

Assistive Technology Advocacy Center (ATAC)

2005 State Plan

Attachment 1: Basic Information

Name of Lead Agency: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Name of Applicable Division and/or Subdivision of Lead Agency: Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Address of Lead Agency: 135 East State Street

P. O. Box 398

Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0398

Name and Title of Certifying Representative for Lead Agency:

Thomas G. Jennings

Director

Address for Certifying Representative:

Same as above

Telephone for Certifying Representative:

(609) 292-5987

E-mail for Certifying Representative:

thomas.jennings@dol.state.nj.us

Name and Title of Program Director: (see Implementing Entity)

Address for Program Director:

Telephone for Program Director:

E-mail for Program Director:

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

Address for Program Director:

Telephone for Program Director:

E-mail for Program Director:

Name of Implementing Entity: New Jersey Protection and Advocacy, Inc.

Name of Applicable Division and/or Subdivision of Implementing Entity: Assistive
Technology Advocacy Center (ATAC)

Address of Implementing Entity: 210 South Broad Street

3rd Floor

Trenton, New Jersey 08608

Name and Title of Program Director: Ellen M. Catanese, Director of Administration & ATAC
Project Director

Address for Program Director: 210 South Broad Street

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

Address for Program Director:

Telephone for Program Director:

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Attachment 2: Lead Agency and Implementing Entity

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

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

Section 4(d)(2) of the AT Act requires that the State identify and describe the lead agency referred to in section 4(c)(1)(A) of the AT Act, and, if applicable, the Implementing Entity referred to in section 4(c)(1)(B) of the AT Act.

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

In 1992, the Governor designated the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) in the New Jersey Department of Labor as the lead agency for the Statewide Assistive Technology Act Project. The Department is now known as the Department of Labor and Workforce Development. DVRS is the designated state agency dedicated to providing vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with physical or mental disabilities as provided under the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. The goal of DVRS is to prepare and place in employment eligible persons with disabilities who, because of the significance of their disabling conditions, would otherwise be unable to secure and/or maintain employment. An additional goal is to provide and promote comprehensive services for independent living designed to meet the current and future needs of individuals whose disabilities are so significant that they do not presently have potential for employment, but who may benefit from rehabilitation services that will enable them to live and function as independently as possible. DVRS also administers a program of vocational rehabilitation under state legislation to those consumers not yet ready for placement in competitive jobs.

2.2 Identification and Description of the Implementing Entity - Identify and describe the Implementing Entity referred to in section 4(c)(1)(B) of the AT Act, if such an Implementing

Entity is designated by the Governor.

New Jersey Protection and Advocacy, Inc. (NJP&A). NJP&A is the implementing agency of the Statewide Assistive Technology Act Program and has titled the effort; the Assistive Technology Advocacy Center (ATAC). It is ideally situated to implement the program in a statewide, comprehensive manner. NJP&A is a private, non-profit organization designated as the protection and advocacy agency for people with disabilities in the State of New Jersey. NJP&A's mission is to advocate and advance the human, civil and legal rights of persons with disabilities. Its activities are grounded in its belief in the inherent value and worth of all individuals and their right to equality of opportunity and full participation in their communities. NJP&A has functioned as the implementing agency for the Statewide Assistive Technology Project since 1997, when the project was moved from the public to the private sector at the urging of consumers, the ATAC advisory council, and with support from DVRS, with the goal of increased consumer-direction. The Assistive Technology Advocacy Center (ATAC) of NJP&A is an integral part of NJP&A.

NJP&A provides individual and systemic advocacy services and legal representation; advises and assists people with disabilities, family members, attorneys, and guardians in obtaining and protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities; provides education, training, and technical assistance to people with disabilities, the agencies that serve them, attorneys, professionals, courts, and others regarding the rights of individuals with disabilities; and promotes public awareness and recognition of people with disabilities.

NJP&A administers nine separately funded programs in addition to ATAC: Protection and Advocacy for Developmental Disabilities (PADD); Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI); Protection and Advocacy for Individual Rights (PAIR); Protection and Advocacy for Traumatic Brain Injury (PATBI); Protection and Advocacy for Voter Access (PAVA); Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS); the Client Assistance Program (CAP); the Health Care Consumer Assistance Program (HCCAP); and Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT).

NJP&A provides advocacy services statewide to over 1,200 individuals a year and information and referral services to over 2,700. The agency website experiences over 140,000 hits in a year. NJP&A staff conduct over 50 education and training programs to an audience of well over 2,000 people, including people with disabilities and their families, professionals, and others interested in disability related matters, and over 40,000 copies of publications are disseminated annually.

NJP&A ensures that the Statewide AT Program for New Jersey is consumer-responsive because governance of protection and advocacy programs nationwide is premised on the belief

that consumers with disabilities should be integrally involved in directing the delivery of protection and advocacy services. NJP&A's Board of Directors and individual P&A program advisory boards reflect this fundamental philosophy. Seventy-one percent of the governing board is comprised of individuals with disabilities and/or family members of individuals with disabilities. Forty-two percent of board members represent racial, ethnic, and cultural minorities. The program advisory boards include 64% representation of individuals with disabilities or family members with disabilities.

NJP&A ensures that ATAC coordinates and collaborates with other public and private entities by participating in over 60 advisory bodies and task forces, including the Boggs University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, the Disability Budget Coalition, the New Jersey Americans with Disabilities Act Coalition, the Cultural Collaboration Task Force, the Statewide Independent Living Council, the Rehabilitation Engineering Society of North America, the New Jersey Relay Service Advisory Board, various bodies within the New Jersey Departments of Human Services, Labor and Workforce Development, Health and Senior Services, and Law and Public Safety, and the New Jersey Coalition for the Advancement of Rehabilitation Technology.

NJP&A has administered the AT Act project since 1997 under a subcontract with the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services. The staff is comprised of

- a Project Director, responsible for the day-to-day administration of the program, supervision of program activities and staff, contracting and reporting;
- an Information Specialist/Librarian, responsible for management of outreach activities and publications, as well as assistive technology materials;
- an Assistive Technology Practitioner, responsible for short-term advice, technical assistance and training and outreach activities; and an Assistive Technology Attorney, responsible for advocacy and legal representation, training, legislative activities and outreach.

The Assistive Technology Practitioner is certified by the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Association of North America (RESNA) and has over twelve years of hands-on experience in the field of assistive technology. She emphasizes supporting consumers who have various disabilities, their family members, and professionals to understand, experience and implement assistive technology solutions in their everyday lives. She is a recognized speaker about AT and participates in both state and national conferences. She is also an adjunct professor at William Paterson University where she has taught graduate level

courses in assistive technology.

The Assistive Technology Attorney specializes in disability law and is a nationally known speaker on the Americans with Disabilities Act and Internet accessibility issues. In his previous position with the Georgia Institute of Technology, he worked on a variety of projects related to the accessibility of education for people with disabilities who use assistive technology. He served as co-principal investigator for the Georgia Tech Research in Accessible Distance Education (GRADE) project, which worked to develop new strategies to make online education more accessible for all students. He has co-authored several publications on assistive technology in education, and has presented at leading education conferences on electronic accessibility for students with disabilities.

Assistive technology advocacy services are provided collaboratively through the Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology Program, as well as the other P&A programs.

ATAC of NJP&A does not anticipate the use of subcontractors in Year One, but will modify this state plan as necessary and appropriate in Years Two and Three.

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

Not Applicable

Attachment 3: State Advisory Council

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

The AT Advisory Council meets the requirements as outlined in the AT Act of 2004. A total of 15 individuals participate on the Advisory Council. Six members are individuals with disabilities that include muscular dystrophy, quadriplegia, mental illness, and blindness, all of whom are users of assistive technology. Two members are parents of children with disabilities and users of assistive technology. The individuals with disabilities and family members comprise the majority of the membership. The remainder includes representation from the designated lead state agency, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services; the state agency for people who are blind, the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired; the centers for independent living; the state workforce investment board; and the state educational

agency. A representative from the state Division of Disability Services and a representative from the New Jersey Institute of Technology have also been recruited.

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

The Advisory Council will meet in-person three times a year under by-laws established by the former Assistive Technology Project Advisory Council, with modifications as appropriate. A chair and vice-chair will be appointed by the Chair of NJP&A's Board of Directors and shall be individuals with a disability or family members of an individual with a disability that use assistive technology and will be eligible to serve one three-year term. Members will be eligible to serve two three-year terms. All meetings will be arranged by staff members and the agenda will be developed jointly by the Chair and the Program Director. Meetings will follow Robert's Rules of Order, with decisions being made by consensus or vote. Agenda items may include presentations, updates on program activities, and evaluation of the effectiveness of AT activities. Staff of the Statewide AT Program will update the advisory council on the activities of the program, will share data, and present planned initiatives and activities so that the advisory can provide input. The chairperson will facilitate discussion throughout the meeting to gain input and provide guidance in planning program activities. Minutes of the meetings will be recorded by staff.

Selection of the advisory members was a collaborative effort by the implementing and lead agencies with input from the various state entities who were asked to recommend their staff members most involved in the provision of assistive technology. NJP&A sought consumers and family members who were users of assistive technology and familiar with both the AT Act project and the protection and advocacy system.

Attachment 4: Measurable Goals

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

ATAC of NJP&A will establish a baseline for each of the goals 4.1 through 4.7 during Year One and will submit after Year One an amendment identifying the long and short-term goals for Year Two and Year Three of the state plan. The baseline will be established by using a data collection instrument and procedures to be determined by RSA after the state plan process has been completed.

4.1 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Education

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - Short-term goal for Year 2:
 - Short-term goal for Year 1:

4.2 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Employment

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - Short-term goal for Year 2:
 - Short-term goal for Year 1:

4.3 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Community Living

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - Short-term goal for Year 2:
 - Short-term goal for Year 1:

4.4 Goal for Improving Access to IT and Telecommunications

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - Short-term goal for Year 2:

- Short-term goal for Year 1:

4.5 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Education

- Long-term goal:

- Short-term goal for Year 3:

- Short-term goal for Year 2:

- Short-term goal for Year 1:

4.6 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Employment

- Long-term goal:

- Short-term goal for Year 3:

- Short-term goal for Year 2:

- Short-term goal for Year 1:

4.7 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Community Living

- Long-term goal:

- Short-term goal for Year 3

- Short-term goal for Year 2:

- Short-term goal for Year 1:

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

Attachment 5: State-level Activities

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

See Attachment 6. Comparable Support

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

ATAC of NJP&A operates the Back-In-Action Equipment Exchange Program as a matching database program, designed to match those individuals selling or donating a device with those in need of such a device. The Back-In-Action program is available statewide through the 800 telephone number, on the NJP&A website at www.njpanda.org, and through the print catalogue that is currently updated twice a year. This program provides a significant alternative to individuals who might otherwise not be able to obtain assistive technology devices, as they are offered used, at no, or low cost.

Information about the Back-In-Action program is provided through ATAC's public awareness activities, specifically through information and referral, outreach and education, and dissemination of the catalogue in print and on the website. Consumers interested in either listing or obtaining a device may contact ATAC by telephone, through e-mail, and through a form provided in the catalogue, where the item is listed for up to six months, or longer if desired.

Items are listed by category of equipment: architectural elements, communication, controls, home management, orthotics, personal care, recreation, seating, sensory disabilities, therapeutics, transportation, vocational management, walking, and wheeled mobility. Each device lists an item number, the condition of the item, whether it is for sale, donation or loan, when the item was listed and in what county the item is located. When a consumer identifies the item they want, they contact ATAC of NJP&A who then provides the contact information for the owner of the listed device. ATAC asks that the participants keep staff informed of the status of their items, and ATAC staff will follow up as necessary to keep the database as current as possible.

The Back-In-Action program has been an integral part of the AT Act project since its inception in New Jersey. It was previously administered through a subcontract with the Matheny School and Hospital as a recycling program, where equipment was refurbished and delivered. With the anticipated sunset of the AT Act and the subsequent decrease in funding, Matheny was unable to maintain the recycling program and modified it to an exchange program. ATAC will continue to operate the program under its current status, while researching options for

expansion under the new AT Act. ATAC will conduct an investigation into collaborations with both public and private entities, including the Department of Human Services' Division on

Medical Assistance & Health Services (Medicaid) recycling program which is underutilized, and the newly established private, non-profit recycling center, "Your ReSource," located in Trenton. The investigation will involve ATAC staff meeting with the identified entities, evaluating the capacity of their programs, and researching options for collaboration.

Year One

Activity 1. ATAC will continue to manage the existing equipment exchange program.

Activity 2. ATAC will modify data collection in keeping with the additional reporting requirements.

Activity 3. ATAC will conduct a comprehensive review of both Medicaid and "Your Resource" to explore the capacity of each program and the viability of collaboration with those entities. ATAC will meet with both entities, and conduct a review of their centers, their capacities and their future plans.

Year Two

Activity 1. ATAC will continue to manage the existing equipment exchange program.

Activity 2. ATAC will establish subcontracts with public and private entities as appropriate.

Year Three

Activity 1. ATAC will continue to manage the existing equipment exchange program.

Activity 2. ATAC will manage subcontracts and ensure that established goals are met.

Activity 3. ATAC will explore the possibility of subcontracting management of the Back-In-Action and recycling programs.

Updated and additional information on each of the above activities will be provided in an amendment to the state plan as necessary and appropriate.

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

A number of device loan programs exist in New Jersey, housed in both public and private agencies. They provide an opportunity for individuals to obtain devices on loan, so that they may determine the device best suited to their needs and make a decision whether they should acquire the device. At present, there is no comprehensive, statewide device loan program in New Jersey. Existing programs are fragmented and include:

- (1) Cerebral Palsy of New Jersey (CPNJ) has the most comprehensive center, with device loans of augmentative communication devices, activities of daily living devices, computer access, environmental control units and toys. Clients are charged a small annual membership fee which is used to defray shipping costs, and grants are provided through the state Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities. This program may be accessed by all individuals with disabilities of all ages. However, they do not provide loans of sensory items for people who are blind or visually impaired, or those who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- (2) The Library for the Blind and Handicapped provides loans of some sensory equipment through a grant with the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, primarily assistive listening devices, TTYs, and closed caption decoders, through a network of regional libraries. In collaboration with the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, it provides on-site loans of equipment including books on tape, large print and Braille, available to those with blindness and physical and learning disabilities. In addition, it provides loans of computers with specialized software to clients of the vocational rehabilitation program, and loans of CCTVs and portable scanning devices primarily to the elderly blind population.
- (3) The College of New Jersey, through a grant from the Commission on Higher Education, provides loans of items to students with disabilities enrolled in the state's higher education system.

In order to achieve the long-term goal of a comprehensive statewide system, ATAC of NJP&A proposes the establishment of a network of device loan services. ATAC proposes to coordinate the network, serve as the central clearing house for information regarding these services, and provide marketing and outreach through its state leadership activities, including public awareness activities and outreach. As the AT Act project, ATAC has previously subcontracted with CPNJ and has maintained a relationship with them through other organizations, including

the Coalition for the Advancement of Rehabilitation Technology (CART) as well as through collaboration on a grant through the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development, which provided assistive technology to One-Stop Career Center. ATAC staff have participated on the Commission on Higher Education's Special Needs Advisory Group, overseeing the grant to the TCNJ. ATAC has knowledge of, and relationships with, the public entities providing device loans, including participation on their advisory boards, and the capacity to conduct a comprehensive investigation, including identifying the strengths and weaknesses in the system and leveraging relationships with the involved entities to build or enhance the capacity of device loan services. ATAC staff will conduct this comprehensive review through contacts with the identified entities and discussions with them regarding their current capacities, funding, and future plans, through a search of other entities involved in such activities, through a review of the literature, and through its various collaborative activities. The eventual plan will be to subcontract with all involved entities, both public and private.

Year One

Activity 1. ATAC staff will conduct a comprehensive review of the current device loan services in the state and the capacity of each service provider.

Activity 2. Based on this review, ATAC staff will identify gaps in the system unmet by existing device loan services.

Year Two

Activity 1. ATAC staff will enter into discussions with the identified device loan services to determine their interest in networking to establish a statewide comprehensive system of device loans.

Activity 2. ATAC staff, with review and input from the lead agency and the advisory council, will establish a proposal to the existing device loan service providers for the networking of existing services.

Activity 3. ATAC staff will develop a plan to build capacity to fill gaps in service delivery, including the identification of potential funding sources to supplement existing services.

Year Three

Activity 1. ATAC staff will implement the plans developed in Year Two.

Activity 2. ATAC staff will market the network through its state leadership activities, specifically information and referral, the website, publications, and outreach.

Activity 3. ATAC staff will pursue identified funding options in order to expand the existing network in response to identified needs.

Updated and additional information on each of the above activities will be provided in an amendment to the state plan as necessary and appropriate.

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

A number of device demonstration centers exist in New Jersey, housed in both private and public agencies, providing individuals the opportunity to see, have demonstrated, and try out a range of assistive technology devices. In addition, ATAC provides demonstrations of a range of devices, from low tech devices to aid at home, to modified toys, at its public awareness and training activities. At present, there is no one comprehensive, statewide device demonstration center in New Jersey. Various agencies in the state, including the Department of Human Services, through both its Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI) and its Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH), and the Commission on Higher Education through The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) provide financial support for centers focused on specific disability groups or ages.

(1) CBVI demonstrates scanners, CCTV units, electronic note-taking devices, computers, and adaptive software.

(2) DDHH demonstrates TTYs, amplified telephones, voice carry-over phones, baby cry-alert systems, door flashers, telephone signalers, alarm clocks, pagers, shake-up smoke detectors, and FM systems. Both the CBVI and DDHH centers are located at the Kohn Center in New Brunswick.

(3) TCNJ, located in Ewing, demonstrates assistive listening devices, Alpha Smarts, and adaptive software.

(4) Cerebral Palsy of New Jersey, located in Trenton, has a more comprehensive demonstration center, including augmentative communication devices, activities of daily living aids, computer access, wheeled mobility, such as wheelchairs and scooters, environmental control units to control lights, doors and appliances in the home, and adapted toys. While more extensive than the device loan programs, the demonstration programs are still fragmented and

uncoordinated. ATAC of NJP&A proposes to establish a network of existing demonstration centers with the goal being a comprehensive statewide system. ATAC proposes to serve as the central clearing house for information about the centers, and will use its state leadership activities to provide public awareness activities regarding their existence. As the existing AT Act project in the State, ATAC is in an ideal position to work with both public and private entities to explore the creation of this network of centers, by building on existing relationships and negotiating toward a statewide and comprehensive system. The comprehensive assessment will include contact with all of the identified entities and discussions of their current capacity, funding, and future plans. Further research will be conducted to ensure that this list is comprehensive. The eventual plan will be to subcontract with all involved entities, both public and private.

Year One

Activity 1. ATAC staff will conduct a comprehensive review of services provided by existing demonstration centers in the state.

Activity 2. Based on this review, ATAC staff will identify gaps in the current system.

Year Two

Activity 1. ATAC staff will enter into discussions with existing demonstration centers to determine their interest in establishing a statewide, comprehensive network of demonstration centers.

Activity 2. ATAC staff, with review and input from the lead agency and the advisory council, will develop a proposal to the existing demonstration centers for the networking of existing centers.

Activity 3. ATAC staff will develop a plan to fill in the gaps in the existing system, including the identification of potential funding sources.

Year Three

Activity 1. ATAC staff will implement the plans developed in year two.

Activity 2. ATAC staff will market the network through its state leadership activities, specifically information and referral, the website, publications and outreach activities.

Activity 3. ATAC staff will pursue identified options for funding in order to expand the existing network in response to identified needs.

Updated and additional information on each of the above activities will be provided in an amendment to the state plan as necessary and appropriate.

Attachment 6: Comparable Support

According to Section 4(e)(1)(B) of the Act, a State is not required to use a portion of its funds on State-level activities if financial support is provided from state or other non-Federal resources or entities for that activity and the amount of the financial support is comparable to, or greater than, the amount of the portion of the funds made available through the grant that the State would have expended for that activity. The State will be required to supply to RSA evidence on a yearly basis that this comparable support is continuing.

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

Support for state financing activities is provided by PNC Bank's Self-Reliant Loan and Grant Program. The Self-Reliant Loan and Grant Program is offered by PNC Bank in conjunction with New Jersey Citizen Action. PNC is a major regional bank with several hundred branches, including approximately 100 branches throughout New Jersey. New Jersey Citizen Action is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that encourages the active involvement of New Jersey residents with public and private institutions. PNC Bank is undertaking this program to meet its responsibilities under the Community Reinvestment Act, which requires banks to invest their own funds in various community-based financing projects. The loans are being offered across New Jersey and are targeted to people with disabilities of all ages and low and middle incomes. PNC Bank uses a sliding scale to determine eligibility levels, with the lowest maximum income for residents of rural Cumberland County, at \$42,960, to the maximum of \$66,240 in the more affluent counties of Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Somerset. The loans can be used for any type of accessibility or assistive technology device, including, but not limited to, ramps, service animal maintenance, scooters, and computers with adaptive software. The loan amounts are from \$1,000 to \$5,000, the interest rate is 3.5% lower than the current pricing for unsecured loans, there is no application fee, and repayment terms are competitive. Additionally, the first 100 individuals who secure loans through this program will receive the first \$1,000 as a grant that does not have to be repaid.

There is no ceiling on the amount of monies available, as this is a new program and is

dependent on demand. At a minimum, PNC Bank is providing grants of \$1,000 to the first 100 applicants, for a total of at least \$100,000 for grant year 2005.

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

The Self-Reliant Loan and Grant Program will offer funds at least equal to, or greater than, the funding available under the Assistive Technology grant. The available amount in grants alone from the Self-Reliant Loan and Grant Program is \$100,000. The need for funding for accessibility and assistive technology devices is far greater than 100 devices in a year, so it is anticipated that the amount available through PNC's program will greatly exceed the amount available annually under the Assistive Technology grant.

The loan program is being provided in a statewide manner. PNC Bank has accessible branches across New Jersey, including branches in supermarkets. There are no restrictions in the program in terms of type of disability, age, location, or type of assistive technology device. The program does provide restrictions on maximum income, but they are not severe and are anticipated to provide funding to most low and middle income residents of the state. ATAC will plan to examine the impact of these income guidelines as they affect the comprehensiveness of the program.

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

This program has been introduced only recently in New Jersey. In preliminary discussions with the bank and Citizen Action, it is anticipated that ATAC of NJP&A will provide marketing for the program, including providing information about the program through its 800 number, publications, and its website, and will broker marketing alliances with other non-profit and membership organizations, including the New Jersey Coalition for the Advancement of Rehabilitation Technology.

In order to ensure that financing is provided in the most comprehensive way, ATAC will plan over the next three years to review alternative means of financing for persons who exceed the income guidelines for this program, both through PNC Bank, as well as other financing programs, including Bank Of America's Access Loans, which, on preliminary review, appears not to have income restrictions.

Attachment 7: State Flexibility

According to Section 4(e)(6) of the AT Act, a State may use its funds to carry out any 2 or more State-level activities.

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

Not applicable. New Jersey is not opting out of any state-level activities.

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

Not applicable

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

Not Applicable

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

Not Applicable

Attachment 8: State Leadership Activities

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

Training

ATAC of NJP&A has provided extensive training statewide to people with disabilities of all ages, their family members, advocates, professionals from the fields of education, including state and local education agencies, early intervention and higher education programs, hospitals and health care facilities, vocational rehabilitation, independent living, and other state and local

agencies and adult service providers, as well as other interested parties throughout its history. In addition to a general assistive technology curriculum, which includes definitions, types and applications of assistive technology devices and services, and public and private funding sources, ATAC staff have developed specific trainings on Home Modifications, Assistive Technology and the Individualized Educational Program, Web Accessibility, and AT Resources in New Jersey, and has provided training individually as well as in collaboration with other entities. ATAC of NJP&A has also created, and will continue to provide, customized training for organizations upon request. The AT Act requires that ATAC provide specific focus on transitioning populations, including students transitioning into adult services, and individuals transitioning from institutions into the community. From the following topics, a minimum of two trainings will be conducted each year:

Year One

Activity 1. ATAC will provide training on AT and transition from early intervention to parents and educators, in collaboration with the regional early intervention collaborative in southern New Jersey.

Activity 2. ATAC will provide training to students, parents and educators on the incorporation of AT and the IEP relative to transition goals.

Activity 3. ATAC will provide training on home accessibility and modifications to consumers, family members and professionals attending the Abilities Expo.

Activity 4. ATAC, in collaboration with the New Jersey Office of Information Technology (OIT) will conduct training on website accessibility to state agency staff.

Year Two

Activity 1. ATAC will provide training on AT to students, parents, and educators on the incorporation of AT goals into the IEP relative to transition goals.

Activity 2. ATAC will provide training to the Department of Health and Senior Services Community Choice Counselors regarding AT to transition people with disabilities from nursing homes to the community.

Activity 3. ATAC will provide training on AT and transition from early intervention to parents and educators, in collaboration with the regional early intervention collaborative in northern New Jersey.

Year Three

Activity 1. ATAC will provide training on AT commonly used in the workplace to vocational rehabilitation counselors involved in transition planning.

Activity 2. ATAC will provide training to residents and professional staff in nursing homes regarding the uses of AT that may be used in transitioning to the community.

Activity 3. ATAC will provide training on AT and transition from early intervention in collaboration to parents and educators, with the regional early intervention collaborative in central New Jersey.

Technical Assistance

ATAC of NJP&A provides technical assistance to agencies and organizations by request, and will continue to do so over the next three years. It is difficult to anticipate the types of requests that will be made over the next three years of the state plan. Amendments to the plan will be submitted as appropriate and necessary.

Currently, ATAC of NJP&A is providing technical assistance to the state Office on Information Technology (OIT) webmasters regarding web accessibility, and ways in which they can, in turn, conduct technical assistance to state department webmasters. This is an ongoing activity, which has included a review of the main pages of each agency website for errors, which is then shared with OIT staff.

ATAC provides technical assistance to the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services Community Choice Program through the maintenance of a fund designed to be a payer of last resort for recipients of Medicaid in nursing homes, in order to transition them to the community. ATAC provides continuous technical assistance to counselors around available assistive technologies, provides evaluations for consumers, and facilitates the purchase and construction activities of the fund. It is anticipated that this technical assistance will be provided beyond the availability of the monies.

8.2 Public Awareness Activities - Describe how the State will provide information to targeted individuals and entities relating to the availability, benefits, appropriateness, and costs of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services as described in section 4(e)(3)(B) (ii) of the AT Act.

ATAC of NJP&A will use a multi-faceted approach, including mailings, the website, exhibits, outreach presentations, and trainings to increase awareness about the benefits of assistive technology devices and services, the types of AT devices and services available, funding for AT, and policies related to AT.

Years One to Three

Activity 1. Provide a statewide 800 telephone number, responding to requests for information and referral about assistive technology to targeted individuals in each of years one to three. The telephone number may be accessed by individuals with disabilities, family members, service providers, and others who work in the field of assistive technology, or have an interest in assistive technology. This is a free service that provides information on the types and availability of AT, benefits, cost, and appropriateness of AT. Resource information will be mailed to many callers to assist them in making the most appropriate choices to meet their needs.

Activity 2. Provide a fully accessible website with comprehensive information about AT, including brochures and publications, as well as links to additional disability and assistive technology resources, including the national assistive technology site, with over 100,000 hits in each of years one to three.

Activity 3. Disseminate print brochures, flyers, bulletins, and publications about AT at the rate of 10,000 copies in each of years one to three.

Activity 4. Author bulletins on a variety of AT topics in each of years one to three, to be distributed through the mail and on the website.

Activity 5. Co-sponsor the Abilities Expo, the largest regional exhibit of assistive technology devices and services in the northeast region, held annually in Edison in April, maintain an exhibit booth providing 5,000 consumers, family members, and professionals information regarding ATAC/NJP&A services, information, funding, and advocacy for AT.

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

Over the next three years, ATAC will provide comments to proposed regulations as

appropriate, and coordinate and collaborate with public and private entities by participating on task forces and committees that address policies and practices related to assistive technology such as the New Jersey Relay Board through the Board of Public Utilities, providing advice and input into telecommunications services for the deaf and hard of hearing across the State; the Early Intervention Regulatory Workgroup of the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services to develop and author early intervention regulations which will include the provision of assistive technology devices and services as currently defined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); the AT Guidelines Workgroup for the NJ Department of Human Services Office of Education, as part of a State Improvement Grant from the NJ Department of Education to assist DHS develop guidelines regarding the provision of AT under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); and the Disability Budget Coalition, a group of over 60 disability organizations across the state, addressing cross-disability issues to increase funding and support for individuals with disabilities to live in the community as independently as possible.

Attachment 9: Involvement of Public and Private Entities

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

Not applicable.

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

The implementing agency is a subcontractor of the lead agency. An annual contract and budget will be developed based on the approved state plan. The ATAC Program Director works directly with designated staff from the lead agency, including the Chief of Program and Planning and a Program and Planning Development Specialist. Progress reports are provided on a quarterly basis, and meetings are held on an annual basis at a minimum, and more often as necessary and appropriate. The lead agency participates on the advisory council. The NJP&A Director of Finance works directly with the lead agency finance staff in developing the budget, submits quarterly invoices, and provides budget modifications as necessary.

It is anticipated that a number of other subcontracts will be developed over the three years of the state plan in order to build the capacity of the program. Subcontractors will likely be both from the public and private sectors. This information will be provided by amendment.

9.3 Involvement of State Advisory Council - Describe the nature and extent of the involvement

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

The State Advisory Council read, reviewed, and provided comment to the draft plan at its first meeting. Comments were incorporated into the plan. The council will meet three times each year to review the progress of the program in meeting the goals and identifying additional needs and resources. They will provide input to amendments as necessary and appropriate.

Attachment 10: State Support

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

The NJ Department of Human Services provides support for two demonstration centers, through the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, as well as a grant provided by the Division of Developmental Disabilities to Cerebral Palsy of NJ. The state Commission on Higher Education provides grant support to a demonstration and device loan center at the College of New Jersey. The state Department of Treasury provides support for NJP&A's rent and telephone costs, as NJP&A houses the equipment re-utilization program.

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

The state Department of the Treasury provides support for NJP&A's rent and telephone costs.

Attachment 11: Allocation and Utilization of Funds

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

Tracking Expenditures - The accounting system used by ATAC is able to track expenditures by activity. Quarterly expenditure reports are submitted to the lead agency. The ATAC Director and the NJP&A Director of Finance track the system quarterly, and more frequently, as necessary, to ensure that ATAC is in compliance with the percentages and budget amounts as per the State Plan. A report may be generated at any time.

11.2 Proposed Budget Allocations - Attach a budget containing proposed allocations for

activities described in sections 4(e)(2) and (3).

Total Grant: 344,476

Indirect Costs (10%): 34,448

Net Grant Award: 310,028

Proposed Allocation	Distribution	Amount
State Level	60%	186,017
State Leadership	40%	124,011
Transition * (part of the State Leadership 40%)	5%	(6,201)
TOTAL		310,028
State Level Activities		
State Financing Activities		-0-
Device Reutilization Program		93,008
Device Loan Program		52,085
Device Demonstration Program		40,924
TOTAL		186,017
State Leadership Activities		
Training & Technical Assistance		46,446
Transition		6,201

Public Awareness	45,446
Coordination & Collaboration	25,918
TOTAL	124,011