wheelchair, the mother had to carry the child everywhere—an increasing challenge as the child continued to grow.
- Wyoming Division of Vocational Rehabilitation counselors were failing to consider AT for persons seeking to gain, maintain, or regain employment. Failure to consider AT devices and services in this setting reduced the potential for employment by some persons with disabilities. As a direct result of PAAT staff advocacy, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation trained its managers and counselors on the need to consider AT for disabled individuals.

### **Training Activity Highlights for FY 2010**

P & A agencies offer training sessions for individuals with disabilities, their families, service provider staff, and other attorneys/advocates. Training takes many forms, including in-person and distance learning (e.g., teleconferences and Web-based training), short presentations and full- or multi-day conferences. Nearly every PAAT program devotes some resources to training. The intent of these activities is most often to increase awareness about how AT gets funded so that individuals with disabilities are more likely to obtain appropriate AT devices and services on a timely basis. During FY 2010, PAAT programs reported delivering 1,527 training sessions to 67,250 persons. (See Table 32—Number of AT Information and Referral Services, and Training Activities Provided, and Individuals Served: FY 2009 and FY 2010.)

- The American Samoa PAAT program reported a Special Education Academy Training held at the Tradewinds Hotel in Tafuna. Topics included an elaboration on various AT devices available in schools for the students with disabilities. Attendees included clients, teachers, caregivers, and a variety of other service providers.

- The Massachusetts PAAT program is working with the Boston Red Sox baseball organization to ensure stadium access for people with disabilities. The program trained Boston Red Sox staff, ushers, ticket takers and security personnel on the legal requirements under *Title III* of the ADA for places of public accommodation, reasonable accommodation for fans with disabilities, and etiquette tips regarding interacting with and accommodating fans with disabilities. Also, over the past several years, large-scale accommodation renovations have been conducted at Fenway Park stadium and, during FY 2010, the PAAT program continued its involvement and technical assistance in the planning process, providing guidance and feedback on issues of physical and architectural access as well as visual and communication access.
- The New Mexico PAAT program provided training to parents and advocates at the "Steps to Success" conference, a conference for Native American families in northwestern New Mexico. The training covered advocacy methods, rights, and AT-related issues.
- The Oregon PAAT program did two trainings on video remote interpreting (VRI). The purpose of the training was to discuss with the deaf community how VRI can help with effective communications in institutions like hospitals. The attendees were individuals who are deaf and interested in improving communication in accessing community services.
- The Virgin Islands PAAT program trained voters with disabilities and senior citizens on voting devices for persons with visual and mobility impairments. The purpose of the training was to educate voters about the availability of audio-Braille devices that the Virgin Island Election System made available during the primary and general elections. Election officials were also trained on how to make the face of the electronic ballot more accessible for persons with impaired tactile function.

### **FY 2010 Significant Accomplishments and Collaborations**

Some PAAT programs have used approaches other than case representation to further the goals of getting more AT devices into the hands of the end user. These have included innovative outreach strategies, serving on key boards and committees, and a range of collaborative activities to maximize the outcome from the investment of PAAT resources.

- The New Mexico PAAT program participates in its state Medicaid advisory committee, to help ensure that the needs of people with disabilities are represented in the development of policies for coverage of AT devices and services by Medicaid.
- The Connecticut P & A system and its PAAT program uses the Internet as an outreach tool for individuals with disabilities, including voters with disabilities. On the P & A website, individuals can request information and assistance, access a calendar of current and future activities, comment on agency priorities, link to

useful resources, and email staff about issues affecting people with disabilities. During FY 2010 there were more than 2,000,000 hits on the P & A website.

- Many of the state PAAT reports contained examples of collaboration within the P & A agency itself. For example, in Louisiana, direct representation on AT issues are handled through the PADD (Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Developmental Disabilities), PAIR (Protection and Advocacy for Individual Rights), PAIMI (Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness), CAP (Client Assistance Program), and PABSS (Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security) programs. Many other reports contained documentation of similar in-house collaborations during FY 2009 and FY 2010.
- The Arkansas PAAT participated in 25 needs assessment forums, from 14 communities, in collaboration with the developmental disability (DD) network (DD Council, Partners for Inclusive Communities & DRC) and Title V Children's Health Services. The P & A system was instrumental in helping organize a conference that took place in one of the most underserved areas of the state. The P & A system also sets up exhibit booths at as many conferences, fairs, workshops, and events as possible in an attempt to reach as many people as they can. In 2010, this included a health fair sponsored the Latino community. A PAAT brochure was attached to every (over 1000) Parent's Guide to Special Education Blue Book that was distributed for AT awareness.
- The New York PAAT program collaborated with the New York Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, the NY Makes Work Pay Project (the state's Medicaid infrastructure grant or MIG program), and the Region 2 TACE Center at the State University of New York at Buffalo to hold two separate day-long conferences at Rochester and Albany for individuals with disabilities, professionals who work with them, and their families and friends. There were three tracks that focused on AT funding for different purposes: Educational, vocational, and medical. Presenters included individuals from the PAAT program, other P & A programs, the Client Assistance Program, and the state's two vocational rehabilitation agencies.
- The Pennsylvania PAAT program, the statewide *AT Act* Program (PIAT), and the Alternative Financing Program (PATF) continued to collaborate in FY 2010. They regularly make referrals to each other, distribute each other's publications and announcements, and provide technical assistance to one another. The Pennsylvania P & A system and PIAT link to each other on their websites. The P & A system and PATF serve on the PIAT Community Advisory Council, the advisory council mandated by the *AT Act*. The PAAT program is collaborating with PIAT to improve the peer counselor assessment tool for the Exceptional Durable Medical Equipment Program in nursing facilities to include alternative and augmentative communication. In addition, the state PAAT program regularly collaborated and coordinated with disability, advocacy, and legal organizations, such as Georgia, Maryland, and Michigan *AT Act* programs, with which it co-presented the training "Assistive Technology to Aid Transition to the Community" at the 2010 Annual Conference of *AT Act* Programs, and co-managed the

resulting national work group, an ad hoc statewide coalition of persons dependent upon technology and their family members to help preserve their waiver services; the Community Living Advisory Committee concerning home and community-based waiver service definitions; Disability Investigative Group (DIG), concerning accessibility of the post office and polling places in Armstrong county; the Liberty Resources Center for Independent Living regarding accessible medical diagnostic equipment and accessible taxi cabs; the Education Law Center, Arc of Pennsylvania, and Good Schools Pennsylvania regarding special education funding reform legislation; and the Philadelphia Visitability Task Force regarding a local visitability ordinance.

### **Outreach to Underserved Populations for FY 2010**

P & A agencies and their PAAT programs continued to face the challenge of trying to reach all potential client populations. They faced the challenges associated with reaching individuals living in remote parts of a state, individuals who speak a language other than English, individuals from a racial or ethnic minority, and individuals who are recent immigrants. Many PAAT programs reported innovative strategies to reach out to various hard-to-reach client groups.

- The Hawaii P & A system and its PAAT program put great emphasis during FY 2010 on reaching out to the Micronesian community, the fastest growing immigrant population in the state. Much of the outreach focus is targeted to ethnic neighborhoods and locations where Micronesians worship or engage in recreational activities. P & A staff often relies on collaborations with church leaders to arrange for parishioners to attend outreach events.
- The Texas PAAT program staff at the P & A agency's El Paso regional office continued to provide outreach and training on the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*, including its provisions on AT for students receiving special education services, to Colonias residents living in unincorporated settlements along the United States/Mexico border. This ongoing outreach effort is designed to inform families, in a culturally appropriate manner, of the availability of special education services for children with disabilities living in Colonias.
- The South Dakota PAAT program, in collaboration with other P & A programs, continued its ongoing effort to direct focused, continuous outreach activities throughout the state with emphasis on areas of the state that are historically underserved and unserved by major provider systems. One unique event in this effort is held on the Pine Ridge Native American reservation. In what has become an annual effort, P & A/PAAT staff are invited to assist the Pine Ridge Vocational Rehabilitation Program in conducting a community wide event that includes the combined elements of an open house, informational and training meeting, listening session, public honoring ceremony, and community public gathering for a meal. Historically, this has been a source of new contacts to the agency and also provides a good opportunity to receive intake information for later follow-up contacts.

## INFORMATION, REFERRAL SERVICES, AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

### Case Services

| <b>Types of AT</b>                       | <b>2009</b> | <b>2010</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Individuals Receiving I&R Services       | 4,733       | 3,478       |
| Total I&R Service Requests               | 6,388       | 3,687       |
| Number of Training Sessions Presented    | 1,512       | 1,527       |
| Individuals Attending Training Sessions  | 67,450      | 67,250      |
| Individuals Served                       | 2,255       | 2,317       |
| Individuals with all cases closed        | 1,463       | 1,507       |
| AT received as a result of case services | 1,407       | 1,514       |

Source: U.S Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration, Protection & Advocacy for AT Program annual progress report data

| <b>Percentage of cases addressing issue</b> |             |             |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Case Issue Areas<sup>a</sup></b>         | <b>2009</b> | <b>2010</b> |
| Architectural Accessibility                 | 10%         | 12%         |
| Education                                   | 25%         | 24%         |
| Employment Discrimination                   | 4%          | 3%          |
| SSI/SSDI Work Incentives                    | 0%          | 0%          |
| Healthcare                                  | 37%         | 34%         |
| Housing                                     | 3%          | 4%          |
| Post-Secondary Education                    | 1%          | 1%          |
| Rehabilitation Services                     | 6%          | 8%          |
| Transportation                              | 4%          | 5%          |
| Voting                                      | 0%          | 0%          |
| Other                                       | 10%         | 9%          |

*(Continued on next page)*

**Table 33. AT Casework Outcomes, by Case Issues, Types of AT Received, Reasons for Closing a Case, Primary Disability of Those Receiving Case Services, and Gender and Age of Those Served: FY 2009 and FY 2010 (Continued)**

| <b>Types of AT Received as a Result of Caseworkb</b> |             |             |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Case Issue Areas<sup>a</sup></b>                  | <b>2009</b> | <b>2010</b> |
| Communication  | 10%         | 11%         |
| Mobility   | 29%         | 24%         |
| Hearing or vision                                    | 7%          | 7%          |
| Reading or writing                                   | 6%          | 7%          |
| Household Activities                                 | 3%          | 3%          |
| Participation in play or recreation                  | 3%          | 2%          |
| Personal care  | 6%          | 5%          |
| Aid in therapy or medical treatment                  | 4%          | 5%          |
| Public or private transportation assistance          | 3%          | 5%          |
| Employment   | 3%          | 3%          |
| Learning   | 11%         | 11%         |
| AT services  | 13%         | 15%         |
| Other  | 2%          | 2%          |
| <b>Primary Reason for Closing a Casec</b>            |             |             |
| <b>Case Issue Areas<sup>a</sup></b>                  | <b>2009</b> | <b>2010</b> |
| Issues fully resolved in client's favor              | 60%         | 57%         |
| Unresolved issues in client's favor                  | 1%          | 3%          |
| Incomplete issues resolved in client's favor         | 17%         | 19%         |
| Other representation obtained                        | 2%          | 2%          |
| Individuals who withdrew complaint                   | 1%          | 4%          |
| Services not needed due to death, relocation         | 6%          | 2%          |
| Individuals not responsive to agency                 | 1%          | 5%          |
| Cases lacking legal merit                            | 5%          | 5%          |
| Conflict of Interest                                 | 4%          | 0%          |
| Lack of resources                                    | 0%          | 1%          |
| Not within priorities                                | 1%          | 1%          |
| Other  | 2%          | 1%          |

*(Continued on next page)*

**Table 33. AT Casework Outcomes, by Case Issues, Types of AT Received, Reasons for Closing a Case, Primary Disability of Those Receiving Case Services, and Gender and Age of Those Served: FY 2009 and FY 2010 (Continued)**

| <b>Primary Disability of Individual Receiving Case Servicesd</b> |             |             |
|--|-------------|-------------|
|  | <b>2009</b> | <b>2010</b> |
| ADD/ADHD   | 2%          | 2%          |
| AIDS/HIV Positive  | 0%          | 0%          |
| Absence of Extremities   | 2%          | 2%          |
| Auto-immune (non-AIDS/HIV)                                       | 0%          | 0%          |
| Autism   | 5%          | 6%          |
| Blindness (Both Eyes)  | 3%          | 3%          |
| Other Visual Impairments (Not Blind)                             | 3%          | 4%          |
| Cancer   | 0%          | 0%          |
| Cerebral Palsy   | 11%         | 11%         |
| Deafness   | 4%          | 4%          |
| Hearing Impaired   | 4%          | 4%          |
| Deaf-Blind   | 0%          | 0%          |
| Diabetes   | 1%          | 1%          |
| Digestive Disorders  | 0%          | 0%          |
| Epilepsy   | 0%          | 1%          |
| Genitourinary Conditions   | 0%          | 0%          |
| Heart and Other Circulatory Conditions                           | 2%          | 2%          |
| Mental Illness   | 4%          | 5%          |
| Mental Retardation   | 5%          | 6%          |
| Multiple Sclerosis   | 3%          | 3%          |
| Muscular Dystrophy   | 3%          | 2%          |
| Muscular/Skeletal Impairment                                     | 5%          | 5%          |
| Orthopedic Impairments   | 21%         | 19%         |
| Neurological Disorders/Impairment                                | 8%          | 7%          |
| Respiratory Disorders and impairment                             | 1%          | 2%          |
| Skin Conditions  | 0%          | 0%          |
| Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD)                             | 4%          | 3%          |
| Speech Impairments   | 2%          | 2%          |
| Spina bifida   | 2%          | 2%          |
| Substance Abuse (Alcohol or Drugs)                               | 0%          | 0%          |
| Tourette Syndrome  | 0%          | 0%          |
| Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)                                     | 3%          | 2%          |
| Other Disability   | 2%          | 2%          |

*(Continued on next page)*

**Table 33. AT Casework Outcomes, by Case Issues, Types of AT Received, Reasons for Closing a Case, Primary Disability of Those Receiving Case Services, and Gender and Age of Those Served: FY 2009 and FY 2010 (Continued)**

| <b>Gender of Individuals Served</b> |             |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                     | <b>2009</b> | <b>2010</b> |
| Male                                | 53%         | 55%         |
| Female                              | 47%         | 45%         |
| <b>Age of Individuals Served</b>    |             |             |
|                                     | <b>2009</b> | <b>2010</b> |
| 0-4                                 | 2%          | 3%          |
| 5-13                                | 22%         | 20%         |
| 14-18                               | 10%         | 11%         |
| 19-21                               | 4%          | 4%          |
| 22-40                               | 18%         | 17%         |
| 41-64                               | 36%         | 36%         |
| 65 and older                        | 7%          | 8%          |
| Age Unknown                         | 1%          | 1%          |
| <b>Total 100%</b>                   |             |             |

*(Continued from previous page)*

Note: a. FY 2009 (N=2,397), FY 2010 (N=2,390)  
 b. FY 2009 (N=1,963), FY 2010 (N=2,215)  
 c. FY 2009 (N=1,563), FY 2010 (N=2,215)  
 d. FY 2009 (N=2,255), FY 2010 (N=2,317)  
 e. FY 2009 (N=2,255), FY 2010 (N=2,317)  
 f. FY 2009 (N=2,255), FY 2010 (N=2,317)  
 N=total number of clients served for each fiscal year

Source: U.S Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration, Protection & Advocacy for AT Program annual progress report data

**PART IV**

**APPENDIXES**



# **APPENDIX A**

## **STATE-LEVEL ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN FY 2010 UNDER THE STATE GRANT FOR AT PROGRAM**

**Table A. Selected State-level Activities Conducted Under the State Grant for AT Program, by State: FY 2010**

| State      | How state financing was supported with grant funds  | How device reutilization was supported with grant funds   | How device loans were supported with grant funds   | How device demonstrations were supported with grant funds  |
|------------|---|---|--|--|
| Alabama    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial loan program</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None: Claiming flexibility</li> </ul>                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None: Claiming flexibility</li> </ul>   |
| Alaska     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None: Claiming comparability due to existing financial loan program</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online exchange</li> <li>Reassignment of donated devices</li> <li>Open-ended loan</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Memorandums of understanding with community-based organizations</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mobile demonstrations</li> <li>Videoconference</li> <li>Regional demonstration sites</li> </ul> |
| Arizona    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial loan program</li> <li>Telework loan program</li> </ul>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online exchange</li> <li>Open-ended loan</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Network of resource centers</li> </ul>                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Network of regional resource centers</li> </ul>   |
| Arkansas   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None: Claiming comparability due to existing financial loan program</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online exchange</li> <li>Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A centralized program operated by the state</li> </ul>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A centralized program operated by the state</li> </ul>  |
| California | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial loan program</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online exchange</li> <li>Open-ended loan</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subcontracts with universities and community-based organizations</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None: Claiming flexibility</li> </ul>   |
| Colorado   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None: Claiming flexibility</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online exchange</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A centralized program operated by the state</li> </ul>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mobile demonstrations</li> <li>Videoconference</li> <li>Regional demonstration sites</li> </ul> |

*(Continued on next page)*

**Table A. Selected State-level Activities Conducted Under the State Grant for AT Program, by State: FY 2010 (Continued)**

| State       | How state financing was supported with grant funds   | How device reutilization was supported with grant funds  | How device loans were supported with grant funds   | How device demonstrations were supported with grant funds   |
|-------------|--|--|--|---|
| Connecticut | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial loan program</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reassignment of donated devices</li> <li>Online exchange</li> <li>Open-ended loan</li> </ul>                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A centralized program operated by a subcontractor</li> </ul>                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A centralized program operated by a subcontractor</li> </ul> |
| Delaware    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial loan program</li> <li>Telework loan program</li> <li>Borrow-to-own low-vision</li> <li>Devices program</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online exchange</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Network of resource centers</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Network of resource centers</li> </ul>                       |
| Florida     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial loan program</li> <li>Telework loan program</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Computer reassignment</li> <li>Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A centralized program operated by the state</li> <li>Network of resource centers</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional demonstration sites</li> </ul>                      |
| Georgia     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial loan program</li> <li>Cooperative buying</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Computer reassignment</li> <li>Online exchange</li> <li>Durable medical equipment reassignment</li> </ul>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Network of resource centers</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional centers</li> </ul>                                  |
| Hawaii      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial loan program</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reassignment of donated devices</li> <li>Computer reassignment</li> <li>Online exchange</li> <li>Open-ended loan</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Network of resource centers</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Network of community-based organizations</li> </ul>          |

*(Continued on next page)*

**Table A. Selected State-level Activities Conducted Under the State Grant for AT Program, by State: FY 2010 (Continued)**

| State    | How state financing was supported with grant funds  | How device reutilization was supported with grant funds  | How device loans were supported with grant funds  | How device demonstrations were supported with grant funds   |
|----------|---|--|---|---|
| Idaho    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial loan program</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online exchange</li> <li>Durable medical equipment reassignment</li> <li>Open-ended loan</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Combination of community-based organizations and state-operated regional center</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Combination of community-based organizations and state-operated regional center</li> </ul> |
| Illinois | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial loan program</li> <li>Telework loan program</li> <li>Last resort funding*</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online exchange</li> <li>Reassignment of donated devices</li> <li>Open-ended loan</li> </ul>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A centralized program operated by the implementing entity</li> </ul>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A centralized program operated by the implementing entity</li> </ul>                       |
| Indiana  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial loan program</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Computer reassignment</li> <li>Open-ended loan</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A centralized program operated by the implementing entity</li> </ul>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional centers</li> </ul>  |
| Iowa     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial loan program</li> <li>Telework loan program</li> </ul>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online exchange</li> <li>Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centralized augmentative communication device and software loan program</li> </ul>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstration center in the state's largest metro area</li> </ul>                          |

*(Continued on next page)*

**Table A. Selected State-level Activities Conducted Under the State Grant for AT Program, by State: FY 2010 (Continued)**

| State     | How state financing was supported with grant funds  | How device reutilization was supported with grant funds  | How device loans were supported with grant funds   | How device demonstrations were supported with grant funds   |
|-----------|---|--|--|---|
| Kansas    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial loan program</li> <li>• Telework loan program</li> <li>• Telecommunications</li> <li>• Access program</li> <li>• case management system</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A centralized program operated through subcontract with a community-based organization</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Network of AT access sites</li> </ul>  |
| Kentucky  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None: Claiming comparability due to existing financial loan program</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online exchange</li> <li>• Reassignment of donated devices</li> <li>• Affiliation with computer reassignment program</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Network of regional AT resource centers</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Network of regional AT resource centers</li> </ul>                                       |
| Louisiana | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial loan program</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reassignment of donated devices</li> <li>• Computer reassignment</li> <li>• Online exchange</li> <li>• Open-ended loan</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A centralized program operated by the implementing entity</li> </ul>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Network of partner centers</li> </ul>  |
| Maine     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial loan program</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online exchange</li> <li>• Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consortium of partners</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A centralized program operated by a subcontractor</li> <li>• Videoconferences</li> </ul> |

*(Continued on next page)*

**Table A. Selected State-level Activities Conducted Under the State Grant for AT Program, by State: FY 2010 (Continued)**

| State         | How state financing was supported with grant funds  | How device reutilization was supported with grant funds   | How device loans were supported with grant funds   | How device demonstrations were supported with grant funds   |
|---------------|---|---|--|---|
| Maryland      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial loan program</li> <li>• Telework loan program</li> <li>• Cooperative buying</li> <li>• Devices for nursing home residents</li> <li>• Wheelchair ramp construction</li> <li>• Emergency notification systems</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two online exchanges</li> <li>• Open-ended loan</li> </ul>                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Network of community-based organizations</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Network of community-based organizations</li> </ul>        |
| Massachusetts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial loan program</li> <li>• Home modification loan program</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online exchange</li> <li>• Reassignment of donated devices</li> <li>• Open-ended loan</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Network of community-based organizations</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Network of community-based organizations</li> </ul>        |
| Michigan      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial loan program</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online exchange</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None: Claiming flexibility</li> </ul>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subcontracts with community-based organizations</li> </ul> |
| Minnesota     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None: Claiming comparability due to existing financial loan program</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online exchange</li> <li>• Reassignment of donated devices</li> <li>• Open-ended loan</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Network of regional programs</li> </ul>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Network of regional programs</li> </ul>                    |

*(Continued on next page)*

**Table A. Selected State-level Activities Conducted Under the State Grant for AT Program, by State: FY 2010 (Continued)**

| State       | How state financing was supported with grant funds  | How device reutilization was supported with grant funds   | How device loans were supported with grant funds   | How device demonstrations were supported with grant funds   |
|-------------|---|---|--|---|
| Mississippi | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None: Claiming flexibility</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open-ended loan</li> <li>• Reassignment of donated devices</li> <li>• Computer reassignment</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional centers</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional centers</li> </ul>  |
| Missouri    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial loan program</li> <li>• Telework loan program</li> <li>• Last resort funding</li> <li>• Public school reimbursement program</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computer reassignment</li> <li>• Durable medical equipment reassignment</li> <li>• Other electronic equipment reassignment</li> <li>• Online exchange</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A centralized program operated by the state</li> </ul>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional centers</li> </ul>  |
| Montana     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial loan program</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online exchange</li> <li>• Open-ended loan</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A centralized program operated by the implementing entity</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A centralized program operated by the implementing entity</li> </ul> |
| Nebraska    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administration of funding services</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reassignment of donated devices</li> <li>• Open-ended loan</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A centralized program operated by the state</li> </ul>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional centers</li> <li>• Mobile demonstrations</li> </ul>         |
| Nevada      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial loan program</li> <li>• AT for independent living program</li> <li>• Telecommunications equipment program</li> </ul>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reassignment of donated devices</li> <li>• Open-ended loan</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate device loans between AT companies and consumers</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Center in state's largest city</li> </ul>                            |

*(Continued on next page)*

**Table A. Selected State-level Activities Conducted Under the State Grant for AT Program, by State: FY 2010 (Continued)**

| State          | How state financing was supported with grant funds   | How device reutilization was supported with grant funds   | How device loans were supported with grant funds  | How device demonstrations were supported with grant funds  |
|----------------|--|---|---|--|
| New Hampshire  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None: Claiming comparability due to existing financial loan program</li> </ul>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online exchange</li> <li>• Reassignment of donated devices</li> <li>• Open-ended loan</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programs operated by two community-based organizations</li> </ul>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programs operated by two community-based organizations</li> </ul>                           |
| New Jersey     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None: Claiming comparability due to existing financial loan program</li> </ul>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online exchange</li> <li>• Reassignment of donated devices</li> <li>• Open-ended loan</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Network of community-based organizations</li> </ul>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Network of community-based organizations</li> </ul>   |
| New Mexico     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial loan program</li> <li>• Telework loan program</li> <li>• Leveraged funding program</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reassignment of donated devices</li> <li>• Open-ended loan</li> </ul>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A centralized program operated by the state</li> </ul>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobile demonstrations</li> <li>• Two demonstration centers operated by the state</li> </ul> |
| New York       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None: Claiming comparability due to existing financial loan program</li> </ul>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online exchange</li> <li>• Reassignment of donated devices</li> <li>• Open-ended loan</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional centers</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional centers</li> </ul>   |
| North Carolina | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None: Claiming flexibility</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online exchange</li> <li>• Open-ended loan</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional centers</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional centers</li> </ul>   |
| North Dakota   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial loan program</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online exchange</li> <li>• Reassignment of donated devices</li> <li>• Open-ended loan</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A centralized program operated by the implementing entity</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional centers</li> </ul>   |
| Ohio           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial loan program</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computer reassignment</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnerships with public libraries</li> </ul>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobile demonstrations</li> </ul>  |

*(Continued on next page)*

**Table A. Selected State-level Activities Conducted Under the State Grant for AT Program, by State: FY 2010 (Continued)**

| State          | How state financing was supported with grant funds   | How device reutilization was supported with grant funds   | How device loans were supported with grant funds   | How device demonstrations were supported with grant funds  |
|----------------|--|---|--|--|
| Oklahoma       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial loan program</li> <li>• Telework loan program</li> <li>• Fire safety equipment program</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online exchange</li> <li>• Computer reassignment</li> </ul>                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memorandums of agreement with partner organizations and one site operated by the state</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memorandums of agreement with partner organizations and one site operated by the state</li> </ul> |
| Oregon         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooperative buying program</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online exchange</li> <li>• Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A centralized program operated by the implementing entity</li> </ul>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobile demonstrations</li> <li>• Two demonstration centers</li> </ul>                             |
| Pennsylvania   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telecommunications distribution program</li> <li>• Individual funding consultation</li> </ul>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online exchange</li> <li>• Reassignment of donated devices</li> <li>• Open-ended loan</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Centralized inventory processed through regional centers</li> </ul>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional resource centers</li> </ul>  |
| Rhode Island   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telecommunications distribution program</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online exchange</li> <li>• Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subcontracts with community-based organizations</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subcontracts with community-based organizations</li> </ul>  |
| South Carolina | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None: Claiming comparability due to existing financial loan program</li> </ul>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online exchange</li> <li>• Reassignment of donated devices</li> <li>• Open-ended loan</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A centralized program operated by the state</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobile demonstrations</li> <li>• A centralized demonstration center</li> </ul>                    |

*(Continued on next page)*

**Table A. Selected State-level Activities Conducted Under the State Grant for AT Program, by State: FY 2010 (Continued)**

| State        | How state financing was supported with grant funds  | How device reutilization was supported with grant funds  | How device loans were supported with grant funds  | How device demonstrations were supported with grant funds  |
|--------------|---|--|---|--|
| South Dakota | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AT leasing program for visually impaired</li> </ul>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neuromuscular equipment</li> <li>• reassignment program</li> <li>• Online exchange</li> <li>• Reassignment of donated devices</li> <li>• Open ended loan</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborative partnerships with community-based organizations</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional centers</li> </ul>   |
| Tennessee    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None: Claiming flexibility</li> </ul>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional centers</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional centers</li> </ul>   |
| Texas        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial loan program</li> </ul>                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reassignment of donated devices</li> <li>• Open ended loan</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Centralized program operated by the state</li> </ul>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional computer access centers</li> </ul>   |
| Utah         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial loan program</li> <li>• Telework loan program</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computer reassignment</li> <li>• Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None: Claiming flexibility</li> </ul>                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary demonstration center operated by state</li> <li>• Regional centers operated by other organizations</li> </ul>       |
| Vermont      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding for children with autism</li> </ul>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online exchange</li> <li>• Reassignment of donated devices</li> <li>• Open ended loan</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Centralized program operated by the state</li> </ul>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional sites operated by state and subcontracted community-based organization</li> <li>• Mobile demonstrations</li> </ul> |

*(Continued on next page)*

**Table A. Selected State-level Activities Conducted Under the State Grant for AT Program, by State: FY 2010 (Continued)**

| State         | How state financing was supported with grant funds   | How device reutilization was supported with grant funds  | How device loans were supported with grant funds   | How device demonstrations were supported with grant funds  |
|---------------|--|--|--|--|
| Virginia      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None: Claiming comparability due to existing financial loan program</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional centers</li> </ul>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional centers</li> </ul>   |
| Washington    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial loan program</li> <li>• Telework loan program</li> <li>• Individual funding consultation</li> <li>• Closed-circuit TV long-term rental</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computer reassignment</li> </ul>                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Centralized program operated by the state</li> </ul>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobile demonstrations</li> <li>• Centralized program operated by the state</li> </ul>             |
| West Virginia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None: Claiming flexibility</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online exchange</li> <li>• Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Centralized program with regional partners</li> </ul>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary demonstration center operated by state</li> <li>• Subcontracts with nonprofits</li> </ul> |
| Wisconsin     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None: Claiming comparability due to existing financial loan program</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subcontracts to centers for independent living</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subcontracts with public and private organizations</li> </ul>                                     |
| Wyoming       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None: Claiming comparability due to existing financial loan program</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online exchange</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Centralized program operated by the state</li> </ul>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary demonstration center operated by state</li> <li>• Mobile demonstrations</li> </ul>        |

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**Table A. Selected State-level Activities Conducted Under the State Grant for AT Program, by State: FY 2010 (Continued)**

| State                    | How state financing was supported with grant funds  | How device reutilization was supported with grant funds   | How device loans were supported with grant funds   | How device demonstrations were supported with grant funds   |
|--------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| District of Columbia     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None: Claiming flexibility</li> </ul>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Computer reassignment</li> <li>Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centralized program operated by implementing entity</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centralized program operated by implementing entity</li> </ul>   |
| Puerto Rico              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low-cost device design and development</li> </ul>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary site operated by state</li> <li>regional centers operated by other organizations</li> <li>Facilitate device loans between AT companies and consumers</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary site operated by state</li> <li>Regional centers operated by other organizations</li> <li>Mobile demonstrations</li> </ul> |
| American Samoa           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None: Claiming flexibility</li> </ul>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reassignment of donated devices</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None: Claiming flexibility</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centralized program operated by subcontractor</li> </ul>   |
| Guam                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial loan program</li> <li>Telework loan program</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online exchange</li> <li>Reassignment of donated devices</li> <li>Open ended loan</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centralized program operated by the territory</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centralized program operated by the territory</li> <li>Mobile demonstrations</li> </ul>  |
| Northern Mariana Islands | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial loan program</li> </ul>                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online exchange</li> <li>Open ended loan</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborative partnerships with existing organizations</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborative partnerships with existing organizations</li> </ul>  |

*(Continued on next page)*

**Table A. Selected State-level Activities Conducted Under the State Grant for AT Program, by State: FY 2010 (Continued)**

| State               | How state financing was supported with grant funds                       | How device reutilization was supported with grant funds           | How device loans were supported with grant funds  | How device demonstrations were supported with grant funds   |
|---------------------|--|---|---|---|
| U.S. Virgin Islands | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial loan program</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open ended loan</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Memorandums of understanding with community-based organizations</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Memorandums of understanding with community-based organizations</li> </ul> |

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When no other resources, public or private, will pay for the assistive technology device or service, an individual with a disability may qualify for a program of last resort.

Note: For purposes of this report, the term *state* includes, in addition to each of the 50 states of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, according to the *AT Act*, Sec. 3(14).

*Centralized Program Operated by the State* means a program operated directly by the lead agency from a single location.

*Centralized Program Operated by the Implementing Entity* means a program operated directly by the implementing entity from a single location.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration. State plans for assistive technology submitted in RSA's Management Information System (MIS) (<http://rsa.ed.gov>) Last accessed June 2012.



# **APPENDIX B**

## **STATEWIDE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM PROFILES**



**Note:** The information contained in the statewide AT program profiles in this appendix reflects activities the states planned for and either conducted or intend to conduct during the three-year period covered by their state plans for assistive technology for FY 2009 through FY 2011. The information in the profiles was submitted by states in June 2010 and reflects the states' activities as of that month as they pertain to the intended and executed plans for FY 2009 through FY 2011.



## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: ALABAMA

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|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>   | <b>Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services<br/>(ADRS)</b> |
| <b>Program Title:</b> | <b>STAR: Alabama's Assistive Technology Resource</b>            |

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### **State Financing Activities**

STAR supports an alternative financing program. The loan program is operated by the Southern Disability Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit organization, which provides a variety of low-interest and extended-term loans for the purchase of assistive technology devices and services. The Southern Disability Foundation partners with the Auburn Bank to provide guaranteed loans.

### **Device Reutilization**

STAR, in partnership with Goodwill Easter Seals, United Cerebral Palsy, the Opportunity Center-Easter Seals, Easter Seals Central Alabama and the Birmingham Baptist Association, administers community-based equipment reutilization programs that increase options for individuals with disabilities to acquire medical equipment and other AT free of charge. Each reuse center receives donations of used devices and other assistive technology that is, in turn, refurbished, sanitized and loaned to individuals who have no other means of obtaining the needed equipment. The individuals can keep the equipment for as long as needed.

### **Device Loan**

STAR claims flexibility for this activity. Other programs are providing services in this area throughout the state.

### **Device Demonstration**

STAR claims flexibility for this activity. Other programs are providing services in this area throughout the state.

### **State Leadership Activities**

STAR, in collaboration with Technology Assistance for Special Consumers (T.A.S.C.) conducts both online and face-to-face training activities. Most training activities are conducted at the central site; however, as the need arises, training takes place on location, at conferences and online, via live Web-based distance learning. The training activities are free and interactive, and can be conducted at any time.

STAR provides direct and coordinated technical assistance to individuals, groups, agencies and organizations upon request. STAR's technical assistance activities focus on specific problem-solving to ensure the appropriate access to and acquisition of AT; the appropriate use and application of assistive technology devices and services; and AT-specific training to meet the particular needs of individuals with disabilities.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: ALASKA

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|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>         | <b>Alaska Department of Labor &amp; Workforce Development, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)</b> |
| <b>Implementing Entity:</b> | <b>Assistive Technology of Alaska (ATLA)</b>   |
| <b>Program Title:</b>       | <b>Alaska Statewide AT Program</b>   |

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### State Financing Activities

Alaska has a state alternative financing loan guarantee program that provides loans to individuals with disabilities and their families for the purchase of AT. The Statewide AT Program administers this guarantee loan fund with the assistance of Northrim Bank.

### Device Reutilization

Assistive Technology of Alaska (ATLA), a nonprofit organization, maintains the AK Trading Post, a Web-based equipment exchange and reuse program. Items are available for sale, giveaway, loan and demonstration. Any Alaskan can post an ad, and a buyer can purchase used assistive technology at a negotiated price. Reutilization of durable medical equipment is done through the independent living centers and small loan closets around the state.

### Device Loan

ATLA maintains an online database of assistive technology devices and equipment that are available for short-term loan. Seven agencies across the state have listed items that are available. School districts currently maintain their own list of devices available for loan. Consumers request loans from the website or go directly to the organization housing the items.

### Device Demonstration

Alaska's statewide AT program established a network of device demonstration programs in conjunction with the device loan programs described above, and works with independent living centers that provide device demonstrations. Demonstrations are also provided in locations around the state where demonstration centers are not available. In addition to the demonstration centers, 17 one-stop career centers around the state have demonstration computer centers set up for consumers to come in, look for a job and try out some of the available devices.

### State Leadership Activities

Through ATLA, Alaska's statewide AT program provides training and technical assistance about AT around the state. ATLA offers AT trainings via presentations, webinars, conferences and seminars to those working in the areas of employment, human services, health services, education, and IT and telecommunications in both the government and the private sector. ATLA coordinates the three-day biennial Midnight Sun Assistive Technology Conference.

Alaska's Statewide AT Program has a leadership role in the newly developed Assistive Technology Consortium, a group of key policy decision makers in the state who are working together to leverage and coordinate resources, build assistive technology capacity and create systems, change policy and increase the awareness of assistive technology.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: AMERICAN SAMOA

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|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>         | <b>American Samoa Government, Office of the Governor</b>     |
| <b>Implementing Entity:</b> | <b>American Samoa Office of Vocational Rehabilitation</b>    |
| <b>Program Title:</b>       | <b>American Samoa Assistive Technology Training Services</b> |

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### **State Financing Activities**

American Samoa claims flexibility for this activity. As described in Section 4(e)(6) of the *AT Act*, a state may carry out any two or more of the required state-level activities, meaning a state can choose to not conduct up to two activities.

### **Device Reutilization**

The AT program provides open-ended loans for devices for consumers who need them while waiting for repairs on their own devices. Since some devices need to be sent away for repairs, the timeframe in which the repairs are completed may be quite lengthy. The program also provides open-ended loans for computer devices for students who need them during the school semester.

### **Device Loan**

American Samoa claims flexibility for this activity.

### **Device Demonstration**

The AT program operates a device demonstration program by partnering with several entities, including the American Samoa Community College, Department of Commerce and the Department of Human Resources, *Workforce Investment Act (WIA)* division. Consumers come to a demonstration center and are able to try out devices to determine which ones work best for them.

### **State Leadership Activities**

American Samoa's AT program uses a multifaceted approach (mailings, Internet, exhibits, presentations and trainings) to increase awareness about the benefits, types and funding of AT devices and services. The AT program sponsors an annual conference, provides an information and referral service, distributes a newsletter, develops a website, and disseminates training materials and publications on AT for a variety of audiences.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: ARIZONA

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

**Program Title:** Arizona Technology Access Program (AzTAP)

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### State Financing Activities

AzTAP directly operates two state financing activities: Arizona Loans for Assistive Technology (AzLAT) for the purchase of assistive technology and the Arizona S.E.E.D loan program for the purchase of business equipment for telework. The AzLAT consortium administers the program. Arizona MultiBank Community Development Corporation services the loans and AzLAT, through its donor advised funds at the Arizona Community Foundation, provides the loan guarantee to MultiBank in case of borrower default.

### Device Reutilization

AzTAP has initiated an online equipment exchange program called the Arizona Assistive Technology Equipment Exchange (ATEX). The program allows individuals or organizations to buy, sell, trade or donate used AT through a Web-based want ads format.

### Device Loan

AzTAP operates short-term equipment loan programs directly and through its network of AT regional resource centers. AzTAP has expanded its equipment lending programs, including management of the device loan library for the Arizona Department of Education.

### Device Demonstration

AzTAP currently supports device demonstration programs through its network of five AT regional resource centers: the AzTAP central office in Phoenix, the AT resource center on the campus of Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff and three subcontracted AT resource centers located in Phoenix, Tucson, and the Navajo reservation in Tuba City. AzTAP also works with the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to provide a network of demonstration sites for the Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program so that persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or speech impaired can have access to free adapted telephone-related equipment.

### State Leadership Activities

AzTAP customizes training and technical assistance for individuals and organizations that request training on specific topics or technical assistance to improve organization capacity related to assistive technology. AzTAP continues to sponsor a collaborative, statewide AT conference each year. It also disseminates free training materials and publications, provides a toll-free information and assistance service, offers updated in-depth resources on its website and publishes a newsletter.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: ARKANSAS

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

**Program Title:** Increasing Capabilities Access Network (ICAN)

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### State Financing Activities

An alternative financing program (AFP) and telecommunications access program (TAP) has been accomplished through comparable nonfederal resources rather than through *AT Act* funding. Both activities are statewide, comprehensive programs administered by ARS.

### Device Reutilization

ICAN operates two device reutilization programs. The device recycling program refurbishes a wide range of AT devices for donation to individuals with disabilities and agencies. Equipment that is ready for distribution is listed on ICAN's website and shared with individuals and agencies. Equipment Exchange is a classified ad listing of used equipment available for sale, trade or donation by consumers throughout the state. ICAN implemented a statewide campaign to expand the awareness and benefits of AT reutilization as well as the many resources available through the state AT program.

### Device Loan

ICAN's AT4All loan program accepts requests for equipment loans from persons with disabilities, family members, advocates or service providers. Borrowers are expected to make arrangements for pick-up and drop-off of the device whenever possible. Most device loans are for a period of six weeks with the potential for extension.

### Device Demonstration

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

### State Leadership Activities

ICAN collaborates with the state Department of Education to cosponsor training to increase the knowledge, skills and competency of educators, therapists and others in the public school system in the areas of AT and accessibility issues. ICAN responds to requests for technical assistance and provides a toll-free information and referral service on AT for people of all ages with all disabilities.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: CALIFORNIA

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**Lead Agency:** California Division of Rehabilitation  
**Program Title:** California Assistive Technology Systems (CATS)

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### **State Financing Activities**

California's alternative financing program (AFP) uses comparable nonfederal resources rather than *AT Act* funding. The state of California offers low-interest, guaranteed loans to finance AT or modified transportation through the Assistive Technology and Modified Transportation Loan Guarantee Program (LGP). LGP is implemented in collaboration with one or more lenders.

### **Device Reutilization**

CATS operates an AT exchange website where people can post AT items for sale or donation.

### **Device Loan**

CATS currently supports 13 AT device loan sites throughout the state.

### **Device Demonstration**

California does not use *AT Act* funds to support demonstration centers. CATS have identified existing demonstration programs throughout the state.

### **State Leadership Activities**

#### *Training*

CATS conducts Web-based training throughout the year on AT topics for AT Network members and other interested parties. The training announcements are posted on the AT Network website. CATS facilitates in-person trainings around the state focusing on identified underserved populations.

#### *Information and Assistance and Public Awareness*

CATS will continue to provide a toll-free information and referral service and enhance AT awareness by participating in outreach events throughout the state, disseminating public service announcements, using social media as a strategy, and working in collaboration with other nonprofits and referral agencies. CATS materials also will be disseminated throughout the state to increase AT awareness.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: COLORADO

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|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>         | <b>University of Colorado, Denver</b>           |
| <b>Implementing Entity:</b> | <b>Assistive Technology Partners</b>            |
| <b>Program Title:</b>       | <b>Assistive Technology Program of Colorado</b> |

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### **State Financing Activities**

Assistive Technology Program of Colorado claims flexibility for this activity. As described in Sec. 4(e)(6) of the *AT Act*, a state may carry out any two or more of the required state-level activities, meaning a state can choose to not conduct up to two activities.

### **Device Reutilization**

The Assistive Technology Partners of Colorado has developed the AT Finder, an online tool to search for assistive technology in Colorado. The AT Finder simultaneously searches eBay, Craigslist and other online classified ads to locate available items.

### **Device Loan**

Assistive Technology Partners operates the StateWide Assistive Technology Augmentative and Alternative Communication Loan Bank (SWAAAC), a statewide loan bank of assistive technology that is available to all school districts and to participating early intervention service providers. Devices can be borrowed by schools and providers for their students.

### **Device Demonstration**

Learning labs are available monthly for consumers, family members, service providers and the general public to demonstrate assistive technology and allow participants to explore the use of devices. Additionally, an individual can call Assistive Technology Partners to schedule a time to view assistive technology that might meet their specific needs. Device demonstrations can be provided in the Denver center or at one of the regional sites in Grand Junction or Colorado Springs. The AT Network also provides demonstrations of technology for independent living through various participants in regions throughout Colorado.

AT Partners developed AT Funding Sources, which is an online tool to find funding for assistive technology and to locate long-term loans for assistive technology.

### **State Leadership Activities**

The Colorado Assistive Technology Coalition meets six times a year to discuss issues specific to assistive technology. Members represent state agencies and organizations that serve people with disabilities or older people and consumers who benefit from the use of technology. The coalition also serves as the advisory council for the Assistive Technology Program of Colorado.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: CONNECTICUT

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**Lead Agency:** Connecticut Bureau of Rehabilitation Services

**Program Title:** Connecticut Tech Act Project

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### **State Financing Activities**

The Connecticut Tech Act Project offers low-interest loans for individuals with disabilities and their family members to purchase assistive technology devices and services. For more information about the AT Loan Program, visit <http://www.CTtechact.com/loan>.

### **Device Reutilization**

The Connecticut Tech Act Project partners with the New England Assistive Technology Center (NEAT), which offers an equipment recycling center where people can find used and refurbished durable medical equipment at discounted prices. The program also offers online classifieds for assistive technology at <http://www.getATstuff.org>, where new and used assistive technology items are posted online for sale or for free.

### **Device Loan**

The Connecticut Tech Act Project offers several device loan programs, including a lending library for educators and other professionals, a computer loan program for college students and high schools throughout Connecticut, and other device loan programs. For more information on the type of devices that are available for loan and eligibility criteria, contact the program at 860-424-4881.

### **Device Demonstration**

The Connecticut Tech Act Project has device demonstration centers located throughout the state where one can go to view a variety of AT devices, learn about the various features and make informed decisions about the assistive technology devices.

### **State Leadership Activities**

The Connecticut Tech Act Project offers training and technical assistance, information, and referrals and other activities to increase awareness of assistive technology, increase access and help individuals with disabilities obtain assistive technology devices and services.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: DELAWARE

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|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>   | <b>University of Delaware</b>                          |
| <b>Program Title:</b> | <b>Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative (DATI)</b> |

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### State Financing Activities

DATI conducts three state financing activities. The Delaware Assistive Technology Loan Program (DATLP) and the Delaware Telemark Equipment Loan Program (DTELP) make financial loans available to qualified individuals for the purchase of AT, home modifications and vehicle modifications. The programs feature a customized approach to lending, including the availability of guarantees and interest subsidies when necessary. The Borrow-to-Own Low-vision Devices (BOLD) Program is a new financing activity that makes AT available at no cost to qualifying individuals with vision loss.

### Device Reutilization

DATI administers an AT exchange program (ATEX) that enables individuals to buy, sell or give away used AT through Web-based want ads. The AT Exchange features a feedback capability that allows program staff to follow up with users of the system. DATI is also working in collaboration with over 20 state agencies and organizations to explore the viability of a program that would reclaim and repurpose equipment no longer needed by the original recipients.

### Device Loan

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

### Device Demonstration

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

### State Leadership Activities

DATI develops and implements numerous training modules ranging from two-hour sessions to training series spanning several days for specific audiences and on specific AT topics. DATI increases awareness of AT through a quarterly newsletter, the *AT Messenger*, a toll-free information and referral service, website, community events, statewide conferences, and training materials and publications on AT that are also available in Spanish.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>         | <b>District of Columbia Department on Disability Services<br/>Rehabilitation Services Administration</b> |
| <b>Implementing Entity:</b> | <b>University Legal Services</b>   |
| <b>Program Title:</b>       | <b>Assistive Technology Program for the District of<br/>Columbia (ATPDC)</b>                             |

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### **State Financing Activities**

ATPDC claims flexibility for state financing activities.

### **Device Reutilization**

ATPDC manages the District of Columbia Disability Equipment Recycling Program (DC Shares). DC Shares recycles new and used assistive technology devices and durable medical equipment (DME), such as wheelchairs, walkers and bathroom equipment, and other similar devices to District of Columbia residents who are in need. The equipment is available at no cost for District of Columbia residents with disabilities or those who have a dependent with a disability, regardless of their type of disability or age.

### **Device Loan**

ATPDC operates an AT device loan program, which assists individuals with disabilities and professionals in decision making before the purchase of the device, and accommodates interim needs for device repair or funding and other purposes, such as self-evaluation and training by clinicians to use a device to assess clients. The AT device loan program allows the end user to make informed choices to purchase the appropriate assistive technology devices to live independently.

### **Device Demonstration**

ATPDC operates the District of Columbia Assistive Technology Resource Center (DCATRC). The DCATRC is an AT demonstration center where individuals with disabilities and service providers may explore, experience and compare the usefulness of various types of AT equipment, learn about possible product vendors and other related services, and discuss their applications for devices or services.

### **State Leadership Activities**

ATPDC increases knowledge about the availability, benefits, appropriateness and cost of assistive technology devices and services through community outreach with such events as employment and education fairs and exhibits. ATPDC also conducts customized training for schools, employers, local government and community-based organizations in the District of Columbia to help them make effective use of assistive technology devices and services.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: FLORIDA

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|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>         | <b>Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation</b> |
| <b>Implementing Entity:</b> | <b>Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology, Inc. (FAAST)</b>   |
| <b>Program Title:</b>       | <b>Assistive Technology Services</b>  |

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### **State Financing Activities**

FAAST administers two loan guarantee programs: An alternative financing program for the purchase of AT and an access to telework loan program for the purchase of equipment needed to set up a small business or work from home for an employer.

### **Device Reutilization**

FAAST administers multiple reutilization and refurbishing programs through subcontractors statewide. It also hosts a Web-based device exchange program through "AT Bay," where individuals can buy, sell or trade assistive technology.

### **Device Loan**

FAAST administers a statewide Web-based assistive technology device loan program that enables individuals to review a large inventory of assistive technology and make a request to borrow it. Assistive technology device loans are shipped to and from the borrower at no cost to the borrower. The six FAAST regional demonstration centers (RDCs) have regional device loan programs as well.

### **Device Demonstration**

FAAST maintains six regional demonstration centers in Tallahassee, Pensacola, Jacksonville, Orlando, Tampa and Miami, where assistive technology device demonstrations are conducted on a daily basis for individuals with disabilities and other visitors.

### **State Leadership Activities**

FAAST's public policy initiatives that promote access to and acquisition of assistive services and technology focus on serving on state councils and boards, working with state agency officials, and producing public policy issue briefs to educate the three branches of state government on legislative and public policy matters affecting the acquisition of assistive technology for individuals with disabilities and their families. FAAST public awareness activities include the research, development and distribution of self-help up-to-date resource guides, public service announcements, the quarterly *FAAST Access Magazine*, and a myriad of other brochures and publications, resource information and a user-friendly website, as well as exhibits and public forums statewide.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: GEORGIA

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**Lead Agency:** Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL)

**Program Title:** Tools For Life (TFL)

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### State Financing Activities

Tools for Life (TFL) supports the Center for Financial Independence and Innovation's Credit-Able, Georgia's alternative financing program (AFP), which provides guaranteed loans to individuals with disabilities and their families for the purchase of AT devices and services. TFL collaborates with the Center for Financial Independence & Innovation's Credit-Able Program, the Getting Ahead Association and the Assistive Technology Resource Centers (ATRCs) to expand CreditAble. TFL supports the administration of a small last-resort fund and is actively exploring the possibility of developing an AT co-op.

### Device Reutilization

TFL supports several device reuse activities, including Reboot—a computer reutilization program, Friends of Disabled Adults and Children Too—a durable medical equipment (DME) reuse program, and G-Trade—an online AT equipment exchange program. Every region of Georgia is served by TFL reuse efforts. TFL also created the Southeastern Technology Access & Reuse (STAR) Network with many community partners throughout the southern states to increase capacity and serve more individuals through AT reuse.

### Device Loan

The TFL network has an extensive AT device loan library and contracts with Disability Connections, Tech-Able, Touch the Future and Walton Options, organizations that handle the day-to-day operations of this service. The equipment in the AT device loan library program is shipped to any location in Georgia. The length of a device loan is two-to-four weeks, with the possibility of an extension.

### Device Demonstration

TFL itself conducts device demonstrations and contracts with a network of ATRCs to conduct device demonstrations across the state. Each center is stocked with a core set of innovative AT solutions for demonstration. TFL ensures the needs of individuals are met by annually evaluating the comprehensiveness of the AT device demonstration programs with regard to type of equipment and audiences reached.

### State Leadership Activities

Training has been and continues to be developed to include information about AT solutions, AT resources, AT funding strategies and TFL programs. TFL has increased awareness about the benefits of AT through bimonthly webinars, biannual statewide conferences, a toll-free information and assistance service, an in-depth website featuring a funding guide, quarterly newsletters, training materials and publications provided free of charge.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: GUAM

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**Lead Agency:** University of Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service Program

**Program Title:** Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT)

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### State Financing Activities

GSAT operates two financial loan programs: The Guam Options for Alternative Loans-Assistive Technology (GOAL-AT), which offers low-interest loans for the purchase of assistive technology, and the Get Guam Teleworking Loan Program (GGT), which offers low-interest loans to help individuals with disabilities with self-employment.

### Device Reutilization

GSAT administers a reutilization program, which includes recycling, refurbishment, repairing, device reassignment and device exchange that increases options for acquiring AT by individuals with disabilities.

### Device Loan

For a free, one-month trial use, GSAT's device loan program offers access to all AT equipment available at the Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at the University of Guam. The program assists consumers to make an informed choice by providing the opportunity to try and practice a device in an appropriate setting.

### Device Demonstration

GSAT conducts monthly demonstrations focusing on specific AT devices at its demonstration and recycling center. Additionally, GSAT works collaboratively with disability and health-related agencies to enhance participation in conferences, employer job fairs and other AT activities.

### State Leadership Activities

GSAT conducts regular training and technical assistance on the selection, use and acquisition of AT devices and services. The program plans activities, such as establishing contracts to provide training to vocational rehabilitation counselors and staff at one-stop career centers. GSAT offers free information and referral services, and disseminates training materials and publications that cover AT.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: HAWAII

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|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>         | <b>Hawaii Department of Human Services, Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind Division</b> |
| <b>Implementing Entity:</b> | <b>Assistive Technology Resource Centers of Hawaii (ATRC)</b>   |
| <b>Program Title:</b>       | <b>Assistive Technology Resource Centers of Hawaii (ATRC)</b>   |

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### State Financing Activities

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

### Device Reutilization

ATRC has created a computer redistribution program and an AT equipment relocation program to carry out device reutilization activities. The computer systems redistribution is stocked by donated computers from Hawaii businesses and other sources and made ready for free distribution to persons with disabilities. The equipment relocation program brings together buyers and sellers of AT in Hawaii and is administered at both the physical location of ATRC offices and through an online portal designed to provide statewide accessibility.

### Device Loan

ATRC has developed an "AT depot" device loan program that provides the short-term loan of AT devices and educational materials, such as AT videos and publications. These short-term loans allow for the use of a trial device for assessment and evaluation, and a temporary device for use while a primary device is repaired or maintained. The AT depot is administered through four physical locations at the ATRC office and at partner agency locations on the islands of Maui, Kauai and Hawaii.

### Device Demonstration

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

### State Leadership Activities

ATRC provides training activities through conferences, such as the Tools for Life Hawaii Expo, scheduled workshops and open training sessions. Technical assistance continues to be provided in coordination with the Pacific ADA and IT Center. ATRC provides a toll-free information and referral service; the *Reacher*, a monthly newsletter; the *Kupuna Guide-AT*, which is geared toward AT in daily living for the *kupuna* or senior populations in Hawaii; and a website, including a one-stop database of links to resources.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: IDAHO

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

**Program Title:** Idaho Assistive Technology Project (IdATP)

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### State Financing Activities

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

### Device Reutilization

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

### Device Loan

Through partnerships and its own regional AT centers, IdATP supports a number of AT device loan programs. It supports seven hearing assistance centers operated by the Idaho Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing that loan hearing assistance equipment. It also supports the Equipment Lending Library at the Idaho Center for Assistive Technology (ICAT), the only statewide, short-term AT and developmental toy loan program in the state of Idaho, which ships items statewide at no cost.

### Device Demonstration

IdATP operates an AT demonstration program by assisting and supporting three regional AT centers, seven hearing assistance centers and a network of Assistive Technology Professionals (ATPs), who lend their expertise and guide individuals through a comparison of devices.

### State Leadership Activities

IdATP maintains a full-time information and assistance specialist and project director, and a half-time loan program and training coordinator, all of whom collaborate with three regional centers and a network of ATPs to conduct training and technical assistance on AT-related topics. IdATP provides AT-related information and assistance to people of all ages and disabilities, and its website, training materials, publications and quarterly newsletter, *Spud Tech Notes*, offer information on the benefits of AT. IdATP sponsors the annual Tools for Life conference held in collaboration with the Idaho Department of Education and the secondary transition task force.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: ILLINOIS

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|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>         | <b>Illinois Department of Human Service (DHS), Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)</b> |
| <b>Implementing Entity:</b> | <b>Illinois Assistive Technology Program (IATP)</b>  |
| <b>Program Title:</b>       | <b>Illinois Assistive Technology Program (IATP)</b>  |

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### State Financing Activities

IATP implements a statewide alternative financing program (AFP) and an access to telework loan program. Both program components offer a preferred interest rate, extended repayment plans and/or relaxed credit standards.

### Device Reutilization

IATP's reutilization program, AT Classifieds, is designed as an accessible online AT exchange that assists consumers of AT to buy, sell or donate pieces of used AT equipment.

### Device Loan

There are currently about 1,000 devices in IATP's inventory available for loans of up to five weeks. The devices are assembled and shipped out to the borrower anywhere in the state. The expense to ship AT to a borrower is covered by the program. Return shipping expenses are the responsibility of the borrower.

### Device Demonstration

IATP operates an AT device demonstration center in Springfield, Ill., which contains an accessible kitchen, bathroom and other rooms featuring workplace technologies, sensory aids, adapted toys and switches, aids for daily living, and augmentative communication devices. IATP transports AT devices to another location if a consumer cannot get to Springfield.

### State Leadership Activities

IATP conducts AT training statewide and works with agencies to customize workshops to meet AT needs in such areas as older adults, early intervention, education, employment and activities of daily living. IATP uses a multifaceted approach (mailings, Internet, exhibits, presentations and trainings) to increase awareness about assistive technology devices and services. IATP provides information and assistance statewide through its toll-free numbers and produces a quarterly newsletter, *TechTalk*, which has a distribution of over 8,200 individuals. IATP continues to coordinate and collaborate on activities with public and private agencies with which it already works, as well as to begin to foster relationships with other organizations and agencies on activities that improve access to and funding for assistive technology devices and services.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: INDIANA

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|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>         | <b>Indiana Division of Disability, Aging, and Rehabilitative Services</b> |
| <b>Implementing Entity:</b> | <b>Easter Seals Crossroads</b>  |
| <b>Program Title:</b>       | <b>Indiana Assistive Technology Act (INDATA) Project</b>                  |

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### **State Financing Activities**

The INDATA Project operates a financial loan program, which offers loan guarantees to provide loans for the purchase of assistive technology. The loan program is in its infancy and many activities, such as ongoing sources of support, have yet to be determined. An advisory council specific to the loan program has been established and provides guidance as this program is developed. This advisory council reports back to the INDATA statewide AT advisory council and the Easter Seals Crossroads board of directors.

### **Device Reutilization**

The INDATA Project provides a computer reutilization program and assistive technology reutilization program throughout the state of Indiana. This program, known as the INDATA Depot, operates via a warehouse as well as an online database. Users of this system list ads in the form of “buy, sell, or trade” transactions. Potential users then respond to those ads and work with the current owner to coordinate the sale or exchange of items.

### **Device Loan**

The INDATA Project owns and utilizes a collection of over 1,500 assistive technology items for 30-day loans to assist clients in making informed decisions about the kinds of assistive technology ultimately used at home, school or on the job.

### **Device Demonstration**

The INDATA Project provides in-home and on-demand device demonstrations. INDATA also hosts demo days on a weekly basis on a particular disability or type of AT. During demo day, individuals are scheduled in half-hour increments to visit one of its regional sites to receive one or more equipment demonstrations. This has proven to bring people to the program and regional sites that might have otherwise been unaware of the INDATA Project and AT in general.

### **State Leadership Activities**

The INDATA Project provides a diverse offering of education and outreach as well as collaboration and coordination services. Highlights include quarterly assistive technology training activities that are broadcast throughout the state via webcasting, an annual conference with over 500 attendees, and a social networking outreach campaign that includes weekly YouTube videos, blogging, and Facebook and Twitter outreach.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: IOWA**

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

**Program Title:** Iowa Program for Assistive Technology (IPAT)

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### **State Financing Activities**

IPAT contracts with the Iowa Abilities Fund to manage Iowa's alternative financing program (AFP), the Iowa Able Foundation. It provides loans to people with disabilities and their families for the purchase of AT devices and services. In addition to the guarantee, the Iowa Able Foundation offers other flexible options, such as a reduced interest rate and longer loan terms with smaller payments. Abilities Fund also operates the telework grant, which issues loans to persons with disabilities to purchase computers and other equipment needed to work from home.

### **Device Reutilization**

IPAT contracts with Iowa COMPASS, Iowa's disability information and referral service, to manage the Used Equipment Referral Service (UERS), a free service that operates like a newspaper want ad and lists used devices for sale by consumers and AT vendors. IPAT is also the primary financial supporter for Easter Seals Iowa equipment service, a device recycling program that accepts donated used devices from across the state, cleans and refurbishes the AT, and provides the devices to individuals who would not otherwise be able to acquire them. In addition, IPAT continues to maintain a comprehensive listing of all the device reutilization and recycling programs in Iowa and neighboring states, and make this information available through Iowa COMPASS.

### **Device Loan**

IPAT supports the Disability Resource Library (DRL) at the Center for Disabilities and Development to administer a short-term device loan program to allow consumers to try devices or software before purchasing them. This is a limited program primarily for augmentative communication devices and educational software.

### **Device Demonstration**

IPAT contracts with Easter Seals Iowa to operate a statewide device demonstration center located in Des Moines. The center focuses on devices for community living and activities of daily living.

### **State Leadership Activities**

IPAT engages in a number of activities to improve access to AT devices and services. Technical assistance and training are provided to agencies and organizations relating to education, employment, community living and emergency preparedness.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: KANSAS

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**Lead Agency:** Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities

**Program Title:** Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK)

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### State Financing Activities

ATK conducts four state financing activities. It works with the Kansas Assistive Technology Cooperative (KATCO) to operate an alternative financing program to assist persons in acquiring AT and to operate the Kansas telework loan program to support persons working from remote locations. KATCO works with Kansas financial institutions to offer a financial loan program with reduced interest and an extended payback period. ATK provides case management by AT funding specialists to assist consumers in acquiring AT, and it determines eligibility and equipment justification services for its telecommunications access program (TAP).

### Device Reutilization

ATK offers two reutilization activities. One is the Kansas equipment exchange (KEE) program, which operates in conjunction with Kansas Health Care Policy (Medicaid) and Kansas University to track equipment purchases, affix an electronic tracking code on new equipment and maintain a real-time database of KEE inventory. Equipment no longer needed by the Medicaid beneficiaries is returned to the program so that it can be refurbished and reused by a new consumer. A second activity is the ATK equipment reutilization program for expensive technology that does not meet the definition of durable medical equipment (DME) required by the KEE Program. This small reutilization program for expensive equipment, therefore, focuses on devices that are not medical in nature and, therefore, would not be purchased or tracked by Medicaid.

### Device Loan

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

### Device Demonstration

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

### State Leadership Activities

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

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: KENTUCKY

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|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>   | <b>Kentucky Office for the Blind</b>                        |
| <b>Program Title:</b> | <b>Kentucky Assistive Technology Service (KATS) Network</b> |

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### State Financing Activities

The KY *Title III* alternative financing program (AFP) and the Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) are operated with other comparable non-*AT Act* funding, under the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, respectively. Their URLs are <http://www.katlc.ky.gov> and <http://www.kcdhh.ky.gov/oea/tddprog.html>, respectively.

### Device Reutilization

The Assistive Technology Exchange List (ATEX) is a Web-based classified listing of AT devices offered for sale or donated by and for consumers. It also contains a list of AT that consumers need. It is maintained online at <http://www.katsnet.org/services/reutilization/atex>. Additionally, the four regional AT resource centers (ATRCs) of KATS operate AT reassignment programs for consumers. The amount of equipment available at one time is limited by donations and storage space. Most equipment is reassigned on an as-is basis.

### Device Loan

Device Loans of AT are provided through the regional ATRCs and through a transition AT demo/loan lab at KATS. The ATRCs each conduct device loan programs enabling consumers to borrow AT devices for 30-day trial periods. Extended loans may be provided depending on the availability of equipment. The focus of the KATS Transition AT Demo and Loan Lab is to provide specialized demo and device loan activities for transition from secondary to postsecondary education or work, and transition from institutional care to community-based care, including deaf and blind individuals.

### Device Demonstration

KATS delivers device demonstration programs primarily through the regional ATRCs, along with the KATS Transition AT Demo/Loan Lab. Each ATRC has an array of AT devices for demonstration, including individual and group activities designed to explore a range of available AT devices, individual consultations to support appropriate device selection, and individual or group training to support appropriate usage of devices. The focus of the KATS Transition AT Demo Lab is the same as for the KATS Transition AT Loan Lab described above under "Device Loan."

### State Leadership Activities

KATS provides training and technical assistance to individual consumers, professionals, groups and organizations. activities include collaboration with other organizations. KATS continues to provide publications on AT, an in-depth website, e-mail lists and listserv distributions, and a toll-free information and referral service.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: LOUISIANA

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|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>         | <b>Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH)</b>    |
| <b>Implementing Entity:</b> | <b>Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network (LATAN)</b> |
| <b>Program Title:</b>       | <b>Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network (LATAN)</b> |

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### **State Financing Activities**

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

### **Device Reutilization**

LATAN operates two reutilization programs. One is the low-cost Computer ReUse program, which delivers rebuilt computers to the doors of Louisiana consumers with disabilities. A second is a database of devices, the AT Marketplace, Louisiana's assistive technology classifieds, which makes available used devices for low or no cost.

### **Device Loan**

LATAN's device loan program is available throughout the state through its three offices and via shipping. In addition, LATAN provides information about other loan closets in the state. Device loans are typically made for communication, computer access, software and vision devices.

### **Device Demonstration**

LATAN has two device demonstration centers; one in the south central area of the state and one in the northwest area of the state. In addition, LATAN provides traveling demonstrations to rural and remote areas of the state. Over 700 devices are available for demonstrations.

### **State Leadership Activities**

Training is provided to AT users on specific devices and to increase the skill levels of AT providers, and to those working with the aging population. Technical assistance includes aiding in the development of AT services in waiver programs for long-term supports and services, in developing emergency preparedness and response policies and procedures, in transitioning from one setting to another, and in creating affordable and accessible housing policy. LATAN offers public awareness presentations, exhibits, media, brochures and other printed material. Consumers can benefit from LATAN's toll-free information and assistance service; *G.R.E.A.T. Possibilities*, a quarterly print newsletter; a monthly e-newsletter; publications about AT; and a website. LATAN collaborates with other entities to increase access to assistive technology.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: MAINE

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|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>   | <b>Maine Department of Education</b>  |
| <b>Program Title:</b> | <b>Maine Consumer Information and Technology Training Exchange (Maine CITE Program)</b> |

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### **State Financing Activities**

Two programs currently operate to finance AT. Maine's AFP combined *Title III* funds with state funds to enable more people to qualify for low-interest loans to purchase AT. In addition, bulk purchasing for AT is now available to all local school systems in the state through the expansion of the statewide Buying Consortium operated by the Association of Computer Technology Educators of Maine (ACTEM).

### **Device Reutilization**

A Web-based AT device exchange is operated in collaboration with the five other New England states. The website at <http://www.getatstuff.com> is based at the Maine CITE coordinating center. In addition, Maine helps to support an AT reassignment program, TEC-Assist, located at the Technical Exploration Center (TEC) at Husson University that makes used, refurbished AT available at discount prices. Maine also has an informal network of device exchange programs that offer AT devices for sale or at no cost.

### **Device Loan**

The state supports several entities offering device loan programs: The Technical Exploration Center (TEC) at Husson University, University of Maine at Farmington, ALLTech, Pine Tree Society and C.A.R.E.S., Inc. These device loan programs enable individuals with disabilities and seniors to borrow AT for up to two weeks, with potential renewals.

### **Device Demonstration**

Maine supports the Technical Exploration Center, ALLTech, the University of Maine at Farmington and Pine Tree Society to offer AT device demonstrations. The Maine CITE coordinating center's website serves as a central point of information about those AT services.

### **State Leadership Activities**

The Maine CITE coordinating center coordinates training and public awareness events with more than 15 organizations that comprise Maine's AT Consortia. Technical assistance related to accessible instructional materials, accessible information technology and transition also is provided. The *AT Act* Program hosts a website and collaborates with the state's center for independent living, Alpha One, to provide information and awareness services.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: MARYLAND

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**Lead Agency:** Maryland Department of Disabilities  
**Program Title:** Maryland Technology Assistance Program (MD TAP)

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### State Financing Activities

Maryland operates four projects that help people with disabilities obtain AT. It provides low-interest loans through its AT loan program and WorkABILITY loan program. It supports an Assistive Technology Cooperative Buying program that provides discounts on AT products for individuals, families and education entities. It also provides communication evaluations and devices to nursing home residents moving into the community.

### Device Reutilization

Maryland recycles durable medical equipment and provides it to Medicaid recipients and other individuals with disabilities who have low incomes and are uninsured or underinsured. Maryland has launched an equipment exchange program to provide online classified ads for those who want to buy, sell, donate, borrow or acquire AT.

### Device Loan

MD TAP runs an equipment demonstration & loaner library, lending equipment to schools and individuals across the state. Items for loan include augmentative communication devices, blindness and low-vision products, computer access devices, electronic note-takers, adapted telephones and telecommunications devices for the deaf, assistive listening, alerting systems, aids for daily living and much more.

### Device Demonstration

Six AT demonstration sites are located throughout the state to allow for individuals with disabilities to receive information and try out a variety of AT. Additional demonstrations are provided off-site when individuals are unable to travel to a demonstration center and for group presentations.

### State Leadership Activities

MD TAP provides workshops on a variety of topics relevant to AT and implements a multifaceted public awareness approach. It provides technical assistance for implementation of the state's information technology non-visual access policy, evaluates state agency websites for accessibility, and negotiates agreements between DORS and local school systems to provide seamless access to AT devices and services to students throughout the transition from high school to work.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: MASSACHUSETTS

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|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>   | <b>Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission,<br/>Community Living Division</b> |
| <b>Program Title:</b> | <b>MassMATCH (Maximizing Assistive Technology in<br/>Consumer's Hands)</b>    |

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### **State Financing Activities**

Massachusetts supports an alternative financing program that provides lower interest loans and loan guarantees for people purchasing assistive technology. Massachusetts partners with Easter Seals of Massachusetts and Sovereign Bank to provide these loans.

### **Device Reutilization**

Together with the other New England states, Massachusetts maintains the AT Exchange in New England, which provides an online catalog of used AT for sale or donation. AT that is needed can also be posted. The AT Exchange opened in January 2007 and can be accessed at <http://www.getATstuff.org>. Massachusetts has also developed a long-term device loan program, operated by the AFP partner, Easter Seals of Massachusetts, allowing individuals to borrow AT devices valued under \$500 for as long as needed.

### **Device Loan**

Massachusetts operates a device loan program. Through an online inventory on the MassMATCH website, consumers can view available devices and request device loans from either of the two AT regional centers. One of the regional centers is operated by Easter Seals of Massachusetts in Eastern Massachusetts; the other regional center is operated by United Cerebral Palsy of Berkshire County in the west.

### **Device Demonstration**

Device demonstrations are conducted at either of the two AT regional centers. One of the regional centers is operated by Easter Seals of Massachusetts in eastern Massachusetts; the other regional center is operated by UCP of Berkshire County in the west.

### **State Leadership Activities**

Each year MassMATCH hosts regional AT expositions to increase public awareness. The program operates a listserv for sending out timely information on AT-related topics as well as publishes a quarterly newsletter. The website also has an "ask an expert" function, which serves as a virtual community for AT consumers, providers, advocates, educators and others in which they can share information, ask questions, provide comments or engage in discussions related to AT.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: MICHIGAN

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|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>   | <b>Department of Human Services—<br/>Michigan Rehabilitation Services</b> |
| <b>Program Title:</b> | <b>Michigan Assistive Technology Project</b>                              |

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### **State Financing Activities**

Michigan's AT Loan Fund provides low-interest loans to people with disabilities so they can purchase AT. This program is administered by United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) Michigan and supported by the AT program. The Michigan Employment Loan Fund is also operated by UCP Michigan, which provides loans for the purchase of equipment to people with disabilities so they can work at home or operate home businesses. The website is <http://www.michiganloanfunds.org>.

### **Device Reutilization**

The Michigan AT Program provided the ATXchange (ATX) for individuals with an AT device wishing to either sell it or give it away. The ATX is a Web-based advertising service that connects buyers and sellers of devices and is located at <http://www.atxchange.org>.

### **Device Loan**

The Michigan AT Program exercises state flexibility for this activity.

### **Device Demonstration**

Michigan has one demonstration site in Michigan's Upper Peninsula at the Superior Alliance for Independent Living (SAIL) and several demonstration projects in different areas. The program subcontracts with the Hearing Loss Association of Michigan to provide demonstrations of hearing assistive technology throughout the state. There are several kits of AT devices for community living called "small changes, Big Differences," which are currently located at the Disability Networks of Southwest Michigan and Oakland/Macomb, SAIL, and the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (MDRC). The program has three sites in Oakland, Macomb and Wayne Counties with devices for assistive technology and communication in emergencies.

### **State Leadership Activities**

Michigan's program maintains a website and publishes "AT Connections," an e-mail-based newsletter, 10 times a year on Michigan AT activities. It also provides coordination and collaboration on statewide issues, and a website. In partnership with local groups, Michigan also provides a toll-free information and referral service, information through presentations at conferences, and collaboration on publications and training materials about AT.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: MINNESOTA

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**Lead Agency:** Minnesota Department of Administration

**Program Title:** Minnesota STAR Program

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### **State Financing Activities**

Through the Department of Administration, the Minnesota STAR Program is the lead agency for alternative financing and telework financial loan programs operated by the community-based organization EquipAlife. Services are comprehensive and statewide. EquipAlife provides low-interest loans to individuals with disabilities who do not have the money to pay for the assistive technology devices and services they need.

### **Device Reutilization**

STAR maintains a Web-based equipment exchange to assist those who want to buy and sell used AT devices. STAR contracts with established agencies and organizations to refurbish AT for long-term loans to individuals.

### **Device Loan**

STAR formed a device loan collaborative with five established device loan programs throughout the state that provide an array of services enabling persons with disabilities access to appropriate assistive technology.

### **Device Demonstration**

STAR has a number of devices that it demonstrates at conferences, public information fairs, workshops, public libraries, senior centers and other locations in communities throughout the state. It maintains a device demonstration lab that includes alternative computer access technology. A collaboration with five established device demonstration programs throughout the state provides demonstrations of AT based on the needs and requests of individuals with disabilities.

### **State Leadership Activities**

STAR provides information and referrals to professionals and consumers. It publishes a newsletter three times a year, hosts a website and maintains a listserv to share AT information. Biannually STAR publishes its "Directory of Funding and Assistive Technology Resources in Minnesota." STAR is a member of the Minnesota Department of Education's statewide assistive technology leadership team that plans statewide AT-related professional development activities. STAR provides AT training and technical assistance for state employees, AT professionals, employers and consumers. STAR co-sponsors and coordinates transition events for both students and adults.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: MISSISSIPPI

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|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>   | <b>Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services</b>                   |
| <b>Program Title:</b> | <b>Project START (Success Through Assistive Rehabilitation Technology)</b> |

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### **State Financing Activities**

Mississippi is a state with one of the highest rates of poverty, a rate that increased in 2000–04 from 18.2 percent to 21.6 percent. Given that fact and the devastation brought on by Hurricane Katrina, Project START amended its AT state plan to invoke flexibility for this activity and, therefore, is not providing state financing activities at this time. Options for state financing activities continue to be explored.

### **Device Reutilization**

Mississippi's Project START program offers three access activities for assistive technology:

- (1) The Mississippi Equipment Connection Program is an online recycling database that helps Mississippians with disabilities and older people with functional limitations find affordable assistive technology devices and equipment.
- (2) The Computer Refurbishment Program is an in-home placement of refurbished computers for people with disabilities. The goal is to support educational and vocational development, as well as enhance personal independence for people with disabilities through the use of computers.
- (3) Mississippi's Re-Tech Program focuses on underserved populations in Mississippi.

### **Device Loan**

The Project START Technology Library is a lending library of assistive technology devices and equipment. Try AT Before You Buy AT is a program focused on making sure individuals make the right decisions regarding assistive technology before purchasing. Training and demonstrations are required before the loaning of some devices.

### **Device Demonstration**

Demonstration partnerships provide an environment for individuals to become educated and familiar with the latest technology. Project START's demonstration center staff provides support through proper instruction on using the devices, which ensures individuals are comfortable and confident with the assistive technology. Project START staff demonstrates devices on a daily basis.

### **State Leadership Activities**

Project START coordinates and collaborates with various disability organizations, universities, the state department of education and community colleges to provide training, technical assistance and public awareness in enhancing a more comprehensive statewide assistive technology program. Customized training is available to organizations upon request.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: Missouri**

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**Lead Agency:** Missouri Assistive Technology Council

**Program Title:** Missouri Assistive Technology (MoAT)

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### **State Financing Activities**

MoAT implements three state financing activities. The Show-Me Loans program provides low-interest loans for vehicle access modifications, home access improvements, mobility equipment, sensory aids and other AT. Another program, Show-Me Loans for Telework, provides low-interest loans for Missourians with disabilities for equipment needed to telework. MoAT also implements the Kids Assistive Technology (KAT) program, which is a last resort funding option for families of children under age 21.

### **Device Reutilization**

MoAT supports a network of device recycling programs at six independent living centers throughout the state to provide recycled durable medical equipment, aids for daily living and other equipment. In addition, MoAT provides an online statewide equipment exchange program, Swap 'N Shop. The program allows prospective buyers to search listings of available equipment for sale throughout the state as well as in neighboring states.

### **Device Loan**

MoAT operates the Equipment Technology Consortium (ETC), a statewide short-term assistive technology equipment loan program that allows individuals with disabilities to try out the equipment before purchasing decisions are made, for use during the time equipment is in repair or for other short-term needs. Devices are shipped throughout the state at no cost to the recipients. An online catalogue is on the MoAT website showing a photo of and basic information about available devices.

### **Device Demonstration**

MoAT supports eight regional sites throughout the state to provide assistive technology demonstration programs. The programs provide individuals with disabilities, family members, professionals and others the opportunity to have guided demonstrations of a wide array of devices.

### **State Leadership Activities**

MoAT provides customized training on accessible instructional materials, employment, education, learning disabilities, transition, aging and many more topics.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: MONTANA

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|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>         | <b>Department of Public Health and Human Services,<br/>Disability Services Division</b> |
| <b>Implementing Entity:</b> | <b>University of Montana Rural Institute, MonTECH</b>                                   |
| <b>Program Title:</b>       | <b>Montana Assistive Technology Program (MATP)</b>                                      |

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### **State Financing Activities**

MATP offers a statewide low-interest financial loan program to help secure loans made by Community Bank-Missoula, Inc. to people with disabilities for the purchase of assistive technology.

### **Device Reutilization**

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

### **Device Loan**

MATP operates a short-term equipment loan program, which includes approximately a thousand AT devices and computer hardware or software products available for 30-day loans. MATP has developed a Web-based system that allows people to browse the inventory, create and manage loan accounts, and make electronic requests to borrow items online. Consumers can also borrow equipment by contacting the program via telephone using the local or toll-free number, by e-mail or by visiting the facility. This system also provides an infrastructure that can be used by other Montana programs that wish to operate an equipment loan program.

### **Device Demonstration**

MATP uses the established MonTECH demonstration site at the University of Montana Rural Institute in Missoula. The center includes a number of display areas organized around specific applications. MATP utilizes distance technologies to provide device demonstrations in the underserved locations of the state. MATP also has placed demonstration equipment with the Parents, Let's Unite for Kids (PLUK) center in Southeast Montana as well as with Blind and Low Vision Services (BLVS) locations statewide. MATP contracts, when necessary, with other professionals to provide remote demonstration services in order to extend its device demonstration capabilities.

### **State Leadership Activities**

MATP operates an information and referral network serving all Montanans, distributes materials about AT to key stakeholder groups, and participates in local and statewide events to promote awareness and increase knowledge. MATP collaborates with agencies and service providers, including tribal organizations, to provide needed AT training in the areas of education, employment, community living and information technology.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: NEBRASKA

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**Lead Agency:** Nebraska Department of Education

**Program Title:** Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP)

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### **State Financing Activities**

Nebraska's ATP provides technical assistance in support of the Making Homes Accessible (MHA) Program. MHA is a statewide program that provides interest-free deferred loans for persons with disabilities and the families they live with to make their homes accessible for independent living. ATP also coordinates with numerous private and public funding sources to identify other available funding for projects to combine limited resources.

Nebraska's ATP annually seeks funding from a private foundation through the Enrichment Foundation Grant Program. The program provides funding for assistive technology and environmental modifications for individuals with disabilities residing in Douglas and Sarpy counties.

### **Device Reutilization**

ATP operates AT4ALL, a Web-based listing of used AT equipment for sale at low cost or free. AT4ALL creates a marketplace for this type of equipment and provides an opportunity for people with disabilities to find more affordable equipment.

### **Device Loan**

ATP operates a device loan program. The trial use of equipment provides valuable experience and information for individuals as they make choices about what equipment best meet their needs. In some situations, equipment loans have bridged the gap between the immediate need for assistive technology and the time it takes to acquire the device through public or private financing systems. A Web-based tracking system, AT4ALL, is used to track devices loaned.

### **Device Demonstration**

Device demonstrations occur at ATP offices or via mobile demonstrations at individual worksites, schools and homes. Technology specialists, experienced in operation of the devices, are available to assist individuals trying out the equipment.

### **State Leadership Activities**

ATP and partners continue efforts to promote the free online housing listing and location service at <http://www.housing.ne.gov> to benefit individuals with disabilities seeking to transition to the community. The provision of financial support for the continued operation and further development of [www.housing.ne.gov](http://www.housing.ne.gov) is being sought. Technical assistance is provided to local school facilities to determine recommended work to comply with building access under the *American with Disabilities Act* accessibility guidelines.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: NEVADA**

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|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>   | <b>Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division</b>    |
| <b>Program Title:</b> | <b>Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative (NATC)</b> |

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### **State Financing Activities**

Nevada offers a statewide financial loan program, the CARE Loan Fund Program, to help people with disabilities purchase AT devices. The loan program is a partnership between NATC, CARE Chest and Nevada State Bank. The loans are offered at lower interest rates and often for more years than a typical bank loan, thus making the loans more affordable. A statewide AT purchasing program for independent living, the Assistive Technology for Independent Living program (AT/IL) provides AT to assist a person to live more independently. AT/IL provides devices not offered through other funding sources, i.e., Medicaid, insurance, VR or education.

### **Device Reutilization**

NATC operates an extensive equipment recycling program in the northern part of the state through CARE Chest. Donated equipment is tested, repaired and sanitized before being offered for use. In addition, NATC has started the Nevada Assistive Technology Exchange (NATE) to offer a resource to list AT statewide, including devices for reutilization.

### **Device Loan**

NATC community partners, Easter Seals of Southern Nevada in Las Vegas and University of Nevada—Reno's Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities (NCED) AT Resource Center in Reno, offer short-term device loans. Devices are limited to the items on hand; however, the list of devices continues to expand. Device loans are typically two weeks in duration.

### **Device Demonstration**

NATC community partners, Easter Seals of Southern Nevada in Las Vegas and University of Nevada Reno's NCED AT Resource Center in Reno, offer device demonstrations. Through community partners NATC provides an opportunity for individuals to compare the features and benefits of a particular AT device or devices, hands-on, with knowledgeable AT specialists. Individuals with disabilities, family members and service providers can visit the sites or make arrangements for off-site demonstrations.

### **State Leadership Activities**

NATC partners with the University of Nevada-Reno's NCED AT Resource Center and Easter Seals Southern Nevada (ESSN) to provide workshops and presentations to increase individual awareness of AT. NATC provides technical assistance statewide to ensure that AT resources are available and maximized.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: NEW HAMPSHIRE**

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**Lead Agency:** University of New Hampshire, Institute on Disability  
**Program Title:** Assistive Technology in New Hampshire—AT inNH

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### **State Financing Activities**

ATinNH claims comparability for state financing activities. New Hampshire residents have access to a low-interest loan program for assistive technology operated by TD Banknorth.

### **Device Reutilization**

ATinNH supports and operates two primary reutilization activities. The New England Assistive Technology Exchange, GetATStuff.com, is a collaborative effort of the six New England states to maintain a market and improve a regional resource that facilitates the reuse of used assistive technology devices. The Refurbished Equipment Marketplace, REM, actively refurbishes donated devices for resale to the general public.

### **Device Loan**

ATinNH provides equipment loans in collaboration with a number of partners. The program continuously works on improving and updating this capacity to make it as accessible and useful as possible. Loans range from recreation items, to communication equipment and mobility-related technology. ATinNH partners are located throughout the state.

### **Device Demonstration**

ATinNH offers the opportunity to learn about equipment in partnership with a number of organizations throughout the state. ATinNH partners make their equipment available for demonstrations directly to consumers and also for use by professionals working in the field.

### **State Leadership Activities**

ATinNH focuses primarily on the delivery of training opportunities to increase capacity and awareness regarding the utility and creative development of assistive technology. The program pursues partnerships, where possible, to deliver training in an affordable manner. Training activities encompass university classes as well as workshops, and involve online and traditional content delivery methods.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: NEW JERSEY

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|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>         | <b>Department of Labor and Workforce Development,<br/>Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services</b> |
| <b>Implementing Entity:</b> | <b>Disability Rights New Jersey</b>  |
| <b>Program Title:</b>       | <b>Assistive Technology Advocacy Center (ATAC)</b>   |

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### State Financing Activities

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

### Device Reutilization

ATAC operates the Back-in-Action Equipment Exchange Program, which matches individuals selling or donating a device with those in need of such a device. ATAC operates its repair and refurbishment program through a contract with Your Resource, a nonprofit environmental center located in Ewing, N.J. Your Resource operates the C.A.R.E. program (Community Access to Rehabilitation Equipment). CARE offers a practical solution by recirculating quality, gently used durable medical equipment to people in the community, and uses effective reuse and recycling strategies.

### Device Loan

ATAC has established a network of device loan services and is the central clearinghouse for information regarding them. It also provides marketing and outreach on how to access the device loan services.

### Device Demonstration

ATAC has established a network of device demonstration services and serves as the central clearinghouse for information regarding them. ATAC provides marketing and outreach on how to access the device demonstration services.

### State Leadership Activities

ATAC provides AT training to students, parents and educators, in addition to assistance with home accessibility and modifications at such events as the Abilities Expo. ATAC provides technical assistance to state agencies and other interested parties regarding website accessibility and compliance with Sec. 508 of the *Rehabilitation Act*. ATAC bulletins on a variety of AT topics are distributed through mail and on its accessible website at <http://www.drnj.org/atac>. ATAC, also provides a statewide toll-free information and referral service, and disseminates approximately 10,000 print brochures, flyers and publications about AT each year.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: NEW MEXICO

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|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>   | <b>Public Education Department, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation</b> |
| <b>Program Title:</b> | <b>New Mexico Technology Assistance Program (NMTAP)</b>                   |

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### **State Financing Activities**

New Mexico has three state financing activities. The NMTAP Financial Loan Program (Title 1) provides guaranteed loans to individuals with disabilities for assistive technology purchases. The Telework Loan Program (New Mexico SeedLoans at <http://www.nmseedloans.org>) buys down interest rates and guarantees loans with the First Community Bank to purchase business equipment. The program is administered by the Technology Loan Council. The Last Resort Fund (Assistive Technology Community Partnership) is a cooperative program between NMTAP and nonprofits to purchase AT devices for individuals who have no other funding options.

### **Device Reutilization**

NMTAP operates a device recycling and repair program that allows individuals to receive free donated used equipment that is refurbished directly by NMTAP. NMTAP also operates a device exchange program that allows people to find used items through ad listings available on the program's website at <http://www.nmtap.com>.

### **Device Loan**

NMTAP continues to provide the Assistive Bank of Loan-able Equipment (ABLE). Devices in the loan inventory include alternative communication devices and switches, alternative keyboards, voice recognition software, laptop and desktop computers, and other devices. Also, the NM Commission for the Blind and NM Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing provide specialty devices for loan. The ABLE device inventory is updated regularly and posted in accessible formats on the program's website at <http://www.nmtap.com>.

### **Device Demonstration**

NMTAP provides on-site demonstrations around the state. Individuals can schedule appointments with staff to attend a demonstration. The program also maintains demonstration sites in Santa Fe, Las Vegas and Gallup, N.M.

### **State Leadership Activities**

NMTAP conducts an annual AT conference and vendor fair that provides a host of training sessions for a variety of audiences. NMTAP also collaborates with the Public Education Department, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; the University of New Mexico; and professional associations on technology conferences and related events. NMTAP provides a toll-free national information and referral service, website, paid advertising, enhanced public service announcements and publications available in accessible and alternative formats.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: NEW YORK

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**Lead Agency:** New York State Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities

**Program Title:** New York State Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (TRAIID) Program

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### State Financing Activities

TRAIID claims comparability for this activity. New York State (NYS) has the Equipment Loan Fund, a revolving loan program administered by the NYS Commission on the Blind and Visually Handicapped.

### Device Reutilization

At the state level, TRAIID operates TRAIID-IN, an equipment exchange program that helps individuals sell and buy AT devices through a want ad service. Information about items is posted on the program's website. The 12 TRAIID regional centers also operate equipment reutilization programs. The centers receive donated AT devices, clean and make any necessary repairs, and then identify individuals who are in need of the device through a network of agencies and consumers in their region.

### Device Loan

TRAIID's 12 regional centers operate equipment loan centers that provide equipment free of charge to all citizens in the state. Through a collaborative agreement with the Department of Health's (DOH) Early Intervention Program, the regional centers provide equipment loan programs for children from birth to age 3. TRAIID most recently collaborated with the DOH's Money Follows the Person program to ensure that persons have devices to allow them to remain independent in their homes.

### Device Demonstration

All 12 regional centers provide device demonstrations. Persons can walk in or make an appointment to meet with center staff for a demonstration. Demonstrations also are provided at statewide conferences and during special demonstration-day vendor fairs in rural areas across the state.

### State Leadership Activities

TRAIID coordinates the interagency partnership on assistive technology that is composed of state agencies, not-for-profit organizations and consumers who work to increase awareness of AT devices and services.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: NORTH CAROLINA

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|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>   | <b>North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services</b> |
| <b>Program Title:</b> | <b>North Carolina Assistive Technology Program (NCATP)</b>  |

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### State Financing Activities

NCATP claims flexibility for state financing activities. As described in Sec. 4(e)(6) of the *AT Act*, a state may carry out any two or more of the required state-level activities, meaning a state can choose to not conduct up to two activities.

### Device Reutilization

NCATP offers device reutilization through the Technology Exchange Post, which is a used equipment database to assist people with disabilities in obtaining used equipment at lower cost. The Exchange Post is similar to a want ad in that individuals list items they wish to sell. The Technology Exchange Post is a searchable website for use by all North Carolina residents.

### Device Loan

AT devices are loaned through 11 AT centers and one satellite location across the state. To find AT center locations, go to the NCATP website at <http://www.ncatp.org>. NCATP has an extensive inventory of devices, which can be borrowed for a two-week period, and the loan time can be extended if no one else is waiting. Satellite centers include independent living centers, VR centers, regional resource centers for the deaf and hard of hearing, Lee County Industries, Inc., and private physical rehabilitation centers.

### Device Demonstration

NCATP runs its device demonstration program through the 10 AT centers and all satellite centers across the state. To find AT center locations, go to the NCATP website at <http://www.ncatp.org>. Device demonstrations are provided on-site in an AT center or NCATP staff goes off-site to the individual's home, school, worksite or other community location upon request.

### State Leadership Activities

NCATP cosponsors an annual two-day AT expo and conference that offers an array of concurrent AT training sessions for people with disabilities, their families and professionals. NCATP continues to collaborate with the Division of Aging and Adult Services, the Division of Mental Health, Division of Developmental Disabilities, Division of Substance Abuse, Division of Medical Assistance, Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, and Services for the Blind and the Department of Public Instruction. New collaboration has been established with the Office of Long-Term Support to address "person-centered hospital discharge planning" services and with the Veterans Task Force, the NC CART (Center for Applied Rehabilitation Technology) program and the NC National Guard to pursue services for wounded veterans returning from conflict.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: NORTH DAKOTA

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|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>         | <b>North Dakota Department of Human Services</b>           |
| <b>Implementing Entity:</b> | <b>Interagency Program for Assistive Technology (IPAT)</b> |
| <b>Program Title:</b>       | <b>Interagency Program for Assistive Technology (IPAT)</b> |

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### **State Financing Activities**

Financial loans are available for assistive technology devices and services to all eligible state residents. Loans are available from \$500 to \$50,000. The loan program offers lower interest rates and extended payment terms.

### **Device Reutilization**

IPAT administers the AT Swap & Shop, a program that allows individuals to buy, sell, swap or give away used AT equipment. IPAT seeks to increase the listing of devices and extensively market the program to increase awareness of the service.

### **Device Loan**

IPAT operates a statewide short-term AT equipment loan program, the Equipment Loan Library (ELL). The ELL is available to state residents of all ages with disabilities and/or those family members and professionals who work with them. Devices are shipped to the borrower for a six-week loan period. A small rental fee and shipping costs are charged for equipment borrowed from the ELL. IPAT uses a sliding fee schedule for the rental of ELL equipment for eligible individuals with disabilities not covered by an agency.

### **Device Demonstration**

IPAT operates two comprehensive device demonstration centers: The Technology Access Center in Fargo and the Technology Access Center in Bismarck. These demonstration programs provide an opportunity for people to explore a number of AT devices, either on their own or using the expertise of IPAT staff. They both have videoconferencing capabilities so demonstrations can be conducted via videoconference.

### **State Leadership Activities**

AT training is provided to individuals with disabilities, their family members and the professionals that support them. IPAT engages in direct consumer assistance activities that include identifying AT device options for individuals, providing implementation strategies for agencies and troubleshooting specific AT equipment. Assistance is made available via phone, online, mail, videoconferencing or person-to-person. Public awareness activities include a toll-free information and referral line, a free bimonthly newsletter, an accessible website, and information talks on AT statewide. IPAT staff is available to serve on task forces and work groups addressing AT issues.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)**

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**Lead Agency:** CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities  
**Program Title:** CNMI Assistive Technology Program

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### **State Financing Activities**

CNMI provides an alternative financing program operated by the Coalition for Anti-Stigma of Mental Illness in the CNMI (CAMI) through a partnership with the Bank of Saipan. Through the loan program, people with disabilities receive loan guarantees and interest rate buy-downs on loans to make them more affordable so that they can borrow funds to purchase AT and services.

### **Device Reutilization**

The CNMI AT Program supports a device exchange for the island residents of Saipan, Tinian and Rota. The device exchange is a free service that is open to the public and directly serves consumers, family members or authorized representatives who would like to post ads online to sell pre-owned AT devices at a reduced cost. Clients can access the CNMI AT Exchange by visiting <http://www.cnmicdd.org/Assistive.html> or calling the CNMI AT Program directly to obtain information.

### **Device Loan**

The CNMI AT Program operates a device loan program that is available to all CNMI residents throughout the year. The CNMI AT Program is currently replacing obsolete AT devices. CNMI residents have access to these devices and can avail themselves of short-term device loans for a 42-day period, free of charge. The CNMI AT Program assists clients in making informed decisions about AT and continues to work collaboratively with other agencies, public and private, to promote the program and receive referrals.

### **Device Demonstration**

The CNMI AT Program conducts device demonstrations throughout the year. In most cases, demonstrations are conducted upon request from consumers, family members, authorized representatives, private and public disability and health-related agencies, and organizations. The CNMI AT Program conducts an annual AT conference and fair, where device demonstrations are available to the public.

### **State Leadership Activities**

The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities and CNMI AT Program collaborate with Developmental Disabilities (DD) Network Partners, the Northern Marianas College University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (NMC-UCEDD) and the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc. (NMPASI) to host tri-agency events annually and CNMI-wide during March Developmental Disabilities (DD) Awareness Month.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: OHIO

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|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>         | <b>Ohio State University Office of Sponsored Programs</b> |
| <b>Implementing Entity:</b> | <b>Ohio State University College of Engineering</b>       |
| <b>Program Title:</b>       | <b>Assistive Technology of Ohio</b>                       |

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### **State Financing Activities**

Assistive Technology of Ohio partners with Fifth Third Bank to offer a low-interest loan program for assistive technology.

### **Device Reutilization**

Assistive Technology of Ohio offers device reutilization through the Computer Refurbish and Recycle Program administered through a partnership with the YMCA of Central Ohio. Assistive Technology of Ohio accepts donations of computers, ancillary equipment and a variety of durable medical equipment (DME).

### **Device Loan**

Assistive Technology of Ohio operates a comprehensive device loan program through the program's central office as well as through a partnership with the Goodwill-Easter Seals of the Miami Valley.

### **Device Demonstration**

Assistive Technology of Ohio offers device demonstrations to disability groups, conferences and gatherings, as well as to other organizations interested in helping Ohioans with disabilities obtain technology.

### **State Leadership Activities**

Assistive Technology of Ohio actively works with other state boards, commissions and agencies to provide training and technical assistance to personnel that provide services to Ohioans with disabilities. The Technology Resource Center in Dayton has incorporated into its open-house programs a training session on autism. The training involves learning about the condition of autism and the various resources available for families who have a child with autism.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: OKLAHOMA**

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**Lead Agency:** Oklahoma State University, Seretean Wellness Center

**Program Title:** Oklahoma ABLE Tech

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### **State Financing Activities**

Oklahoma ABLE Tech partners with the Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation (OkAT) and BancFirst to provide a statewide alternative financing program (AFP) and an Access to Telework Fund (ATF) program to Oklahomans with disabilities. The AFP and ATF both offer an interest rate buy-down and/or guarantee bank loan so individuals have the opportunity to acquire needed assistive technology (AT) by borrowing money to purchase devices, equipment or modifications.

### **Device Reutilization**

ABLE Tech operates the AT Equipment Exchange, a want ad that functions as an AT exchange program. To access available equipment, visit <http://oec.okstate.edu>. ABLE Tech enhances collaboration with disability-related organizations that currently operate AT loan closets.

### **Device Loan**

ABLE Tech operates a statewide short-term loan program, via a memorandum of agreement, with eight partners: The Department of Rehabilitation Services, Visual Services Division; University of Tulsa; Hearing Loss Association of Oklahoma City; New View; Total Source for Hearing-loss and Access; Total Health; Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Developmental Disabilities Service Division; and Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education.

### **Device Demonstration**

ABLE Tech operates an AT device demonstration center and partners with nine other entities, including the early intervention program SoonerStart, to operate demonstration centers. The devices are available at all eight centers and to SoonerStart personnel and families for AT demonstrations.

### **State Leadership Activities**

ABLE Tech provides training for education, employment, community living, and information technology and telecommunication professionals, along with persons with disabilities and their family members. ABLE Tech has activities partnering with the early intervention program, special education, the Department of Rehabilitation Services and the Medicaid agency. The ABLE Tech INFO-line provides a toll-free information and referral service.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: OREGON

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|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>         | <b>State of Oregon, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services</b> |
| <b>Implementing Entity:</b> | <b>Access Technologies, Inc.</b>                                     |
| <b>Program Title:</b>       | <b>Oregon Statewide Assistive Technology Program (OSAT)</b>          |

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### **State Financing Activities**

The Oregon Statewide Assistive Technology (OSAT) Program is working to increase access to AT devices by providing cooperative buy and layaway programs. These finance activities make AT more affordable and get devices into the hands of individuals who couldn't otherwise afford it. Purchasing in bulk reduces the cost of many items, allowing the OSAT Program to pass the savings on to consumers, while at the same time maintaining a small inventory of specific devices, making it possible for the consumer to receive AT devices and services in a more timely fashion.

### **Device Reutilization**

The program works to improve acquisition of AT devices and durable medical equipment through device reutilization, which includes both device repair and recycling programs and device exchange programs. Pre-owned devices accepted into the device repair and recycling inventory are repaired or refurbished as needed, then offered for sale to consumers as recycled products. Consumers also have the option of purchasing pre-owned products directly from the current owner through OSAT's print and electronic Device Exchange Program.

### **Device Loan**

Oregon's statewide AT program's mission is to increase accessibility and utilization of assistive technology. One avenue to accomplish this is through a device loan library, which allows Oregonians of all ages and all disabilities the opportunity to make informed choices by "test-driving" specific AT devices in their environment prior to making purchasing decisions.

### **Device Demonstration**

Empowered consumers make informed decisions. Therefore, the program provides individuals with the opportunity to compare the features and benefits of a particular AT device or category of devices through guided, hands-on device demonstrations with knowledgeable AT specialists.

### **State Leadership Activities**

OSAT offers a variety of training and technical assistance, public awareness and collaboration activities to educational, employment, human services and social services professionals. These activities increase the success of students transitioning from high school to college or community living, seniors transitioning to nursing homes or other supported living environments, as well as individuals transitioning from nursing homes back to community living. In addition, the website and toll-free 1-800 lines provide free information and referral services to individuals of all ages and disabilities throughout Oregon.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: PENNSYLVANIA

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**Lead Agency:** Institute on Disabilities at Temple University  
**Program Title:** Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology (PIAT)

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### State Financing Activities

PIAT administers Pennsylvania's Telecommunications Device Distribution Program (TDDP). This program provides free telecommunications devices for eligible individuals who have disabilities that interfere with their ability to independently use the telephone. PIAT also provides financial support to Pennsylvania's Alternate Financing Program, the Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation (PATF).

### Device Reutilization

PIAT has several device reutilization efforts as a part of its Reused and Exchanged Equipment Partnership (REEP). These efforts include online classifieds, which allow consumers seeking devices to search the listings of the Delaware and Maryland AT programs as well as those throughout Pennsylvania. PIAT provides support to programs that accept, refurbish and redistribute AT devices, including Into New Hands (Pittsburgh), Liberty Retreads and Widow's Mite (Philadelphia), Changing Hands (Harrisburg), A New Start (Williamsport), Pass AT On (Scranton), and the TRIPIL Warehouse (Washington).

### Device Loan

PIAT operates Pennsylvania's Assistive Technology Lending Library, a consumer-responsive, statewide program that provides short-term (for periods from two to eight weeks) loans of AT devices that enable individuals with disabilities to make informed decisions about the appropriateness of an AT device in their real-life settings.

### Device Demonstration

PIAT's seven subcontracted assistive technology resource centers (ATRCs), plus its central office in Philadelphia, provide the infrastructure of the statewide system for device demonstrations. In addition to "demonstrations by demand," available through each ATRC, PIAT has two funded demonstration centers (Pittsburgh and Camp Hill) and several affiliate demonstration partners in the Philadelphia area.

### State Leadership Activities

PIAT uses a variety of strategies to deliver training, including participation in statewide conferences, university-based lectures, and train-the-trainer events. Technical assistance is available to agencies and organizations that are developing or enhancing programs and policies to improve access to AT. PIAT maintains a toll-free information and assistance service.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: PUERTO RICO**

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**Lead Agency:** University of Puerto Rico  
**Program Title:** Puerto Rico Assistive Technology Program (PRATP)

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### **State Financing Activities**

PRATP conducts a Low Cost Device Design and Development (LD3) Program to provide functional assistive technology (AT) solutions through the design, development, installation, configuration and training regarding low-cost devices. PRATP assembled an AT Development Team (ATDT) to receive referrals of technology needs from local AT evaluation centers and health-related professionals island-wide.

### **Device Reutilization**

PRATP developed an accessible online database (“Clasificado Virtual”) where individuals can ask for or post AT items to sell or donate. In collaboration with the Paralyzed Veterans Association of Puerto Rico (PVAPR), PRATP directly receives AT devices for reassignment, reconditioning and repair. Basic device training provision, instruction manuals, individual assistance, installation and configuration guarantee a successful device use.

### **Device Loan**

PRATP operates an AT Device Loan Center with an accessible online devices inventory to provide islandwide services to consumers with disabilities. PRATP also provides instruction manuals, individual assistance services, AT demonstrations and instruction manuals in alternate formats.

### **Device Demonstration**

PRATP operates a centralized demonstration center to provide services to consumers, families, students, service professionals and the general community upon request. PRATP also has a mobile unit to provide demonstration, evaluation and training services islandwide. This demonstration program provides the opportunity for people to explore and learn about the various features of AT devices in order to make an informed decision about the AT benefits for individual needs. All demonstrations are guided by AT professionals with technical expertise in the particular device(s).

### **State Leadership Activities**

PRATP provides islandwide AT training to individuals with disabilities, family members and service providers. It also celebrates a biennial AT conference and provides technical assistance to public and private entities. PRATP develops and delivers educational materials by mail and website postings, and through disability-related conferences and exhibit booths at conferences.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: RHODE ISLAND

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|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>   | <b>Department of Human Services, Office of Rehabilitation Services (ORS)</b> |
| <b>Program Title:</b> | <b>Assistive Technology Access Partnership (ATAP)</b>                        |

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### **State Financing Activities**

ORS-ATAP contracts with the Rhode Island Adaptive Telephone Equipment Loan (ATEL) program to provide the telecommunications distribution program to qualified individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, have a speech disability, or have neuromuscular damage or disease that hinders them from using a standard telephone.

### **Device Reutilization**

ORS-ATAP contracts with Pawtucket Rhode Island (PARI) Independent Living Center to provide a device exchange program through which equipment vendors, medical facilities and consumers donate devices to PARI, which, in turn, makes any needed repairs prior to making it available for sale or at no cost. ORS-ATAP also collaborates with the New England regional Web-based exchange called "getATstuff," where items are posted for sale, best offer, or for free.

### **Device Loan**

ORS-ATAP operates a device loan program with Rhode Island Services for the Blind & Visually Impaired (SBVI). It also subcontracts with the East Bay Educational Collaborative for children and youths from birth through age 21, where devices are loaned for both home and school use to families, educators and professionals to improve the knowledge base and determine the AT needs of students, and with TechACCESS of Rhode Island, a technology-related center that loans devices as a way to assist people to make better purchasing decisions, and to help them if their device is being repaired or they are awaiting funding to purchase it.

### **Device Demonstration**

ORS-ATAP operates a statewide demonstration program to individuals with disabilities at no cost through subcontracts with TechACCESS of RI, East Bay Educational Collaborative, the Adaptive Telephone Equipment Loan (ATEL) program, Ocean State Center for Independent Living (OSCIL) Center and PARI IL Center. Weekly software training sessions are held for students and educators in small groups or by individual appointments at TechACCESS of Rhode Island. Demonstrations are held on educational software and hardware, low vision tools and communication devices, as well as for adults with disabilities to assist them with daily living activities in both the home and community. PARI allows individuals to compare available devices that can assist them in their daily living activities, as does ATEL's various equipment.

### **State Leadership Activities**

ORS provides ongoing training and technical assistance on AT devices and services to staff of VR programs, such as local one-stop career centers. ORS has also worked with collaborators in modifying vocational evaluation reports in order to capture the needs of high school students.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: SOUTH CAROLINA

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|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>   | <b>University of South Carolina School of Medicine,<br/>Center for Disability Resources</b> |
| <b>Program Title:</b> | <b>South Carolina Assistive Technology Program<br/>(SCATP)</b>                              |

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### **State Financing Activities**

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department (SCVRD) administers an assistive technology financial loan program in partnership with the SC State Credit Union. The director of SCATP serves on the Financial Loan Review Panel, and SCATP collaborates with VR in promoting the program.

### **Device Reutilization**

SCATP provides an online recycling database, the South Carolina Assistive Technology Exchange, to help citizens with disabilities and older people with functional limitations find affordable assistive technology devices and equipment. SCATP also offers open-ended loans of working but outdated equipment to people waiting on delivery of new equipment or people receiving hospice services.

### **Device Loan**

SCATP offers a short-term device loan program that is available to anyone in the state of South Carolina. The program increases access to AT by allowing people with disabilities, their family members and service providers to try out different AT options before making the decision to purchase or, in some cases, the decision to not purchase AT. In this way, types and features of different devices can be compared during real-life situations and activities (e.g., in the classroom, at home or work).

### **Device Demonstration**

The SCATP AT Resource Center in Columbia offers opportunities for hands-on trial, self-paced learning and AT demonstration, with the most comprehensive inventory of AT items in the state.

### **State Leadership Activities**

SCATP staff travels across the state to present exhibits and trainings. Services are more accessible to people in rural settings via a toll-free number. SCATP is involved in helping state agencies implement accessible Web pages. Public awareness activities include SCATP's annual statewide AT Expo, updated fact sheets to promote AT services and regular website articles.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: SOUTH DAKOTA

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|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>         | <b>South Dakota Department of Human Services,<br/>Division of Rehabilitation Services</b> |
| <b>Implementing Entity:</b> | <b>Black Hills Special Services Cooperative (BHSSC)</b>                                   |
| <b>Program Title:</b>       | <b>DakotaLink, South Dakota Assistive Technology<br/>Project</b>                          |

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### **State Financing Activities**

DakotaLink maintains a program of last resort that allows individuals to lease AT devices using a sliding fee schedule based upon income over an extended period of time in cases where no other funding source is available. Cooperative buying activities and bulk purchasing of assistive technology devices for state agencies and educational facilities are also a part of the alternative financing strategy.

### **Device Reutilization**

DakotaLink promotes assistive technology device reutilization through a Web-based equipment exchange program, cooperative support of existing device reuse and refurbishing programs throughout the state.

### **Device Loan**

DakotaLink has an assortment of assistive technology devices available to provide individuals throughout South Dakota the opportunity to borrow and use a device in the appropriate environment in order to make qualified decisions regarding the use and acquisition of needed assistive technologies.

### **Device Demonstration**

DakotaLink maintains four demonstration centers strategically located within the state where assistive technology specialists are able to demonstrate and provide individuals with disabilities or other functional limitations hands-on experiences to assist them in determining the most appropriate assistive technology devices to meet their needs.

### **State Leadership Activities**

DakotaLink regularly engages in a wide variety of activities throughout South Dakota to provide: information on assistive technology devices; assistive technology topic- and device-specific workshops; technical assistance related to assistive technology issues; and collaborative opportunities for public and private entities to promote awareness and appropriate use, and increase the acquisition of assistive technology devices and services.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: TENNESSEE

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|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>   | <b>Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services</b> |
| <b>Program Title:</b> | <b>Tennessee Technology Access Program (TnTAP)</b>                       |

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### **State Financing Activities**

Because of the lack of adequate human and financial resources and other barriers related to creating and sustaining alternative financing programs in Tennessee, TnTAP has chosen not to conduct any state financing activities as allowed by the state flexibility provisions of the *AT Act* and the state plan for AT.

### **Device Reutilization**

TnTAP and its contracted technology centers have developed partnerships to increase the reutilization of devices, so more individuals and families can obtain free or low-cost AT equipment. The TnTAP Reutilization Program operates statewide through the network of technology centers and partner organizations to refurbish usable devices, thereby maximizing the impact of resources in Tennessee.

### **Device Loan**

The TnTAP Device Loan Program operates statewide through the network of technology centers that enable individuals with disabilities and their family members to try different devices and, therefore, make informed decisions when selecting appropriate AT.

### **Device Demonstration**

TnTAP and its network of centers conduct device demonstrations. Parents, professionals and individuals with disabilities have the opportunity to learn about the benefits and differences between varieties of devices to help them make a choice that suits their AT needs.

### **State Leadership Activities**

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

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: TEXAS

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**Lead Agency:** The University of Texas at Austin  
**Program Title:** Texas Technology Access Program (TxTAP)

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### State Financing Activities

The Texas Technology Access Program (TxTAP) has established a loan plan for consumers who do not have funds with which to participate in its computer reuse and purchase program. These no-interest revolving loans are not forgivable, and the computer is used as the collateral. If the consumer defaults, TxTAP reclaims the computer and refunds what was paid. The computer is sanitized and resold. Additionally, as part of its plan, AmeriCorps Volunteers provide financial literacy services and counseling on other resources available on a national, state and local basis.

### Device Reutilization

TxTAP partners with Project Mend, Inc., a medical equipment reutilization program operating in San Antonio, Texas. Project Mend grants long-term loans to provide refurbished equipment to persons with disabilities who can demonstrate financial need. The loan period is for as long as the individual continues to need the equipment. A person with a disability living in Texas may purchase a reasonably priced refurbished computer through TxTAP's Double Click Project.

### Device Loan

TxTAP's program is designed to provide short-term (45 days) AT device loans for individuals who do not qualify for other loan programs, or are not served or are underserved by existing resources. Statewide shipping costs are paid by the program.

### Device Demonstration

TxTAP supports a statewide network of 16 demonstration centers. Five centers provide a broad range of AT devices. Eleven centers provide demonstrations related primarily to computer access, with four of them being portable to travel to the consumer.

### State Leadership Activities

TxTAP collaborates with Knowability, Inc., a nonprofit organization that supports independence through accessible information technology, to provide training on developing accessible websites and distance education for schools and universities, local and state governments, and nonprofits. This program provides technical assistance for libraries statewide concerning online catalogs, computer workstations and other accessible information. TxTAP also collaborates with Easter Seals of Central Texas to provide training through the TxTAP demonstration centers. Information brochures on the program's activities and services, a toll-free number and website are available.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

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|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>   | <b>University of the Virgin Islands</b>   |
| <b>Program Title:</b> | <b>Virgin Islands Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (VITRAID)</b> |

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### **State Financing Activities**

VITRAID supports an alternative financing program for the purchasing of AT. The loan program is operated by the Virgin Islands Assistive Technology Foundation. It offers guarantees for loans provided by partner lender Banco Popular.

### **Device Reutilization**

VITRAID administers TECH TRADE, an AT reuse program, through which an individual may buy, sell or give away used AT devices through want ads. VITRAID works to expand and improve TECH TRADE and encourages individuals with disabilities who have received durable medical equipment to reuse this equipment through TECH TRADE. VITRAID also administers Recycle IT, which is a reclamation center for computers as well as general AT devices.

### **Device Loan**

VITRAID partners with the Department of Education through neighborhood schools, the Virgin Islands' Family Information Network and Work Able Inc. to operate an AT device loan program. Through collaboration with VITRAID, students and others receive access to needed assistive technology devices and services, which enable them to meet their educational and transitioning needs.

### **Device Demonstration**

Device demonstrations are provided to persons with disabilities throughout the community (through annual conferences), school-aged students in the public schools, University of the Virgin Islands students, seniors and service providers at fairs and events throughout the year. VITRAID also partners with other entities, including the public libraries and community and faith-based organizations in central and outlying areas of the Virgin Islands.

### **State Leadership Activities**

VITRAID is working with the public library systems of St. Croix and St. Thomas to make their computer systems more accessible to patrons. It is also working with faculty at the University of the Virgin Island to make the curricula accessible. VITRAID provides a toll-free information and referral service, website, "Tech Connect" quarterly newsletter, an annual AT conference in collaboration with partners, and other publications on AT.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: UTAH

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

**Program Title:** Utah Assistive Technology Program (UATP)

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### **State Financing Activities**

UATP supports two different state financing activities: (1) Low-interest loans, in conjunction with the Utah Assistive Technology Foundation (UATF) and Zions Bank; and (2) An access to telework program in coordination with the same partners and the Utah Microenterprise Loan Fund.

### **Device Reutilization**

UATP helps individuals with disabilities acquire AT through reutilization efforts. The program has two centers, the AT Lab, which provides AT demonstrations and training, and CReATE, which reutilizes and distributes AT statewide by providing technical assistance in maintenance and repair, and device adaptation to community-based organizations.

### **Device Loan**

The AT Lab serves as the UATP hub for device loan coordination activities. UATP works with six Centers for Independent Living (CIL), the Utah Center for Assistive Technology and the Computer Center for Citizens with Disabilities to maintain a virtual program network statewide.

### **Device Demonstration**

Through training and technical assistance, UATP supports the state-funded Utah Center for Assistive Technology as a device demonstration center for individuals with disabilities, their families and providers to learn about a variety of AT solutions. UATP provides technical assistance to AT demonstration CIL centers.

### **State Leadership Activities**

UATP offers interactive online trainings statewide on AT devices and gives technical assistance to providers in an effort to enhance expertise in providing consumer-responsive AT services. UATP staff participates on state-level boards, commissions and committees representing AT policy issues.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: VERMONT

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**Lead Agency:** Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living

**Program Title:** Vermont Assistive Technology Program (VATP)

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### State Financing Activities

Loans to purchase AT devices and services are available to individuals with disabilities and their families through Vermont Opportunities Credit Union, funded by a *Title III* grant. Loans are often made to those who don't qualify for conventional bank loans by considering unearned income, Medicaid waivers, etc. VATP markets the program widely through websites and other media. VATP also administers funds for AT equipment and services for children with autism through the private, non-profit Autism Puzzle Foundation.

### Device Reutilization

VATP partners with other New England states to operate <http://getATstuff.com>, a Web-based AT exchange that connects people seeking AT with those who have AT that is no longer needed. The program is promoted to disability organizations and other agencies. A toll-free number serves those who lack Internet access. VATP is developing a similar program, <http://Vermont.ATschoolswap.com>, for Vermont schools, in collaboration with the University of Vermont I-Team. VATP, Vermont Family Network, and the Office of Vermont Health Access are working with equipment vendors to retrieve and reuse Medicaid-funded equipment.

### Device Loan

VATP operates a short-term (30-day) AT device loan program for individuals, employers, agencies, etc. Pickup is available at locations throughout the state. Shipping is also available. VATP is expanding its inventory of loaner devices, and plans to post its device inventory on the VATP website with existing program information.

### Device Demonstration

VATP offers device demonstrations at numerous Tryout Centers, including three VATP office locations, 12 Vermont VR offices, two Vermont Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing sites, and the Vermont Family Network. Some sites focus on particular AT users, e.g., students or deaf or hard of hearing individuals.

### State Leadership Activities

VATP provides training to numerous groups, including VocRehab Vermont and Vermont schools. The Early Childhood Special Education Program at the University of Vermont wrote VATP trainings into its five-year strategic plan. Childhood and adult day care providers learn how to adapt toys, books and activities, and use various aids for communication and daily living. VATP participates in a multi-agency communication task force, providing statewide training and conferences for providers serving adults with developmental disabilities.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: VIRGINIA**

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**Lead Agency:** Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS)

**Program Title:** Virginia Assistive Technology System (VATS)

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### **State Financing Activities**

VATS claims comparability for state financing activities as the state has the NewWell Fund, an alternative financing program that offers financial loans for purchasing assistive technology.

### **Device Reutilization**

VATS oversees and directs a statewide network of assistive technology recycling programs called the Virginia Reuse Network (VRN). VRN partner programs work collaboratively with network affiliates and VATS to address the durable medical equipment (DME) needs of persons with disabilities.

### **Device Loan**

The device loan program is a collaborative endeavor between the state VR agency and the affiliated state rehabilitation facility. With support from VATS, the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center and the DRS Field Computer Accommodations Lab offer loans for certain assistive technology devices to support and accelerate assistive technology acquisition.

### **Device Demonstration**

The Virginia AT Program has established a collaborative relationship with the state VR program and the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center to support demonstration programs for vocational rehabilitation consumers and other consumers through existing facility and field computer labs. With support from VATS, the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center and the DRS Field Computer Accommodations Lab offer device demonstrations for individuals who require assistive technology to live, work and go to school as independently as possible. In addition, VATS is working with occupational therapists and communication services to offer device demonstrations.

### **State Leadership Activities**

Two of the university-based VATS regional sites offer a transition experience for students with disabilities who are interested in attending college, while the third university-based Regional VATS site offers an array of skill-building classes and camps for students with disabilities utilizing a variety of software, hardware and strategies to accommodate a range of physical and cognitive challenges. VATS offers and operates a training program, AT@Work, with the stated objectives of educating employers and human resource personnel as to how various types of assistive technology can assist in hiring and retaining productive employees who require accommodation(s).

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: WASHINGTON

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|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>   | <b>University of Washington Center for Technology and Disability Studies (UWCTDS)</b> |
| <b>Program Title:</b> | <b>Washington Assistive Technology Act Program (WATAP)</b>                            |

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### **State Financing Activities**

WATAP collaborates with the Washington Access Fund to offer several programs to assist individuals to acquire AT. An alternative financing program (AFP) offers low-interest loans for the purchase of AT. The Telework Loan Program also provides low-interest loans for applicants who demonstrate a need for the purpose of telework. The Access Fund also offers long-term rentals of CCTVs.

### **Device Reutilization**

WATAP supports a statewide computer reutilization program operated by Easter Seals Washington. This program provides donated refurbished computers free of charge to eligible individuals. WATAP is part of the national device reuse network managed by the Pass It On Center (PIOC).

### **Device Loan**

WATAP operates a Device Borrowing Program assisting consumers in device selection and short-term accommodation. WATAP collaborates with the King County Library System, offering a small selection of assistive technology devices to help with daily living tasks. WATAP also works with the Special Education Technology Center (SETC) providing short-term loans of assistive technology to professionals in the school districts throughout the state of Washington.

### **Device Demonstration**

WATAP provides device demonstrations at its Seattle center and through a cooperative effort with Easter Seals Washington in Spokane. WATAP also travels statewide to provide AT demonstrations as requested by local communities. Additionally, WATAP hosts the Microsoft Accessibility Resource Center offering the opportunity to explore video demonstrations, text guides and tutorials.

### **State Leadership Activities**

WATAP offers integrated training and educational opportunities to increase knowledge, skills and competencies in AT devices and service delivery, funding sources and strategies, and transition and legal services. The Washington Education Association (WEA), UWCTDS and WATAP have teamed up to offer special topics courses in special education law to WEA members. WATAP provides technical consultation to state government agencies, institutions of higher education and other entities regarding strategic planning for hardware and software procurement, design and accessibility of information systems, reasonable accommodation, and program access.

## **STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: WEST VIRGINIA**

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|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>   | <b>Center for Excellence in Disabilities at West Virginia University</b> |
| <b>Program Title:</b> | <b>West Virginia Assistive Technology System (WVATS)</b>                 |

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### **State Financing Activities**

WVATS claims flexibility for state financing activities.

### **Device Reutilization**

WVATS uses the AT4All system to house its virtual loan library and exchange system. The AT4All site also houses device listings for additional AT-related libraries in the state. This system is available online for individuals to post the availability of devices and to look for used devices. In addition, two device reutilization programs already exist in the state through the Arc of the Mid-Ohio Valley and the Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living. WVATS is providing monetary support to those organizations through its requests for proposals for organizations interested in implementing or continuing reutilization and exchange centers.

### **Device Loan**

WVATS operates a statewide online device loan program. Individuals can request a device by calling a toll-free number or signing up through the AT4All system. Devices are mailed to the person for a short-term loan of up to four weeks; the only cost to the borrower is the cost of returning the device. The virtual loan library contains a photograph and a description of each device as well as the location or locations of each device. The loan library is available via the WVATS Web page.

### **Device Demonstration**

WVATS supports a large demonstration center in Morgantown and smaller centers around the state that serve all ages and all differing needs. WVATS provides specific AT device demonstrations in collaboration with vendors throughout the state. WVATS staff also offers device demonstrations through the Center for Excellence in Disabilities Assistive Technology Clinic.

### **State Leadership Activities**

WVATS offers technical assistance to state agencies regarding accessibility issues. WVATS has created specialized curricula, and offers trainings and workshops on assistive technology to diverse audiences of consumers, family members and service providers. WVATS is a West Virginia 211 affiliate, providing training and resources about assistive technology. WVATS provides information and assistance to individuals, families and professionals through its toll-free hotline, e-mail and walk-ins.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: WISCONSIN

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|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>   | <b>Wisconsin Department of Health Services,<br/>Division of Long Term Care, Office of Independence<br/>and Employment</b> |
| <b>Program Title:</b> | <b>WisTech</b>  |

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### **State Financing Activities**

Wisconsin is claiming comparability due to the existence of WisLoan, an alternative financing program that is operated by Independence First, a community-based organization.

### **Device Reutilization**

WisTech coordinates existing statewide device reutilization programs. The largest program is the Wheelchair Recycling Program. WRP serves as a model in the state in terms of its established services of collecting, repair, refurbishment and redistribution of equipment to consumers. The repair and refurbishment activities are performed in collaboration with the Department of Corrections prison industry program.

### **Device Loan**

WisTech operates device loan centers through Wisconsin's Independent Living Centers (ILCs). The Centers serve the statewide population to provide a single point of entry and access to loan programs for all residents of the state. There are eight ILCs providing these services as part of the WisTech Network of Device Loan and Device Demonstration centers. A Web-based inventory allows individuals to access a list of the equipment available for loan through WisTech at <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/wistech/index.htm>.

### **Device Demonstration**

WisTech's device demonstrations are operated through contracts with Wisconsin's ILCs. The ILCs maintain a standardized equipment inventory that allows consumers to try out devices to address basic disability-related needs for most consumers. In addition, WisTech is collaborating with others to provide device demonstration events in a variety of locations throughout the state.

### **State Leadership Activities**

The Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute (SVRI) provides technical assistance and works in consultation with WisTech to coordinate training events for the ILCs, resource centers, county service departments and rehabilitation professionals, including professionals at disability-specific agencies. Training focuses on general awareness, accessing and funding of AT, and increasing practitioner skill level and capacity. WisTech is currently working in partnership with SVRI, the Vocational Technical College, the University of Wisconsin system and Wisconsin's K-12 school systems to increase the number of qualified AT professionals in the state.

## STATEWIDE AT PROGRAM PROFILE: WYOMING

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**Lead Agency:** Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND)  
**Program Title:** WIND Assistive Technology Resources (WATR)

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### State Financing Activities

Wyoming Technology Access Program (WYTAP) offers interest buy-downs on financial loans for assistive technology devices and services. Loans are offered for amounts up to \$25,000 for up to seven years with a buy-down of the interest rate to below prime rate. WIND is the lead agency and Wyoming Independent Living Rehabilitation, Inc. administers the WYTAP program in partnership with First Interstate Bank of Laramie.

### Device Reutilization

WATR coordinates with other states to offer the sale, purchase and donation of devices. Their website can be found at <http://www.uwyo.edu/wind/watr>. This is a consumer-to-consumer site with support but not involvement from WATR staff members, and no charge is assessed by WATR.

### Device Loan

WATR offers 30-day loans of AT devices to individuals and their representatives in Wyoming. Devices are shipped from the Loan Center in Laramie to the clients' locations; clients are responsible for the cost of returning or shipping devices back to the WATR Center. WATR does not charge a fee for device loans.

### Device Demonstration

WATR offers device demonstrations at the WATR Center in Laramie on the University of Wyoming campus. Demonstrations are also provided by appointment in Natrona County and at the Casper College campus as part of a collaborative with the University of North Dakota Occupational Therapy education program. Also, appointments can be scheduled for on-site demonstrations throughout the state. WATR does not charge for device demonstrations.

### State Leadership Activities

WATR provides training and technical assistance, public awareness, and information and assistance about assistive technology devices and services. WATR offers assistive technology informational brochures and posters and is airing testimonial radio commercials. In addition, WATR produced a video series about the importance of considering assistive technology during life-span transitions and is hosting a "vendor venue" opportunity for consumers and individuals to be trained in specific devices.

# **APPENDIX C**

## ***TITLE III***

# **ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILES**



## **TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: ALABAMA**

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|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>Alabama Department Rehabilitation Services (ADRS)</b> |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>Southern Disability Foundation, Inc.</b>              |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>AuburnBank</b>  |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>The Ability Loan Program</b>                          |

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### **Overview**

Alabama's alternative financing program (the Ability Loan Program) for individuals with disabilities and their families, allows applicants to borrow money at a low interest rate and extended terms for the purchase of assistive technology, adaptive equipment and related services. The Ability Loan Program was created in 1995 as a partnership between Alabama's STAR Program, the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services and the Southern Disability Foundation, Inc. The Ability Loan Program was funded by means of the *AT Act* in 2004. Since its inception, over 160 loans have been guaranteed, totaling more than \$1,100,000. Loan applications may be obtained from the Southern Disability Foundation, Inc.'s website or through the Alabama STAR Program's office.

### **Products**

The Ability Loan Program guarantees loans of up to \$35,000. The term of a loan takes into consideration the type of equipment or assistive technology being purchased and ranges between six months and 10 years. The current interest rates available are 4 percent and 6 percent. The interest rate applied to each loan is determined by the applicant's financial situation and needs. Primary eligibility requires that an applicant be an Alabama resident with a disability, or a significant other or family member with a disability, regardless of age or type of disability, as long as the loan is intended to improve the individual's functional capabilities. An applicant also must be able to document sufficient creditworthiness and ability to repay the loan.

### **Services**

The Ability Loan Program offers extensive financial education, via face-to-face, mail or the SDF, Inc. website, to applicants and potential applicants. Examples of services provided are links to credit counseling services, Money Smart programs and budgeting tools. The program also provides information about and referrals to other assistive technology funding sources and vendors of AT and adaptive equipment. The loan program works closely with individuals with disabilities and ADRS rehabilitation technology specialists to help identify the assistive technology that best meets their needs.

### **TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: ARIZONA**

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|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>Arizona Technology Access Program</b>                   |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>Arizona Community Foundation</b>                        |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>Arizona MultiBank Community Development Corporation</b> |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>Arizona Loans for Assistive Technology (AzLAT)</b>      |

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#### **Overview**

Arizona Loans for Assistive Technology (AzLAT) is an alternative financing program designed to assist individuals with disabilities to borrow money at affordable rates for the purchase of assistive technology. This program is administered by the AzLAT Consortium. Arizona MultiBank Community Development Corporation services the loans. AzLAT, through its donor- advised funds of the Arizona Community Foundation, provides the loan guarantee to MultiBank in case of borrower default.

#### **Products**

AzLAT provides low-interest, guaranteed loans for assistive technology in amounts ranging from \$500 to \$10,000. Terms are generally from one to four years. The program offers flexible repayment terms, below market interest rates and no prepayment penalties.

#### **Services**

AzLAT offers several services to applicants. There is assistance with completion of loan application packages and identification of other potential funding sources for assistive technology acquisition. Guidance is given for selection of assistive technology devices and assistance with identifying local vendors of AT. Guidance is also provided on resolving credit report errors and intervention options are identified to avoid consumer default.

### **TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: ARKANSAS**

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|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>Arkansas Rehabilitation Services</b>       |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>Not applicable</b>                         |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>Not applicable</b>                         |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>Arkansas Alternative Financing Program</b> |

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#### **Overview**

The purpose of the Arkansas Alternative Financing Program is to assist those in Arkansas with disabilities in obtaining assistive technology equipment and services designed to improve or maintain independence, with improving their quality of life, and/or with becoming more productive members of the community.

#### **Products**

The Arkansas Alternative Financing Program is a revolving loan program that offers low-interest loans from \$500 to \$50,000, with terms of up to 20 years. The loans can be used to purchase any equipment or technology that will assist a qualified person with a disability to become more independent at work and school and throughout their daily lives.

#### **Services**

The Arkansas AFP provides information and referral services to external funding sources that can help cover the costs of needed AT. The program also directs applicants to the Arkansas ICAN Program to receive information on AT devices and to help them determine what AT can best meet their needs.

### ***TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: DELAWARE***

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|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>Delaware Department of Labor, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DATLP)</b> |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>University of Delaware</b>  |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>DEXSTA Federal Credit Union, WSFS Bank</b>                                      |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>Delaware Assistive Technology Loan Program</b>                                  |

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#### **Overview**

Delaware Assistive Technology Loan Program (DATLP) was created to help Delawareans with disabilities obtain assistive technology (AT) devices and services that will help them learn, work, play and participate in community life safely and independently.

#### **Products**

The DATLP offers guaranteed interest rate buy-down loans to fund AT purchases at below-market interest rates and with reasonable repayment schedules. The loans range from \$500 to \$30,000. Applicants must show that they can repay the loan. The program is particularly interested in helping individuals with low incomes.

#### **Services**

The DATLP provides information and referrals to other AT funding sources that may be used to augment funding for devices. It offers assistance with the completion of the application and encourages applicants to use the services of the Delaware AT Initiative Program (DATI), the statewide AT program, to identify the AT devices and services that they need.

### **TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: FLORIDA**

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|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation</b> |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology, Inc. (FAAST)</b>   |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>SunTrust Bank</b>  |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>New Horizon Fund</b>   |

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#### **Overview**

The New Horizon Fund Assistive Technology Loan Program is the alternative financing program of the Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology (FAAST). This service is funded through the U.S. Department of Education's Rehabilitative Services Administration and the Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. The program's mission is to improve the quality of life for all Floridians with disabilities through advocacy and awareness activities that increase access to and acquisition of assistive services and technology. The program offers Floridians with disabilities credit opportunities while purchasing equipment and items that will improve their overall quality of life.

#### **Products**

The New Horizon Fund Assistive Technology Loan Program offers loans ranging from \$3,000 to \$30,000 with competitive rates and flexible terms. The loan program serves consumers of all ages; however, the borrower must be at least 18 years of age. The New Horizon Fund offers low-interest loans and loan guarantees through its lending partner, SunTrust Bank. Loans can be used to purchase hearing aids, computer equipment and software, adaptive recreational equipment, modified vehicles and home modifications, among other items.

#### **Services**

The New Horizon Fund Assistive Technology Loan Program can help maximize other funding sources by working with other agencies to assist consumers with financing deductibles and co-pays and acquiring financing for vehicles that will be modified through funding from another agency. The New Horizon Fund offers assistance with application completion and referrals to one of the statewide Assistive Technology Program Regional Demonstration Centers for product information and the opportunity to try a device before buying it.

## **TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: GEORGIA**

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|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>Georgia Department of Labor</b>                        |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>Center for Financial Independence &amp; Innovation</b> |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>CFII and Participating Credit Unions in Georgia</b>    |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>Credit-Able</b>  |

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### **Overview**

Credit-Able is Georgia's Alternative Financing Program for Assistive Technology. The mission of Credit-Able is to make independence affordable for Georgians with disabilities. Credit-Able achieves its mission by developing and sustaining strategic partnerships with community-based organizations and financial institutions that share a common vision of improving the financial well-being of all Georgians, with a special emphasis given to individuals with disabilities and those who are on the fringe of the financial mainstream.

### **Products**

Credit-Able provides low-interest loans and loan guarantees through participating credit unions to enable Georgians with disabilities access to affordable financing for assistive technology, including home and vehicle modifications.

Credit-Able loan guarantees may be used for assistive technology, including, but not limited to:

- Hearing aids;
- Computer equipment and software;
- Recreational equipment;
- Modified vehicles (ramps, lifts, hand controls, etc.); and
- Home modifications (ramps, railings, hand bars, etc.).

### **Services**

Credit-Able offers several services to Georgians with disabilities, including the following:

- Loans and loan guarantees for the purchase of assistive technology;
- Pre- and post-loan financial education, and general financial education for people with disabilities;
- Individual Development Accounts (matched savings); and
- Free tax preparation through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program.

### **TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: GUAM**

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|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education Research, and Service</b> |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>Pacific Islands Microcredit Institute</b>  |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>Bank of Guam</b>   |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>Guam Options for Alternative Loans—Assistive Technology (GOAL-AT)</b>                        |

---

#### **Overview**

The Guam Options for Alternative Loans - Assistive Technology (GOAL-AT) Program offers individuals with disabilities, their families and legal representatives a means to finance assistive technology devices and services with a low interest rate.

#### **Products**

The GOAL-AT Program offers guaranteed loans that range from \$100 to \$5,000. Terms are flexible, with loans ranging from one to five years or the estimated life of the devices or equipment purchased, whichever is less. The Loan Review Committee, on a case-by-case basis, will approve loan amounts above \$5,000 and beyond five years. The current interest rate agreed upon by the lending institution and the Pacific Islands Microcredit Institute Board is 2 percent over the Time Deposit Open Accounts (TDOA) rate at the time of closing. The current interest rate is 2.125 percent. Information about the loan program is available on the program's website at <http://www.gsatcedders.org>. A loan application form is on the website.

#### **Services**

The program assists applicants in filling out the application forms as needed. The program also makes available accessible formats of the application and any requested program information. The loan program makes referrals to the statewide AT program to assist potential borrowers in determining his or her AT needs. It will also make referrals to the Pacific Islands Microcredit Institute and the University of Guam's Small Business Development Center for financial education, credit counseling and assistance with writing business plans.

### **TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: ILLINOIS**

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|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services</b> |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>Illinois Assistive Technology Program</b>                                      |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>Illinois Assistive Technology Program</b>                                      |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>ILoan</b>  |

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#### **Overview**

The Illinois Assistive Technology Program (IATP) offers an alternative financing program (AFP) called ILoan—Illinois Loans for Independent Living—to Illinoisans with disabilities and their families. ILoan is a preferred interest, revolving loan program which provides individuals with disabilities and their families the opportunity to purchase needed assistive technology devices and services.

#### **Products**

The ILoan Program is a direct loan program that offers loans ranging from \$500 to \$35,000. All AFP loans have a fixed interest rate between 5.5 percent and 7.5 percent, based on a borrower's credit score and term of the loan. Allowable loan terms range from one year to 10 years depending upon the type and useful life of the items purchased. If debt-to-income ratios are too high or the credit scores too low, the applicant may need a qualified cosigner and/or credit education.

#### **Services**

The ILoan Program works closely with the statewide AT program (IATP) staff to provide information and referral services for AT assessment, device demonstration services and device lending library services to better identify AT needs. The ILoan staff assists applicants with loan applications when needed and helps find reliable, no-cost credit education whenever possible.

### **TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: IOWA**

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|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>Iowa Finance Authority</b>             |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>Iowa Able Foundation</b>               |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>Iowa Able Foundation/Bankers Trust</b> |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>Iowa Able Foundation</b>               |

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#### **Overview**

The Iowa Able Foundation lends directly to individuals with disabilities, families with children with disabilities, caretakers of individuals with disabilities (on behalf of the individual) and older Iowans who are residents of Iowa and in need of access to credit.

#### **Products**

Iowa Able provides direct loans to be used for the purchase of assistive technology. Assistive technology includes, but is not limited to, home modifications, vehicles and modified vehicles, and any product, equipment or services needed to ensure an individual's independence at home, at work, or in his or her community. Loan guarantees to Iowa banks are available for qualified individuals who lack the collateral necessary to obtain credit needed for the purchase of assistive technology.

The program has additional sources of funding that it uses to provide credit-builder loans of up to \$500 to individuals with disabilities working to establish or increase their credit score and home repair loans to any individual with a disability or older Iowan.

#### **Services**

Iowa Able provides financial literacy training and one-on-one technical assistance focused on assisting individuals with disabilities in understanding credit, their personal finances and additional resources for funding.

Borrower prequalification services are available to applicants to determine their capacity for loan repayment.

Through Iowa Able's partner organization, the Iowa Credit Union Foundation, the loan program facilitates individual development account (matched savings) services for modified vehicles.

Iowa Able is a resource for learning about earned income tax credits and other asset-building opportunities for Iowans with disabilities.

### **TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: KANSAS**

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|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>University of Kansas</b>                            |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>Kansas Assistive Technology Cooperative (KATCO)</b> |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>Golden Plains Credit Union</b>                      |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>Kansas Alternative Finance Loan Program</b>         |

---

#### **Overview**

KATCO provides competitive interest, flexible financing to Kansans with disabilities or family members on their behalf. Financing is provided to purchase assistive technology equipment and services, such as modified vehicles, mobility equipment, sensory aids and home modifications.

#### **Products**

KATCO provides loans to purchase assistive technology devices and services. Competitive interest loans have been made from \$250 to \$75,000, with terms of up to 10 years, and are typically guaranteed by KATCO with community banks or a credit union. KATCO does provide direct lending as well as bridge loans for certain technologies.

#### **Services**

KATCO provides information and referrals to external funders and programs that can help offset the overall cost of assistive technology. Some applicants are directed to the statewide AT Access Sites that provide AT assessments to better identify specific technology needs. Current borrowers receive assistance in managing their loans in the advent of unanticipated health or financial difficulties, as well as credit counseling through partner programs.

### **TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: KENTUCKY**

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|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>Office of Vocational Rehabilitation</b>                    |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC)</b> |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>Fifth Third Bank</b>                                       |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation</b>         |

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#### **Overview**

The Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC) offers low-interest loans for qualified applicants with disabilities who need assistive technology. Working with its lending partner, Fifth Third Bank, KATLC can provide loans for modified vehicles, hearing aids, adapted computers, mobility devices, augmentative communication devices or any other type of equipment or home modification that will enhance the quality of life and increase the independence of Kentuckians with disabilities.

Established by state statute in 1996, KATLC is governed by a seven-member board of directors, four of whom must have disabilities. The board reviews all applications. KATLC made its first loan in 2000 and now has provided more than \$4 million in loans to Kentuckians with disabilities to enable them to get the assistive technology they need. The Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation currently provides the staff support to the board and KATLC.

#### **Products**

KATLC offers low-interest guaranteed loans for the purchase of assistive technology. The loans can range from \$500 up to \$25,000. The length of the loan is determined by the life expectancy of the assistive technology, usually one to nine years.

#### **Services**

KATLC offers information about assistive technology through its partnership with the statewide AT program, the Kentucky AT Service (KATS) Network. It also provides information about other funding sources for assistive technology.

Assistance is available for individuals to complete the application process. Typically this is done over the telephone.

### **TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: LOUISIANA**

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|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>Department of Health and Hospitals</b>                    |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network (LATAN)</b> |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>Regions Bank</b>  |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>LATAN Assistive Technology Financial Loan Program</b>     |

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#### **Overview**

LATAN operates a reduced-interest, fixed-rate, extended-term alternative financing program. Loan applications are available through a number of sources. They can be found online on the LATAN website. Applicants can call a statewide toll-free number to have the application mailed to them. Applicants also can obtain an application at LATAN's office, at all Regions Bank offices and at various agencies across the state of Louisiana.

#### **Products**

The AT Financial Loan Program offers reduced-interest guaranteed and non-guaranteed partnership loans for the purchase of assistive technology. Loans range from \$500 to \$50,000 with interest rates 1 or 2 percent above prime. Credit is extended to people with disabilities and functional limitations, including those who have no or less-than-desirable credit.

#### **Services**

LATAN works with consumers to raise their credit scores, and their debt-to-income and expense-to-income ratios so that they can qualify for a loan, and helps with application completion. LATAN provides additional funding information to consumers, and encourages consumers to take advantage of its device demonstrations, device loans, and reutilization programs before applying for a loan so that an appropriate purchase is made.

## **TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: MAINE**

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|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>Maine Department of Education</b>   |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>Kim Wallace Adaptive Equipment Loan Program<br/>(mPower Loan Program)</b> |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>mPower Loan Board</b>   |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>mPower Loan Program</b>   |

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### **Overview**

Maine's AFP, first created in 1988, started with a \$5,000,000 state bond. In 2005, the Maine Department of Education's Maine CITE Program used *Title III* funds, through a memorandum of understanding with the mPower Loan Board, to expand the original low-interest loan fund. This created a source of financing for high-risk borrowers who otherwise would not qualify for loans. The mPower Loan Board contracts with the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) as the fiscal agent and with the state center for independent living (CIL), Alpha One. The CIL markets the AFP, provides information and assistance, and receives and processes all consumer loan applications. Alpha One created "Financial Freedom: Borrowing for AT Guide" as a financial literacy tool for consumers.

### **Products**

The AFP program available through the mPower Loan Program is a revolving loan program for low-income people with disabilities. It can provide loans ranging from \$250 up to \$100,000. Terms are generous, ranging from one to 20 years.

### **Services**

The mPower Loan Program, through Alpha One, provides extensive financial education for applicants. Alpha One developed a unique financial education curriculum for people with disabilities who want to purchase assistive technology and conducts training across the state using that curriculum.

### **TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: MARYLAND**

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|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>Maryland Department of Disabilities</b>   |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>Assistive Technology Loan Program Board of Directors</b>                                  |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>State Employees Credit Union, 1st Mariner Bank</b>  |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>Maryland Technology Assistance Program (MD TAP)<br/>Assistive Technology Loan Program</b> |

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#### **Overview**

The Assistive Technology Loan Program helps Maryland residents with disabilities and their families qualify for low-interest loans to buy equipment that will help them live, work and learn more independently.

The program looks at an applicant's income and debt, stability in a residence and job, credit history, and the likelihood of the applicant repaying the loan. The program's criteria are much less stringent than those of a bank and will enable many people who would be turned down for bank loans to receive funding.

#### **Products**

The Assistive Technology Loan Program offers guaranteed loans and interest rate buy-down loans. All loans have below-market interest rates; most have rates below prime. Applicants can borrow from \$500 to \$50,000 for secured loans, and up to \$7,500 for unsecured loans.

#### **Services**

The Assistive Technology Loan Program works closely with potential loan applicants to seek out other funding to pay for the needed assistive technology. The loan program encourages applicants to use the services of the MD TAP to explore various AT devices and determine which ones work best for them so that they know exactly which AT device they wish to purchase with the loan.

## ***TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: MASSACHUSETTS***

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|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>The Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission</b>         |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>Easter Seals Massachusetts</b>                          |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>Sovereign Bank</b>                                      |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>The Massachusetts Assistive Technology Loan Program</b> |

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### **Overview**

The Massachusetts Assistive Technology Loan Program is an alternative financing project that assists residents of Massachusetts with disabilities to secure the technology they need to become more independent and productive members of the community with an improved quality of life. The loan program, funded with federal and state grants through the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, is run by Easter Seals Massachusetts. It offers a reduced interest rate to borrowers with no closing costs, thereby making loans accessible to low-income borrowers and others who would not otherwise qualify for consumer loans.

### **Products**

The loan program offers a 4.5 percent interest rate for the purchase of assistive technology devices and services. These loans are reviewed according to standard procedure for the lending partner; however, some of the lending criteria have been loosened. For example, the lending partner entertains a higher debt load or a lower credit score than a customer who was applying independently of the program. For customers who would not otherwise qualify for a loan, these lower benchmarks often open the door to greater independence. The program offers not only the low interest rate offered through the loan program, but also provides a loan guarantee component for those applicants who, despite the loosened lending criteria, are still not offered credit. In these instances the program utilizes its fund to guarantee the loan for the customer. The lending partner disburses its own funds to grant the loan and accepts payment and interest in return. The program money is there to pay off an outstanding balance in a case of default.

### **Services**

The program works in conjunction with 22 human services agencies, which serve as “access sites,” allowing a local point-of-contact with the program. These sites not only provide information on the program but also assist in filling out and submitting application materials. The program also works closely with the various components of the statewide AT program, providing information, referral and guidance through the process. In addition, the program offers credit counseling and financial literacy training for those persons, approved or not, that wish to take advantage of such didactic seminars.

### ***TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: MICHIGAN***

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|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>Michigan Department of Human Services/Michigan Rehabilitation Services</b> |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan</b>                                      |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>Option 1 Credit Union</b>  |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund</b>                                |

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#### **Overview**

The Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund provides low-interest loans to Michigan residents with disabilities, including seniors with age-related functional limitations. Loans can be used to buy equipment, often called “assistive technology” (or “AT”) to help a person more easily navigate through his or her daily life. Loans also can be used to cover warranties, service agreements and the cost of training to use the purchased equipment

#### **Products**

The Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund offers guarantees for loans of up to \$30,000. Interest rates are low, often below prime. Repayment terms are based on the expected useful life of the assistive technology device and on the borrower's ability to make the monthly loan payments. Repayment terms are as long as possible, up to a maximum of seven years, in order to give the applicant the lowest monthly payment possible.

#### **Services**

The loan program provides extensive financial literacy education. It adapted the U.S. Treasury Money Smart curriculum to be more relevant to people with disabilities. Now it uses that curriculum to provide training across the state. In addition, the loan program refers applicants to other AT funding sources.

### **TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: MINNESOTA**

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|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>Minnesota Department of Administration, Minnesota STAR Program</b> |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>Assistive Technology of Minnesota, DBA EquipALife</b>              |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>Bremer Bank</b>  |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>EquipALife</b>   |

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#### **Overview**

EquipALife provides support and assistance exclusively on issues of access and assistive technology. The micro-loan program is a preferred interest, flexible alternative to the traditional lending system. Assistive technology devices and services are financed through the program at a lower rate with terms established to work with the customer's income or budget. The program is inclusive of individual needs; services, training, maintenance contracts and long-term insurance plans for a device are typically included when a loan is processed. Customer feedback is a critical element as the program is consumer driven and controlled. EquipALife staff use the information gathered to improve program efficiencies.

#### **Products**

EquipALife offers loan guarantees for customers with creditworthiness concerns and assists in the process of acquisition from beginning to follow-up and follow-along supports. The loans are preferred interest (lower rates) and offer flexible terms.

#### **Services**

EquipALife has resources to help customers identify AT that meets their needs. It provides direct AT services and training on AT devices and referrals to experts as appropriate to meet the customer's specific need. EquipALife offers individual support, locating unique funding sources, such as grants, to pay for additional AT.

Program services beyond the micro-loan include: Access to Telework, loan-based programs geared to increase employment outcomes; AgrAbility-MN, a project in partnership with the University of Minnesota assisting farmers and their families to continue, expand and maintain their businesses; the Minnesota Regions Assistive Technology Collaborative, a statewide partnership providing access to AT devices, services and supports, reaching each of the 87 counties in the state; an outreach project for direct evaluation, training and consultation; Computers go Round with refurbished computers for people in need; and a host of resources on AT.

## **TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: MISSOURI**

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|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>Missouri Assistive Technology Council</b>     |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>Show-Me Loan Application Review Committee</b> |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>Missouri State Treasurer</b>                  |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>Missouri Show-Me Loans</b>                    |

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### **Overview**

Show-Me Loans provides low-interest loans with flexible terms to allow Missourians with any type of disability to acquire assistive technology devices and services needed to maintain or improve their independence.

### **Products**

Show-Me Loans provides very low-interest loans (from 2 to 4 percent) for up to \$10,000, with payment terms of up to five years. Loans are available for vehicle access modifications, home access improvements, mobility equipment, sensory aids and other assistive technology. There are no applications or processing fees charged to applicants or borrowers.

### **Services**

*Alternative funding sources:* Staff provides information to potential applicants about other external funding resources to help offset the costs of assistive technology, including resources through Missouri Assistive Technology (MoAT).

*Equipment selection:* If an applicant requests help with selecting devices or modifications, he or she may be referred to one of the MoAT device demonstration sites or to the MoAT device loan program to try out devices for a trial period prior to making a purchasing decision.

*Application assistance:* Individuals can receive assistance with completing a Show-Me Loan application when requested. An online application is available on the Show-Me Loans website for the convenience of the applicant. The online form is accessible via screen reading software.

*Consumer counseling:* Show-Me Loans can make referrals to credit counseling programs for applicants or borrowers who have experienced unexpected health or financial difficulties.

## ***TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: NEBRASKA***

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|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>Assistive Technology Partnership</b>              |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>Easter Seals Nebraska</b>                         |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>First National Bank of Omaha</b>                  |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>Nebraska Alternative Financing Program (NAFP)</b> |

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### **Overview**

The Nebraska Alternative Financing Program (NAFP) provides low- or reduced-interest loans to qualified Nebraskans with disabilities for the purchase of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.

### **Products**

The Nebraska Alternative Financing Program offers guarantee loans. These loans have preferred lower interest rates and offer flexible terms. Loans can range from \$1,500 to \$25,000. Loan terms range from two to 10 years. Interest rate subsidies or partial principle subsidies may be offered to buy down interest rates of loans or to partially subsidize loan principle for the purpose of providing affordable monthly payments for borrowers.

### **Services**

In collaboration with the Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP), funding coordination will be provided to each applicant for the purpose of identifying other potential financial assistance and to improve the applicant's ability to make a fully informed decision regarding NAFP application. NAFP also works with ATP to offer technical assistance to each applicant for the purpose of identifying the most appropriate assistive technology, equipment or service for his or her individual needs. Technical assistance is also available for completion of the loan application.

Consumer counseling is offered to all applicants approved for loans. The NAFP staff may assist borrowers to apply for alternative financial aid, purchase equipment and resolve payment problems. Although consumer counseling is typically an optional service, the Loan Review Board may require participation if a borrower falls behind in payments.

### **TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: NEVADA**

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|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>Department of Health &amp; Human Services - Aging and Disability Services Division</b> |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>CARE Chest</b>   |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>Nevada State Bank and First Independent Bank of Nevada</b>                             |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>CARE Loan Fund Program</b>   |

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#### **Overview**

The CARE Loan Fund is a statewide financial loan program to help people with disabilities purchase AT devices. The loan program is a partnership between the Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative, CARE Chest (a nonprofit agency), and Nevada State Bank and First Independent Bank of Nevada. The CARE Loan Fund Program secures bank loans for individuals with disabilities to purchase assistive technology devices that make living independently easier, such as van and home modifications, specialized computer keyboards, speech and hearing aids and more. The loans are offered at lower interest rates and often for more years than a typical bank loan—thus making the loans more affordable.

#### **Products**

The CARE Loan Fund offers guaranteed loans of up to \$20,000. Repayment terms are flexible; loan terms can extend over seven years. The program expects to expand and provide in-house lending for lower cost AT.

#### **Services**

The loan program staff work closely with CARE Chest's AT reuse program, often identifying devices and equipment that can be used, so that a financial loan is not needed. Staff coordinates with other agencies that provide AT, such as Nevada's Independent Living through AT Program, which is housed at the Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living in northern Nevada and Rebuilding All Goals Efficiently in southern Nevada.

## ***TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: NEW MEXICO***

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|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (NMDVR)</b> |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>San Juan Center for Independence (SJCI)</b>                  |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>Four Corners Community Bank</b>                              |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>Access Loan New Mexico (ALNM)</b>                            |

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### **Overview**

Access Loan New Mexico (ALNM) is a statewide Alternative Financing Program (AFP) for New Mexico citizens with disabilities who desire to purchase assistive technology or adaptive equipment, or make home modifications for accessibility.

The New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (NMDVR) received a federal grant from *Title III* of the *Assistive Technology Act of 1998*. San Juan Center for Independence (SJCI), a community-based and consumer-controlled Center for Independent Living (CIL) based in Farmington, N.M., administers the program in partnership with Four Corners Community Bank of Farmington, N.M.

The mission of ALNM is to create a state where all New Mexicans with a disability have an opportunity to purchase assistive devices or services to improve independence, which allows them to be active and contributing members of their community.

ALNM made its first loan in February 2006 for a modified van with a wheelchair ramp. As of Sept. 30, 2009, ALNM has guaranteed over 30 loans for over \$419,300. These loans have been used to purchase modified vehicles, home modifications for accessibility, hearing aids, computers with adaptive equipment and a ceiling track lift system.

### **Products**

The program offers full guaranteed loans and refinancing.

### **Services**

ALNM works closely with other programs that are administered by the San Juan Center for Independence, primarily a grant program that supplements funding for devices and a device loan closet of assistive technology that provides loaner devices to individuals with disabilities.

ALNM partners with other agencies that provide down payment sources or pay directly for the adaptive equipment. It also refers individuals to other programs within the state that provide financial literacy and credit counseling and to specialists who provide AT assessments.

### ***TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: NORTH DAKOTA***

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|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>North Dakota Protection and Advocacy</b>            |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>North Dakota Association for the Disabled, Inc.</b> |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>Alerus Financial</b>                                |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>North Dakota Alternative Financial Loan Program</b> |

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#### **Overview**

The North Dakota Alternative Financial Loan Program helps North Dakotans with disabilities obtain assistive technology (AT) to improve their independence and quality of life. Any North Dakota resident with a disability who needs AT may apply. Family members may apply on behalf of children or other family members with disabilities as long as the device or service is for the use of the person with the disability.

#### **Products**

The North Dakota loan program provides guarantees for loans made by Alerus Financial. These loans range from \$500 to \$50,000 and have terms of up to seven years. Loans may be used to purchase assistive technology devices and services, including, but not limited to, modified vehicles; home modifications (must own home); computers and adaptive hardware and software; mobility items, such as wheelchairs and walkers; environmental control devices, such as voice activated appliances; augmentative communication devices; recreational and leisure items, such as adaptive fishing equipment; used AT equipment (upon evaluation from an AT professional as to its value and condition); AT assessments; training on AT devices, and device repair and warranties.

#### **Services**

The North Dakota AFP helps customers identify other funding sources for AT that meets their needs. It refers applicants to the North Dakota Interagency Program for Assistive Technology to help applicants find the AT they need and receive AT assessment services and training.

### **TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

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|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities</b>                     |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>Coalition for Anti-Stigma of Mental Illness in the CNMI (CAMI)</b> |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>Bank of Saipan</b>   |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>Trankilu Alternative Financing Program (TAFP)</b>                  |

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#### **Overview**

The Trankilu Alternative Financing Program's (TAFP) mission is to promote alternative funding resources for Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI ) residents with disabilities to acquire assistive technology devices and services to enhance their independence and improve their quality of life. The program is a partnership among the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Coalition for Anti-Stigmas of Mental Illness in the CNMI, and the Bank of Saipan.

#### **Products**

The Trankilu Alternative Financing Program offers loans of up to \$3,000. The program's loan review committee, at its discretion, may recommend to the community-based organization (CBO) advisory board for approval of loans that exceed the maximum amount, if such exceptions are justified and would serve the purposes of the TAFP.

#### **Services**

The loan program provides information and referrals to other funding sources for AT. It also assists applicants to complete loan applications. The loan program works closely with the CNMI statewide AT program, which assists individuals to identify which AT devices are needed.

### **TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: OKLAHOMA**

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|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>Oklahoma ABLE Tech</b>                             |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation OkAT)</b> |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>BancFirst of Stillwater</b>                        |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>Oklahoma Alternative Financing Program</b>         |

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#### **Overview**

Oklahoma ABLE Tech, in partnership with BancFirst and the Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation (OkAT), offers an alternative financing program (AFP) to Oklahomans with disabilities. The AFP is a low-interest and/or guaranty bank loan that provides individuals with disabilities or those who have a dependent with a disability the opportunity to borrow money for the purchase of needed assistive technology.

#### **Products**

All AFP loans have a fixed interest rate of 5 percent for three years or up to five years for collateralized loans. There are no application fees, but there are documentation fees for all closed loans. AFP applicants who are denied the low interest BancFirst of Stillwater loan can seek a guaranty of the loan through OkAT. Under established policies and procedures, OkAT, a nonprofit organization, can guaranty the loan of qualified applicants. OkAT determines that a qualified applicant has the financial means to make the monthly payment of the loan and the person is working toward correcting any adverse credit.

#### **Services**

Applicants are also referred to Oklahoma ABLE Tech's other services for information and referral to help them determine what AT they may need. The program also has extensive information on other funding sources to pay for AT or blend with the funds provided through the financial loan program.

## ***TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: PENNSYLVANIA***

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|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development</b>   |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation (PATF)</b>             |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>Sovereign Bank and Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation</b> |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation</b>                    |

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### **Overview**

The Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation (PATF) is committed to helping people with disabilities and older Pennsylvanians acquire the assistive technology devices and services they want to live a more independent and satisfying life. PATF can help people of all ages, income levels, disabilities and health conditions. An applicant must have an ability and willingness to repay a loan.

### **Products**

PATF provides borrowers with low-interest loans with extended repayment terms so they can better afford these devices and services. PATF has two loan programs:

- (1) A program for loan amounts of up to \$1,000; and
- (2) a program for loan amounts greater than \$1,000. For mini-loans that are from \$100 to \$1,000, there is no interest charged but there is a minimum monthly payment of \$20.

The maximum repayment period is three years. Along with a mini-loan, PATF may be able to offer a mini-grant of up to 50 percent of the loan request if the borrower meets the grant eligibility guidelines. Grant funds are provided through private donations. To receive a grant, the borrower must exhaust all other funding options, and must have a household income that is no greater than 150 percent below the federal poverty guidelines. For low-interest loans that are greater than \$1,000, the interest rate is 4.5 percent. If a borrower has good credit, then his or her loan request may be approved as a traditional loan, and the loan can be for up to \$60,000. The repayment period for the loan will be based upon the useful life of the device. If, however, there are credit problems, Sovereign Bank will request that the PATF board of directors guarantee the loan. If the board agrees, the maximum amount a person may borrow is \$25,000. Similar to a traditional loan, the repayment terms will be based upon the useful life of the device.

### **Services**

PATF provides extensive information and referral to other funding sources. It works with other funding sources to blend funding to minimize the amount an applicant must borrow for the assistive technology.

### **TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: SOUTH CAROLINA**

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|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department</b> |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>Allied Opportunities, Inc.</b>                          |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>South Carolina State Credit Union</b>                   |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>South Carolina Assistive Technology Loan Program</b>    |

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#### **Overview**

This program offers loan guarantees to qualifying South Carolinians with disabilities, their families and authorized representatives. The loan program facilitates loans to purchase a broad range of assistive technology (AT). AT is defined as any item, piece of equipment or device that enables an individual with a disability to improve his or her independence and quality of life.

#### **Products**

The loan program offers guarantees for loans through the South Carolina State Credit Union to purchase AT. Allowable equipment includes motor vehicles, vehicle modifications, hearing aids, sight equipment, wheelchairs or motorized scooters. The costs of training to use the equipment, insurance, extended warranties and maintenance plans may be included in the loan. Loans can range from \$500 to \$30,000. Terms are flexible, extending to up to seven years.

#### **Services**

The loan program offers information about other funding sources for obtaining assistive technology. It also refers potential applicants to the South Carolina Assistive Technology Program, the statewide AT program located at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. The state program helps applicants determine what AT they need by offering free consultation services to help guide the individual through the decision-making process.

## **TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: UTAH**

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|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>Utah State University, Center for Persons with Disabilities</b> |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>Utah Assistive Technology Foundation (UATF)</b>                 |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>Zions Bank</b>  |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>Utah Alternative Financing Program</b>                          |

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### **Overview**

The mission of the nonprofit Utah Assistive Technology Foundation (UATF), established in 1991, is to ensure that assistive technology is affordable and obtainable for Utahans with disabilities. Assistive technology makes it possible for individuals with disabilities to be independent and successful in all avenues of life. This program is often the only means that Utahans with disabilities have to obtain the technology they need to attend school, attain employment and fully participate in the community. The UATF has always placed an emphasis on consumer control, demonstrated by its slogan, "Independence is priceless. We help make it affordable." The majority of board and staff members are people with disabilities, or parents of children with disabilities. Since 2000, children and adults with disabilities have received 1,198 loans worth more than \$6 million dollars for a variety of assistive technology devices, including home modifications, hearing aids, walkers, wheelchairs, adapted computers, elevators, Braille equipment, print enlargers, scooters and modified vans.

### **Products**

The UATF facilitates favorable credit financing of assistive technology through a participating financial institution for qualified individuals with disabilities. This program provides interest rate "buy-downs" in partnership with the participating bank to provide affordable monthly payments. The program offers non-guaranteed and guaranteed loans through its partnership with the participating bank. The UATF offers low-interest loans with no application fees. Loans range from \$500 to \$55,000, depending on the device and borrower qualifications. All requests are channeled through one location, although loan papers can be signed at any of the 40 bank offices. Very few loan recipients have had their loans written off. The great majority of people who receive loans stay current with their payments because they realize the cost savings of the low-interest rates, and they appreciate the independence that technology provides.

### **Services**

The UATF offers assistance with application completion. Information and referral are offered to all parties who inquire about loans. A limited amount of technical assistance is provided to applicants. The UATF provides information and referral to external funding sources that can help cover all or part of the cost of the AT device. The program also directs some applicants to the Utah AT program or other AT providers to receive information on devices and to better identify technology needs.

### **TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: VERMONT**

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|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>Vermont Department of Aging and Disabilities/Vermont Assistive Technology Project</b> |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>Opportunities Ventures, Inc.</b>  |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>Opportunities Credit Union</b>  |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>Opportunities Independence Fund</b>   |

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#### **Overview**

Opportunities Independence Fund is operated by Opportunities Ventures, Inc. and the Opportunities Credit Union, a community development credit union covering Vermont and offering a wide range of financial products and services to underserved, unbanked and low-income families, including a variety of niche products for specific communities. The fund's motto, "We don't say 'no', we say 'when'," indicates its willingness to work with individuals to identify their financial goals and to work through barriers to getting to these goals. Opportunities Ventures and the Opportunities Independence Fund regularly seek input from hundreds of partners, members and community advocates to identify unmet needs and to develop solutions for current financial gaps in the area.

#### **Products**

Loans are available for modified vehicles, adaptive equipment, wheelchairs, lifts, scooters, home modifications, dentures, hearing aids, adapted recreational equipment, and other adapted items that enable individuals to have full access to all that life offers for work and/or pleasure. Loans range from \$100 to \$50,000. Rates range typically from 3 to 6 percent, based on the terms of the loan.

#### **Services**

Opportunities Credit Union also has three full-time U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development certified counselors. They provide financial education and one-on-one counseling at no cost to individuals who need to address financial challenges, improve or build credit, or establish savings and budgets. Counselors also help those who are interested in home ownership programs, as well as those facing foreclosure, repossession or bankruptcy.

For individuals with language challenges needing sign interpreters or other languages in order to facilitate either obtaining a loan or financial service, the program has staff speaking up to nine languages and access to translators where additional language skills may be needed. Staff can meet with clients at their homes or other convenient locations, if necessary, to complete a loan application or for the closing process.

### **TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS**

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|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>University of the Virgin Islands</b>                             |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>Virgin Islands Assistive Technology Foundation, Inc. (VIATF)</b> |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>Banco Popular</b>  |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>U.S. Virgin Islands Loan Program/VIATF</b>                       |

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#### **Overview**

The VIATF is committed to building better lives for the citizens with disabilities in the Virgin Islands and their families by offering them access to low-interest bank loans to purchase assistive technology (AT) devices and services. Under VIATF, the cost of the borrowed money is significantly reduced.

#### **Products**

VIATF offers loans with interest rate buy-down options to persons with disabilities so that they can have access to low-interest bank loans, ranging from \$300 to \$15,000, to purchase AT devices and services.

#### **Services**

The loan program partners with the U.S. Virgin Islands Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (TRAID) program, which is the statewide AT program, to provide technical assistance identifying appropriate AT, referrals to other funding sources and training on the various AT devices.

### ***TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: VIRGINIA***

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|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services</b>        |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>NewWell Fund/Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority</b> |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>SunTrust Bank</b>   |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>NewWell Fund</b>  |

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#### **Overview**

The NewWell Fund is the alternative financing program in Virginia. It was created with public funds to help Virginians with disabilities obtain assistive technology, home modifications or telework business equipment through low-interest loans. The AT Loan Fund Authority is a unique public-private partnership.

#### **Products**

The NewWell Fund offers a variety of loan financing options that include direct loans, guaranteed loans and non-guaranteed loans at low-interest rates for a broad range of assistive technology, which can include devices, training for the device and home modifications. Additionally, loans are available for equipment, supplies and inventory for home-based self-employment. Through the banking partnership, the NewWell Fund is able to offer loans to qualified borrowers of up to \$30,000 and beyond, with exceptions, at below market interest rates and extended terms. There is no minimum loan amount.

#### **Services**

The NewWell Fund provides consumer counseling for those needing assistance in completing an application, as well as support for assistive technology evaluations. The program guides Virginians with disabilities to assistive technology vendors who help them select the appropriate device for submission with the loan application. The program also directs consumers interested in home-based businesses to local microenterprise organizations. Their expertise leads to the development of a business plan for submission with the loan application.

## ***TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: WASHINGTON***

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|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>Washington Department of Commerce</b> |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>Washington Access Fund</b>            |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>Washington Access Fund</b>            |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>Assistive Technology Loan Program</b> |

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### **Overview**

The Washington Access Fund is a statewide nonprofit community development financial institution with a mission to promote access to technology and economic opportunity for Washington residents with disabilities.

### **Products**

The program provides low-interest (5 percent) loans for assistive technology and home and vehicle accessibility modifications. Loans of up to \$10,000 are available for terms of up to five years. Loan applications are available online or by contacting the Access Fund. Washington's AFP grant also supports a low-cost closed-caption television (CCTV) leasing program intended to provide people with vision disabilities with affordable long-term access to powerful desktop magnifiers. The CCTV lease program primarily benefits low-income seniors who need the CCTVs to maintain their independence. The grant also supports staffing for a small assistive-technology-matched-savings account pilot project through which individuals with disabilities can save up to \$4,000 and receive an equal amount in matching funds for purchases of assistive technology needed for work-related activities (including training and education intended to lead to work).

### **Services**

The Access Fund provides tips and advice on selecting and paying for assistive technology, referrals to appropriate assistive technology vendors and service providers, and advice and referrals relating to budgeting, credit repair and financial planning for people with disabilities.

### **TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: WISCONSIN**

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|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>Wisconsin Department of Health Services</b> |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>IndependenceFirst</b>                       |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>M&amp;I Bank</b>                            |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>WisLoan</b>                                 |

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#### **Overview**

WisLoan is the statewide alternative loan program that allows residents with a disability to purchase assistive technology that helps them to live more independently and productively. WisLoan is operated by IndependenceFirst.

The program is open to Wisconsin residents of all ages who have a disability. There are no income requirements, and individuals are not required to exhaust personal or public funding. Under the program, banks provide loans to qualified borrowers. Loan amounts depend on the item purchased and the ability to repay the loan.

#### **Products**

The WisLoan program offers guaranteed loans for assistive technology. The loans help people buy such equipment as hearing aids, modified vehicles, wheelchairs and ramps. Loans range from \$1,000 to \$50,000 and terms are flexible, ranging from one to 10 years. Direct loans are also available for loans under \$1,000 for assistive technology.

#### **Services**

Independent living centers throughout the state provide technical assistance and assist potential borrowers in completing loan applications. These centers also provide information on devices the consumer may be interested in. The independent living centers coordinate and collaborate on activities with programs funded under the AT Act in Wisconsin.

### **TITLE III ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAM PROFILE: WYOMING**

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|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Agency:</b>                  | <b>Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND)</b>       |
| <b>Community Based Organization:</b> | <b>Wyoming Independent Living Rehabilitation, Inc.</b> |
| <b>Lender:</b>                       | <b>First Interstate Bank of Laramie</b>                |
| <b>Program Title:</b>                | <b>Wyoming Technology Access Program (WYTAP)</b>       |

---

#### **Overview**

WYTAP provides financial loans for consumers to purchase assistive technology devices and services. The loan program permits Wyoming residents with disabilities and family members to apply for reduced interest loans to purchase assistive technology equipment and services. Although assistive technology often means the difference between people with disabilities living independently or as dependents, they often cannot afford to purchase necessary AT equipment because of their low-income levels and/or creditworthiness.

#### **Products**

WYTAP offers guaranteed loans and interest rate buy-down loans. Loans can be up to \$25,000 and for up to seven years. WYTAP buys down the interest below the current prime interest rate to make the loans more affordable. The lender approves WYTAP loans to applicants with credit ratings that would not be approved based on routine bank-lending policy.

#### **Services**

The staff at Wyoming Independent Living Rehabilitation assists individuals to complete loan applications. They also provide referrals to loan counseling and other sources of funding for AT. The loan program partners with the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities' Assistive Technology Resources program, which is the statewide AT program in Wyoming, to assist individuals to identify the assistive technology that best meets their needs.



# **APPENDIX D**

## **CONTACT INFORMATION FOR STATE GRANT FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS**



**ALABAMA**

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Alabama's Assistive Technology  
Resource (STAR)  
602 S. Lawrence St.  
Montgomery, AL 36104  
Web: <http://www.rehab.alabama.gov/star>

**ALASKA**

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Assistive Technologies of Alaska (ATLA)  
3330 Arctic Blvd., Suite 101  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
Web: <http://www.atlaak.org>

**AMERICAN SAMOA**

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American Samoa Assistive Technology  
Service Project (ASATS)  
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
Department of Human Resources  
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799  
Web: no address

**ARIZONA**

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Arizona Technology Access Program  
(AzTAP)  
Institute for Human Development  
Northern Arizona University  
2400 N. Central Ave., Suite 300  
Phoenix, AZ 85004  
Web: <http://www.aztap.org>

**ARKANSAS**

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Arkansas Increasing Capabilities  
Access Network (ICAN)  
Arkansas Department of  
Workforce Education  
Arkansas Rehabilitation Services  
26 Corporate Hill Drive  
Little Rock, AR 72205  
Web: <http://www.ar-ican.org>

**CALIFORNIA**

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California Assistive Technology Systems  
(CATS)  
California Department of Rehabilitation  
Independent Living Services  
721 Capitol Mall, 4th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Web: <http://www.atnet.org>

**COLORADO**

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Colorado Assistive Technology Partners  
601 E. Eighteenth Ave., Suite 130  
Denver, CO 80203  
Web: <http://www.AssistiveTechnologyPartners.org>

**CONNECTICUT**

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Connecticut Assistive Technology  
Project  
25 Sigourney St., 11th Floor  
Hartford, CT 06106  
Web: <http://www.CTtechact.com>

**DELAWARE**

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Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative  
(DATI)  
Center for Applied Science &  
Engineering  
University of Delaware, Alfred I. DuPont  
Hospital for Children  
1600 Rockland Road  
P.O. Box 269  
Wilmington, DE 19899-0269  
Web: <http://www.dati.org>

## **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

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Assistive Technology Program for the  
District of Columbia  
University Legal Services  
220 I St., NE, Suite 130  
Washington, DC 20002  
Web: <http://www.atpdc.org>

## **FLORIDA**

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Florida Alliance for Assistive Services  
and Technology (FAAST)  
3333 West Pensacola St., Bldg. 100  
Suite 140  
Tallahassee, FL 32304  
Web: <http://www.faast.org>

## **GEORGIA**

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Georgia Tools for Life  
Alternative Media Access Center  
512 Means Street NW, Suite 250  
Atlanta, GA 30318  
Web: <http://www.gatfl.org>

## **GUAM**

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Guam System for Assistive Technology  
(GSAT)  
University of Guam  
Guam Center for Excellence in  
Developmental Disabilities, Education,  
Research and Service (Guam  
CEDDERS)  
UOG Station  
303 University Drive,  
House #19 Dean Circle  
Mangilao, Guam 96923  
Web: <http://www.gsatcedders.org>

## **HAWAII**

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Assistive Technology Resource Centers  
of Hawaii (ATRC)  
414 Kuwili St., Suite 104  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
Web: <http://www.atrc.org>

## **IDAHO**

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Idaho Assistive Technology Project  
Center on Disabilities and Human  
Development  
University of Idaho  
121 West Sweet Ave.  
P.O. Box 444061  
Moscow, ID 83843  
Web: <http://www.idahoat.org>

## **ILLINOIS**

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Illinois Assistive Technology Program  
1 W. Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 100  
Springfield, IL 62701  
Web: <http://www.iltech.org>

## **INDIANA**

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Indiana Assistive Technology *Act*  
(INDATA)  
A division of Easter Seals Crossroads  
4740 Kingsway Drive  
Indianapolis, IN 46205  
Web: <http://www.eastersealstech.org>

## **IOWA**

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Iowa Program for Assistive Technology  
Center for Disabilities and Development  
100 Hawkins Drive, Room 5295  
Iowa City, IA 52242-1011  
Web: <http://iowaat.org>

**KANSAS**

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Assistive Technology for Kansans  
Project (ATK)  
2601 Gabriel  
Parsons, KS 67357

Web: <http://www.atk.ku.edu>

**KENTUCKY**

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Kentucky Assistive Technology Service  
(KATS) Network  
Office for the Blind  
275 East Main St.  
2nd Floor, Mail Stop 2-EJ  
Frankfort, KY 40621

Web: <http://www.katsnet.org>

**LOUISIANA**

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Louisiana Assistive Technology Access  
Network (LATAN)  
3042 Old Forge Road, Suite D  
P.O. Box 14115  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-4115

Web: <http://www.latan.org>

**MAINE**

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Maine Consumer Information and  
Technology Training Exchange (CITE)  
Maine CITE Coordinating Center  
46 University Drive  
Augusta, ME 04330

Web: <http://www.mainecite.org>

**MARYLAND**

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Maryland Technology Assistance  
Program (MD TAP)  
Department of Disabilities  
2301 Argonne Drive, Room T17  
Baltimore, MD 21218

Web: <http://www.mdmap.org>

**MASSACHUSETTS**

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Massachusetts Assistive Technology  
Act Program  
Massachusetts Rehabilitation  
Commission  
27 Wormwood St., Suite 600  
Boston, MA 02210

Web: <http://www.massmatch.org>

**MICHIGAN**

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Michigan Assistive Technology Project  
c/o Michigan Disability Rights Coalition  
3498 East Lake Lansing Road, Suite 100  
East Lansing, MI 48823

Web: <http://www.copower.org>

**MINNESOTA**

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Minnesota STAR Program  
358 Centennial Building  
658 Cedar Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Web: <http://www.mn.gov/star>

**MISSISSIPPI**

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Mississippi Project START  
P.O. Box 1698  
Jackson, MS 39215-1000

Web: <http://www.msprojectstart.org>

**MISSOURI**

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Missouri Assistive Technology Project  
1501 NW Jefferson  
Blue Springs, MO 64015

Web: <http://www.at.mo.gov>

## **MONTANA**

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Montana Assistive Technology Program  
(MATP)  
University of Montana, Rural Institute  
700 SW Higgins Ave., Suite 250  
Missoula, MT 59803

Web:  
<http://montech.ruralinstitute.umt.edu>

## **NEBRASKA**

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Nebraska Assistive  
Technology Partnership  
Nebraska Department of Education  
Vocational Rehabilitation  
3901 N. 27th St., Suite 5  
Lincoln, NE 68521

Web: <http://www.atp.ne.gov>

## **NEVADA**

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Nevada Assistive  
Technology Collaborative  
Department of Health and Human  
Services Aging and Disability Services  
Division  
3416 Goni Road D-132  
Carson City, NV 89706

Web:  
[http://dhhs.nv.gov/ODS\\_Programs.htm](http://dhhs.nv.gov/ODS_Programs.htm)

## **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

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Assistive Technology in New Hampshire  
(ATinNH)  
University of New Hampshire  
Institute on Disability/UCE  
10 West Edge Drive, Suite 101  
Durham, NH 03824

Web: <http://www.atinnh.org>

## **NEW JERSEY**

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Assistive Technology Advocacy Center  
Disability Rights New Jersey  
210 South  
Broad St., 3rd Floor  
Trenton, NJ 08608

Web: <http://www.drnj.org/atac>

## **NEW MEXICO**

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New Mexico Technology  
Assistance Program  
NM Governor's Commission on Disability  
The Lamy Building  
625 Silver Ave. SW  
Albuquerque, NM 87505

Web: <http://www.tap.gcd.state.nm.us>

## **NEW YORK**

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New York State Justice Center  
NYS Commission on Quality Care and  
Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities  
161 Delaware Avenue  
Delmar, NY 12054

Web: <http://www.justicecenter.ny.gov>

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

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North Carolina Assistive  
Technology Program  
Department of Health and Human  
Services  
Division of Vocational  
Rehabilitation Services  
4900 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 250  
Raleigh, NC 27606

Web: <http://www.ncatp.org>

## **NORTH DAKOTA**

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North Dakota Interagency Program for  
Assistive Technology (IPAT)  
3240 15th Street S., Suite B  
Fargo, ND 58104

Web: <http://www.ndipat.org>

## **NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

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Systems of Technology-Related  
Assistance for Individuals with  
Disabilities (STRAID)  
CNMI Council on  
Developmental Disabilities  
P.O. Box 502565  
Saipan, MP 96950-2565

Web: <http://www.cnmicdd.org>

## **OHIO**

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Assistive Technology of Ohio  
1139 Dodd Hall  
480 Medical Center Drive  
Columbus, OH 43210

Web: <http://www.atohio.org>

## **OKLAHOMA**

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Oklahoma ABLE Tech  
Seretean Wellness Center  
Oklahoma State University  
1514 W. Hall of Fame  
Stillwater, OK 74078-2026

Web: <http://okabletech.okstate.edu>

## **OREGON**

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Oregon's Statewide Assistive  
Technology Program  
Access Technologies, Inc.  
2225 Lancaster Drive, NE  
Salem, OR 97305-1396

Web:  
<http://www.accesstechnologiesinc.org>

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

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Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive  
Institute on Disabilities at Temple  
University  
1755 N. 13th St.  
Student Center, Suite 411 South  
Philadelphia, PA 19122

Web: <http://disabilities.temple.edu>

## **PUERTO RICO**

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Puerto Rico Assistive Technology  
Program (PRATP)  
University of Puerto Rico  
1187 Calle Flamboyán, Jardín Botánico  
Sur  
San Juan, PR 00926-1117

Web: <http://www.pratp.upr.edu>

## **RHODE ISLAND**

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Rhode Island Assistive Technology  
Access Partnership (ATAP)  
Office of Rehabilitation Services  
40 Fountain St.  
Providence, RI 02903

Web: <http://www.atap.ri.gov>

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

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South Carolina Assistive  
Technology Project  
USC School of Medicine  
University Center for Excellence  
Columbia, SC 29208

Web: <http://www.sc.edu/scatp/>

## **SOUTH DAKOTA**

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DakotaLink  
South Dakota Assistive Technology  
Project  
1161 Deadwood Ave., Suite #5  
Rapid City, SD 57702  
Web: <http://DakotaLink.tie.net>

## **TENNESSEE**

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Tennessee Technology Access Project  
(TnTAP)  
Citizens Plaza, 14th Floor  
400 Deaderick St.  
Nashville, TN 37248-6000  
Web:  
<http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/rehab/ttap.htm>

## **TEXAS**

---

Texas Assistive Technology Project  
Texas Center for Disability Studies  
University of Texas at Austin  
The Commons Center, Suite 1.154  
J. J. Pickle Research Campus  
10100 Burnet Road  
Austin, TX 78758-4445  
Web: <http://techaccess.edb.utexas.edu>

## **U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS**

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Virgin Islands Technology-Related  
Assistance for Individuals with  
Disabilities (VITRAID)  
University of the Virgin Islands/UCE  
#2 John Brewers Bay  
St. Thomas, U.S. VI 00801-0990  
Web: <http://www.viucedd.org>

## **UTAH**

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Utah Assistive Technology Program  
Center for Persons with Disabilities  
6855 Old Main Hill  
Logan, UT 84322-6855  
Web: <http://www.uatpat.org>

## **VERMONT**

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Vermont Assistive Technology Program  
103 South Main St.  
Weeks Building  
Waterbury, VT 05671-2305  
Web: <http://www.atp.vt.gov>

## **VIRGINIA**

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Virginia Assistive Technology System  
(VATS)  
8004 Franklin Farms Drive  
P.O. Box K-300  
Richmond, VA 23288-0300  
Web: <http://www.vats.org>

## **WASHINGTON**

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Washington Assistive Technology Act  
Program (WATAP)  
University of Washington  
Center for Technology and Disability  
Studies  
CHDD South Building, Room 104  
Box 357920  
Seattle, WA 98195-7920  
Web: <http://wata.org>

**WEST VIRGINIA**

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West Virginia Assistive Technology  
System (WVATS)  
West Virginia Center for Excellence  
in Disabilities  
Airport Research and Office Park  
955 Hartman Run Road  
Morgantown, WV 26505  
Web: <http://wvats.cedwvu.org>

**WISCONSIN**

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Wisconsin Assistive Technology  
Program (WisTech)  
Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute  
VR 201H UW Stout  
Menomonie, WI 54751  
Web: <http://www.uwstout.edu/svri>

**WYOMING**

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Wyoming Assistive Technology  
Resources (WATR)  
Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND)  
University of Wyoming  
University Center for Excellence in  
Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)  
Department 4298,  
1000 E. University Ave.  
Laramie, WY 82071  
Web: <http://wind.uwyo.edu/watr>



# **APPENDIX E**

## **CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ALTERNATIVE FINANCING PROGRAMS**



**ALABAMA**

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Alabama Loan Program  
Alabama Department of  
Rehabilitation Services  
602 S. Lawrence St.  
Montgomery, AL 36104

Web: <http://www.rehab.alabama.gov/individuals-and-families/star/alternative-finance-program>

**ARIZONA**

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Arizona Loans for Assistive Technology  
Program (AzLAT)  
Northern Arizona University  
Institute for Human Development  
2400 North Central Ave., Suite 300  
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Web: <http://aztap.org>

**ARKANSAS**

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Arkansas Alternative Technology  
Revolving Loan Fund  
525 West Capitol Ave.  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Web: <http://www.arkan.org/aboutican1.html#loan>

**DELAWARE**

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Delaware Assistive Technology Loan  
Program  
Easter Seals Delaware  
61 Corporate Circle  
New Castle, DE 19720

Web: <http://www.de.easterseals.com>

**FLORIDA**

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Florida New Horizon Loan Fund  
3333 West Pensacola St.,  
Building 100, Suite 140  
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Web: <http://www.newhorizonloanprogram.org>

**GEORGIA**

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Georgia Center for Financial  
Independence and Innovation  
315 W. Ponce de Leon Ave., Suite 600  
Decatur, GA 30030

Web: <http://www.thecfii.org>

**GUAM**

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Guam Options for Alternative Loans –  
Assistive Technology (GOAL-AT)  
University of Guam CEDDERS  
UOG Station  
303 University Drive, House #19,  
Dean Circle  
Mangilao, Guam 96923

Web: <http://www.gsatcedders.org>

**ILLINOIS**

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Low Interest Loan Program  
Illinois Assistive Technology Program  
1 West Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 100  
Springfield, IL 62701-1200

Web: <http://www.iltech.org/cashloan.html>

**IOWA**

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Iowa Able Loan Program  
Abilities Fund  
410 North 18th St.  
Centerville, IA 52544

Web: <http://www.abilitiesfund.org>

Iowa Able Foundation  
State Public Policy Group  
200 10th St., Fifth Floor  
Des Moines, IA 50309

Web: <http://www.iowaable.org>

**KANSAS**

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Alternative Financing Program  
Kansas Assistive Technology Cooperative  
625 Merchant, Suite 205  
Emporia, KS 66801

Web: <http://www.k-loan.net>

**KENTUCKY**

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Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan  
Corporation  
275 E Main St., MD 2-EK  
Frankfort, KY 40621

Web: <http://www.katlc.ky.gov>

**LOUISIANA**

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Louisiana Assistive Technology Access  
Network (LATAN)  
3042 Old Forge Road, Suite D  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Web: <http://www.latan.org>

**MAINE**

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Maine Loan Program  
Maine Consumer Information and  
Technology Training Exchange (CITE)  
Maine CITE Coordinating Center  
46 University Drive  
Augusta, ME 043330

Web:  
<http://www.maine cite.org/index.php/paying-for-assistive-technology#finance>

**MARYLAND**

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Maryland Technology Assistance  
Program  
2301 Argonne Drive, Room T-17  
Baltimore, MD 21218

Web: <http://www.md tap.org>

**MASSACHUSETTS**

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Massachusetts AT Loan Program  
Easter Seals Massachusetts  
484 Main St.  
Worcester, MA 01608

Web: <http://www.massat.loan.org>

**MICHIGAN**

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Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund  
c/o U.C.P. Michigan  
3401 E. Saginaw, Suite 216  
Lansing, MI 48912

Web: <http://www.mi-atlf.org>

**MINNESOTA**

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Equip-A-Life  
Assistive Technology of Minnesota  
1800 Pioneer Creek Center, Box 310  
Maple Plain, MN 55359-0310

Web: <http://www.equipalife.org>

## **MISSOURI**

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Show Me Loans  
Missouri Assistive Technology Council  
1501 NW Jefferson  
Blue Springs, MO 64015  
Web: <http://at.mo.gov/loans.html>

## **NEBRASKA**

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Nebraska Alternative Financing  
Loan Program  
Easter Seals Nebraska  
638 North 109th Plaza  
Omaha, NE 68154  
Web: <http://www.easterseals.com/ne/our-programs/respite-community-support/alternative-financing.html>

## **NEVADA**

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Nevada Assistive Technology Loan Fund  
Care Chest  
7910 N. Virginia St.  
Reno, NV 89506  
Web: [http://dhhs.nv.gov/ODS\\_Programs\\_CareLoans.htm](http://dhhs.nv.gov/ODS_Programs_CareLoans.htm)

## **NEW MEXICO**

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New Mexico Loan Program  
San Juan Center for Independence  
3535 E. 30th, Suite 101  
Farmington, NM 87402  
Web: <http://www.tap.gcd.state.nm.us/finloan.html>

## **NORTH DAKOTA**

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North Dakota AT Loan Program  
North Dakota Protection and Advocacy  
400 E. Broadway, Suite 409  
Bismarck, ND 58501-4071  
Web: <http://www.ndipat.org>

## **NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

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Trankilu Loan Program  
Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas  
Council on Developmental Disabilities  
P.O. Box 502565  
Saipan, MP 96950-2565  
Web: <http://www.cnmicdd.org>

## **OKLAHOMA**

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Oklahoma Alternative Financing Program  
Oklahoma ABLE Tech  
1514 West Hall of Fame  
Stillwater, OK 74078-2026  
Web: [http://www.ok.gov/abletech/Device\\_Bank\\_Loans/index.html](http://www.ok.gov/abletech/Device_Bank_Loans/index.html)

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

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Pennsylvania Assistive  
Technology Foundation  
1004 West Ninth Ave., First Floor  
King of Prussia, PA 19406  
Web: <http://www.patf.us>

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

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South Carolina Assistive Technology  
Loan Program (SC AT)  
Vocational Rehabilitation Department  
P.O. Box 3197  
West Columbia, SC 29171  
Web: [http://scvrd.net/individuals/assistive\\_technology.php](http://scvrd.net/individuals/assistive_technology.php)

## **U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS**

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U.S. Virgin Islands Loan Program  
University of the Virgin Islands  
#2 John Brewer's Bay  
St. Thomas, U.S.VI 00802  
Web: <http://www.viucedd.org>

**UTAH**

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Alternative Financing Program  
Utah Assistive Technology Foundation  
(UATF)  
Center for Persons with Disabilities  
6835 Old Main Hill  
Logan, UT 84322  
Web: <http://www.uatf.org>

**VERMONT**

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Vermont Assistive Technology Fund  
Opportunities Ventures  
25 Winooski Falls, Suite 203  
P.O. Box 67  
Winooski, VT 05404  
Web: <http://oppsvt.org>

**VIRGINIA**

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Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority  
(ATLFA)—NewWell Fuld  
1602 Rolling Hills Drive, Suite 107  
Richmond, VA 23229  
Web: <http://www.atlfa.org>

**WASHINGTON**

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Washington Access Fund  
Washington Assistive Technology  
Foundation  
100 South King, Suite 280  
Seattle, WA 98104  
Web:  
<http://www.washingtonaccessfund.org>

**WISCONSIN**

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WisLoan  
Independence First  
540 South First St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53204-1605  
Web: [http://www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/  
disabilities/wistech/wisloan.htm](http://www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/wistech/wisloan.htm)

**WYOMING**

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Wyoming Technology Access Program  
(WYTAP)  
Wyoming Independent Living  
Rehabilitation, Inc.  
305 West First St.  
Casper, WY 82601  
Web: <http://www.wilr.org/wytap.html>

# **APPENDIX F**

## **CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS**



**ALABAMA**

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Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program  
Box 870395  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0395  
Phone: (205) 348-4928  
Fax: (205) 348-3909  
Email: adap@adap.ua.edu  
Web: <http://www.adap.net>

**ALASKA**

---

Disability Law Center of Alaska  
3330 Arctic Boulevard, Suite 103  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
Phone: (907) 565-1002  
Fax: (907) 565-1000  
Web: <http://www.dlcak.org>

**AMERICAN SAMOA**

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American Samoa P & A  
P.O. Box 3937  
Pago Pago, AS 96799  
Phone: (684) 633-2441  
Fax: (684) 633-7286  
Email: opad@as.gov

**ARIZONA**

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Arizona Center for Disability Law  
5025 East Washington St., Suite 202  
Phoenix, AZ 85034  
Phone: (602) 274-6287  
Fax: (602) 274-6779  
Web: <http://www.azdisabilitylaw.org>

**ARKANSAS**

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Disability Rights Center, Inc.  
1100 N. University #201  
Little Rock AR 72207-  
Phone: (501) 296-1775 (V/TTY)  
Fax: (501) 296-1779  
Email: panda@arkdisabilityrights.org  
Web: <http://www.arkdisabilityrights.org>

**CALIFORNIA**

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Disability Rights California  
350 South Bixel St., Suite 290  
Los Angeles, CA 90010  
Phone: (213) 427-8747  
Toll Free: (800) 776-5746  
TTY: (800) 781-4546  
Web: <http://www.disabilityrightsca.org>

Disability Rights California  
1330 Broadway, Suite 500  
Oakland, CA 94612  
Phone: (510) 267-1200  
Fax: (510) 267-1201  
Web: <http://www.disabilityrightsca.org>

Disability Rights California  
1831 K St.  
Sacramento, CA  
Phone: (916) 504-5800  
Fax: (916) 504-5801  
Web: <http://www.disabilityrightsca.org>

Disability Rights California  
(Regional Office)  
1111 Sixth Ave., Suite 200  
San Diego, CA 92101  
Phone: (619) 239-7861 / (800) 776-5746  
Fax: (619) 239-7906  
TTY: (800) 576-9269  
Web: <http://www.disabilityrightsca.org>  
[www.disabilityrightsca.org/espanol](http://www.disabilityrightsca.org/espanol)

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### **COLORADO**

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The Legal Center  
455 Sherman St., Suite 130  
Denver, CO 80203-4403  
Phone/TTY: (303) 722-0300  
Toll Free: (800) 288-1376  
Fax: (303) 722-0720  
Web: <http://www.thelegalcenter.org>

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### **CONNECTICUT**

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Office of P & A for Persons  
w/Disabilities  
60B Weston St.  
Hartford, CT 06120-1551  
Phone: (860) 297-4300  
Fax: (860) 566-8714  
Web: <http://www.ct.gov/opapd>

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### **DELAWARE**

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Community Legal Aid Society Inc.  
100 W. 10th St., Suite 801  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
Phone: (302) 575-0660 220  
Fax: (302) 575-0840  
Web: <http://www.declasi.org>

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### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

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University Legal Services/P & A  
220 I St. NE, Suite 130  
Washington, DC 20002  
Phone: (202) 547-0198  
Fax: (202) 547-2662  
Web: <http://www.uls-dc.org>

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### **FLORIDA**

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Disabilities Rights Florida  
2728 Centerview Drive, Suite 102  
Tallahassee FL 32301  
Phone: (850) 488-9071  
(800) 342-0823  
Fax: (850) 488-8640  
TDD: (800) 346-4127  
Web:  
<http://www.disabilityrightsflorida.org>

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### **GEORGIA**

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Georgia Advocacy Office  
One Decatur Town Center  
150 East Ponce de Leon, Suite 430  
Decatur, GA 30030  
Phone: (404) 885-1234  
Fax: (404) 378-0031  
Web: <http://www.thegao.org>

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### **GUAM**

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Guam Legal Services Corporation  
Disability Law Center  
113 Bradley Place  
Hagatna, GU 96910-4911  
Phone: (671) 477-9811  
Fax: (671) 477-1320/4270  
Web: <http://www.lawhelp.org/GU>

## **HAWAII**

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Hawaii Disability Rights Center  
1132 Bishop St., Suite 2102  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone: (808) 949-2922 ext. 216  
Fax: (808) 949-2928  
TTY: (800) 882-1057  
Web:  
<http://www.hawaii Disability Rights Center.org>

## **IDAHO**

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DisAbility Rights Idaho  
4477 Emerald St., Suite B-100  
Boise, ID 83706-2066  
Phone: (208) 336-5353  
Toll free/TTY: (866) 262-3462  
Fax: (208) 336-5396  
Web:  
<http://www.Disability Rights Idaho.org>

## **ILLINOIS**

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Equip for Equality Inc. (Chicago)  
20 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 300  
Chicago, IL 60602  
Phone: (312) 341-0022  
Toll Free: (800) 537-2632  
Fax: (312) 541-7544  
TTY: (800) 610-2779  
Web: <http://www.Equip for Equality.org>

Equip for Equality Inc. (Northwestern)  
1617 Second Ave., Suite 210  
Rock Island, IL 61204  
Phone: (309) 786-6868  
Toll free: (800) 758-6869  
Fax: (309) 786-2393  
TTY: (800) 610-2779  
Web: <http://www.Equip for Equality.org>

## **INDIANA**

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Indiana Protection and Advocacy  
Services  
4701 N. Keystone Ave.  
Indianapolis, IN 46205  
Phone: (800) 622-4845 ext. 460  
(Indianapolis and South)  
(800) 622-4845 ext. 444  
(Northern Indiana)  
TTY: (800) 838-1131  
Email: [dward@ipas.IN.gov](mailto:dward@ipas.IN.gov) or  
[ddulla@ipas.IN.gov](mailto:ddulla@ipas.IN.gov)  
Web: <http://in.gov/ipas>

## **IOWA**

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Assistive Technology Legal Project  
Clinical Law Program  
Boyd Law Building  
Iowa City, IA 52242  
Phone: (319) 335-9130  
TTY: (319) 335-9023  
Toll Free: (866) 251-5491  
Fax: (319) 353-5445  
Web: <http://www.iowacompass.org>

Assistive Technology Legal Project  
Iowa Program for Assistive Technology  
100 Hawkins Drive, Room S295  
Iowa City, IA 52242  
Phone: (319) 353-8502 / (800) 779-2001  
Fax: (319) 384-5139  
TTY: (877) 686-0032  
Web: <http://www.iowacompass.org>

Assistive Technology Legal Project  
Iowa Legal Aid  
1111 9th St., Suite 230  
Des Moines, IA 50314  
Phone/TTY: (515) 243-1198, ext. 1681  
Toll Free/TTY: (800) 532-1275, ext.1681  
Spanish Toll Free (800) 272-0008  
Fax: (515) 244-4618  
Web: <http://www.iowacompass.org>

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### **KANSAS**

Disability Rights Center of Kansas  
635 S.W. Harrison St., Suite 100  
Topeka, KS 66603-3726  
Phone: (785) 273-9661  
Toll Free: (877) 776-1541  
Fax: (785) 273-9414  
TTY: (877) 335-3725  
Web: <http://www.drckansas.org>

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### **KENTUCKY**

Kentucky Protection & Advocacy  
100 Fair Oaks Lane, 3rd Floor  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
Phone: (502) 564-2967  
Toll/TTY: (800) 372-2988  
Fax: (502) 564-0848  
Web: <http://www.kypa.net>

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### **LOUISIANA**

Advocacy Center  
8325 Oak St.  
New Orleans, LA 70125  
Phone: (504) 522-2337  
Toll Free/TTY: (800) 960-7705  
Fax: (504) 522-5507  
Web: <http://www.advocacyla.org>

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### **MAINE**

Disability Rights Center  
24 Stone St., Suite 204  
Augusta, ME 04330  
Phone/TTY: (207) 626-2774  
Toll Free/TTY: (800) 452-1948  
Fax: (207) 621-1419  
Web: <http://www.drcme.org>

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### **MARIANA ISLANDS**

Northern Mariana P & A Systems, Inc.  
P.O. Box 503529  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Phone: (670) 235-7274  
Fax: (670) 235-7275  
Web: <http://www.nmpasi.org>

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### **MARYLAND**

Maryland Disability Law Center  
1500 Union Ave., Suite 2000  
Baltimore, MD 21211  
Phone: (410) 727-6352  
Toll-Free: (800) 233-7201 (MD only)  
Fax: (410) 727-6389  
TTY: (410) 235-5387  
Web: <http://www.mdclaw.org>

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### **MASSACHUSETTS**

Disability Law Center  
11 Beacon St., Suite 925  
Boston, MA 02108  
Phone: (617) 723-8455  
Toll Free: (800) 872-9992  
Fax: (617) 723-9125  
TTY: (800) 381-0577  
Web: <http://www.dlc-ma.org>

**MICHIGAN**

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Michigan P & A Service (Main office)  
4095 Legacy Parkway, Suite 500  
Lansing, MI 48911-4263  
Phone: (517) 487-1755  
Toll Free/TTY: (800) 288-5923  
Fax: (517) 487-0827  
Web: <http://www.mpas.org>

**MINNESOTA**

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Minnesota Disability Law Center  
430 1st Ave., North #300  
Minneapolis, MN 55401-1780  
Phone: (612) 332-1441  
Toll free: (800) 292-4150  
Fax: (612) 334-5755  
TTY: (612) 332-4668  
Web: <http://mylegalaid.org/about/our-work/disability-law>

**MISSISSIPPI**

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Disability Rights Mississippi  
210 Capitol St., Suite 600  
Jackson, MS 39201  
Phone: (601) 968-0600  
Toll Free/TTY: (800) 772-4057  
(MS only)  
Fax: (601) 968-0665  
Web: <http://www.drms.ms>

**MISSOURI**

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Missouri Protection & Advocacy  
Services  
925 S. Country Club Drive  
Jefferson City, MO 65109  
Phone: (573) 659-0678  
Toll Free: (800) 392-8667  
Fax: (573) 659-0677  
Mo Relay/TDD: (800) 735-2966  
Email: [mopasjc@embarqmail.com](mailto:mopasjc@embarqmail.com)  
Web: <http://www.moadvocacy.org>

**MONTANA**

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Disability Rights Montana  
1022 Chestnut St.  
Helena MT 59601  
Phone: (406) 449-2344  
Toll Free/TTY: (800) 245-4743  
Fax: (406) 449-2418  
Email: [advocate@disabilityrightsmt.org](mailto:advocate@disabilityrightsmt.org)  
Web: <http://www.disabilityrightsmt.org>

**NATIVE AMERICAN**

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Native American Disability Law Center  
3535 East 30th St., Suite 201  
Farmington, NM 87402  
Phone: (505) 566-5880  
Fax: (505) 566-5889  
Email: [info@natedisabilitylaw.org](mailto:info@natedisabilitylaw.org)  
Web: <http://www.natedisabilitylaw.org>

**NEBRASKA**

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Disability Rights Nebraska  
134 South 13th St., Suite 600  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
Phone/TTY: (402) 474-3183  
Toll Free: (800) 422-6691(Nebraska)  
Fax: (402) 474-3274  
Web:  
<http://www.disabilityrightsnebraska.org>

**NEVADA**

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Nevada Disability Advocacy &  
Law Center  
6039 Eldora, Suite C-3, Box 3  
Las Vegas, NV 89146-5611  
Phone: (702) 257-8150  
Fax: (702) 257-8170  
Toll Free: (888) 349-3843  
TTY: (702)257-8160  
Web: <http://www.ndalc.org>

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

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Disabilities Rights Center  
18 Low Ave.  
Concord, NH 03301-4971  
Phone: (603) 228-0432  
Fax: (603) 225-2077  
Toll Free/TTY: (800) 834-1721  
Email: [advocacy@drchn.org](mailto:advocacy@drchn.org)  
Web: <http://www.drcnh.org>

**NEW JERSEY**

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Disability Rights New Jersey  
210 South Broad St., 3rd Floor  
Trenton, NJ 08608  
Phone: (609) 292-9742  
Toll Free: (800) 922-7233 (NJ only)  
Fax: (609) 777-0187  
TTY: (609) 633-7106  
Web: <http://www.drnj.org>

**NEW MEXICO**

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Disability Rights New Mexico  
1720 Louisiana Boulevard N.E.,  
Suite 204  
Albuquerque, NM 87110  
Phone: (505) 256-3100  
Toll Free: (800) 432-4682 (NM only)  
Fax: (505) 256-3184  
Web: <http://www.drnm.org>

**NEW YORK**

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Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc.  
237 Main Street, Suite 400  
Buffalo, NY 14203-2794.  
Phone (716) 847-0650 ext. 262  
Fax: (716) 847-0227  
TTY: (716) 847-1324  
Web: <http://www.nls.org>

**NORTH CAROLINA**

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Disability Rights NC  
2626 Glenwood Ave., Suite 550  
Raleigh, NC 27608  
Phone: (919) 856-2195  
Fax: (919) 856-2244  
TTY: (888) 268-5535  
Web: <http://www.disabilityrightsncc.org>

## **NORTH DAKOTA**

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Protection & Advocacy Project  
1351 Page Drive, Suite 303  
Fargo, ND 58103-3551  
Phone: (701) 239-7222  
Central Intake: (701) 328-3950  
Toll Free: (800) 472-2670 (statewide  
only)  
Fax: (701) 239-7224  
TTY: 711 (statewide only)  
Web: <http://www.ndpanda.org>

Protection & Advocacy Project  
400 East Broadway, Suite 409  
Bismarck, ND 58501-4071  
Phone: (701) 328-2950  
Toll Free: (800) 472-2670 (statewide  
only)  
Fax: (701) 328-3934  
TDD Relay: 711  
Email: [panda@nd.gov](mailto:panda@nd.gov)  
Web: <http://www.ndpanda.org>

## **OHIO**

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Ohio Legal Rights Service  
50 West Broad St., Suite 1400  
Columbus, OH 43215  
Phone: (614) 466-7264  
Fax: (614) 644-1888  
TTY: (614) 728-2553  
Web: <http://www.olrs.ohio.gov>

## **OKLAHOMA**

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Oklahoma Disability Law Center  
2915 Classen Blvd., Suite 300  
Oklahoma City, OK 73106  
Phone: (405) 525-7755  
Toll Free/TTY: (800) 880-7755  
Fax: (405) 525-7759  
Web:  
<http://www.oklahomadisabilitylaw.org>

## **OREGON**

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Disability Rights Oregon  
610 S.W. Broadway, Suite 200  
Portland, OR 97205  
Phone: (503) 243-2081  
Fax: (503) 243 1738  
Web: <http://www.droregon.org>

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

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Disability Rights Network of  
Pennsylvania  
1414 N. Cameron St., Second Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17103  
Phone: (717) 236-8110  
Fax: (717) 236-0192  
TTY: (877) 375-7139  
Web: <http://www.drnpa.org>

Disability Rights Network of  
Pennsylvania  
1315 Walnut St., Suite 500  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
Phone: (215) 238-8070 Ext. 210  
Fax: (215) 772-3126  
Web: <http://www.drnpa.org>

## **PUERTO RICO**

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Office of Ombudsman for Persons With Disabilities  
Procurador / Ombudsman  
Oficina del Procurador de las Personas con Impedimentos  
P.O. Box 41309  
San Juan, PR 00940-1309  
Phone: (787) 725-4577/(800) 981-4125  
Fax: (787) 724-0670  
TTY: (787) 725-4012  
Web: <http://www.oppi.gobierno.pr>

## **RHODE ISLAND**

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Rhode Island Disability Law Center  
275 Westminster St., Suite 401  
Providence, RI 02903  
Phone: (401) 831-3150  
Fax: (401) 274-5568  
TTY: (401) 831-5335  
Web: <http://www.ridlc.org>

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

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South Carolina P & A for People With Disabilities  
3710 Landmark Drive, Suite 208  
Columbia, SC 29204  
Phone/TTY: (803) 782-0639  
Toll Free: (866) 275-7273 (SC only)  
Fax: (803) 790-1946  
Email: [info@pandasc.org](mailto:info@pandasc.org)  
Web: <http://pandasc.org>

## **SOUTH DAKOTA**

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South Dakota Advocacy Services  
221 South Central Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501  
Phone: (605) 224-8294  
Fax: (605) 224-5125  
Toll Free/TTY: (800) 658-4792 (SD only)  
Web: <http://www.sdadvocacy.com>

## **TENNESSEE**

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Disability Law & Advocacy Center of Tennessee  
2146 21st Ave. South, Suite 100  
Nashville, TN 37212-5385  
Phone: (615) 298-1080  
TTY: (615)298-2471  
Toll Free: (800) 287-9636 (TN Only)  
Fax (615) 298-2046  
Email: [GetHelp@DLACTN.org](mailto:GetHelp@DLACTN.org)  
Web: <http://www.dlactn.org>

Disability Law & Advocacy Center of Tennessee  
2693 Union Ave., Suite 201  
Memphis, TN 38112-4403  
Phone: (901) 458-6013  
TTY: (888)852-2852  
Toll Free: (800)342-1660 (TN Only)  
Fax: (901) 458-7819  
Web: <http://www.dlactn.org>

## **TEXAS**

---

Disability Rights Texas  
2222 West Braker Lane  
Austin, TX 78758  
Phone: (800) 252-9108  
Toll Free: (866) 362-2851  
Web: <http://www.disabilityrightstx.org>

## **UTAH**

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Disability Law Center  
205 North 400 West  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103  
Toll Free: (800) 662-9080  
Fax: (801) 363-1437  
Web: <http://disabilitylawcenter.org>

## **VERMONT**

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Disability Law Project  
57 North Main St.  
Rutland, VT 05701  
Toll Free: (800) 889-2047  
Web: <http://www.vtlegalaid.org>

## **VIRGINIA**

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Disability Law Center of Virginia  
1910 Byrd Ave., Suite 5  
Richmond, VA 23230  
Toll Free: (800) 552-3962  
Web: <http://www.dlcv.org>

## **VIRGIN ISLANDS**

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Disability Rights Center of Virgin Islands  
63 Estate Cane Carlton  
Fredericksted  
St. Croix, VI 00940-4038  
Phone: (340) 772-1200  
Fax: (340) 772-0609  
TTY/Video: (340) 772-4641  
Web: <http://www.drcvi.org>

## **WASHINGTON**

---

Disability Rights Washington  
315 Fifth Ave. South, Suite 850  
Seattle, WA 98104  
Phone: (206) 324-1521  
Toll Free: (800) 562-2702 (statewide)  
TTY: 711  
Web: <http://www.disabilityrightswa.org>

## **WEST VIRGINIA**

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West Virginia Advocates  
1207 Quarrier St., 4th Floor  
Charleston, WV 25301  
Phone: (304) 346-0847  
Toll Free/TTY: (800) 950-5250  
Fax: (304) 346-0867  
Web: <http://wvadvocates.org>

## **WISCONSIN**

---

Disability Rights Wisconsin  
6737 West Washington St., #3230  
Milwaukee, WI 53214  
Phone: (414) 773-4646  
Toll Free/TTY: (800) 708-3034  
Fax: (414) 773-4647  
Web: <http://www.disabilityrightswi.org>

## **WYOMING**

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P & A System, Inc.  
7344 Stockman St.  
Cheyenne, WY 82009-6008  
Phone/TTY: (307) 632-2675  
Toll Free: (800) 280-4922  
Fax: (307) 638-0815  
Web: <http://www.wypanda.com>



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