

State of Alaska, Revised AT Plan, July '06

Part I: Attachments  
OMB Control Number: 1820-0664  
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**Attachment 1: Basic Information**

**Name of Lead Agency:**

State of Alaska, Department of Labor & Workforce Development,

**Name of Applicable Division and/or Subdivision of Lead Agency:**

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

**Address of Lead Agency:**

801 W. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Suite A  
Juneau, AK 99801

**Name and Title of Certifying Representative for Lead Agency:**

Gale Sinnott, Director, DVR

**Address for Certifying Representative:**

Same as above

**Telephone for Certifying Representative:**

907-465-6927

**E-mail for Certifying Representative:**

[gale\\_sinnott@labor.state.ak.us](mailto:gale_sinnott@labor.state.ak.us)

**Name and Title of Program Director:**

Sean O'Brien, Program Coordinator, DVR

**Address for Program Director:**

Same as above

**Telephone for Program Director:**

907-465-6969

**E-mail for Program Director:**

[sean\\_obrien@labor.state.ak.us](mailto:sean_obrien@labor.state.ak.us)

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

Same as above

**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**

Since the inception of statewide AT Programs in Alaska over 15 years ago, the State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) has been the Governor's designated lead agency for the statewide assistive technology program funded under the Assistive Technology Act. This will continue during the three years of this state plan.

DVR has developed various comprehensive approaches for free access to information and referral services, an accessible website, numerous publications in accessible formats on extensive topics related to disability rights, ADA, laws, policies and funding opportunities for assistive technologies. In addition, DVR serves as the primary agency for supporting AT related to training, access, acquisition and financial loans for AT devices for consumers with disabilities throughout the state of Alaska. Individuals were assisted with obtaining home modifications and other technology that made it possible for them obtain and/or maintain employment and live more independently. Lastly, DVR's staff have consistently served over 4,000 consumers per year and played a key role in directly supporting and facilitating AT awareness, access and direct acquisition of AT devices throughout Alaska.

Though DVR is not appointing an implementing entity, it will contract primarily with ATLA to ensure the delivery of a program that is statewide and comprehensive. Relevant background information on ATLA follows:

The Assistive Technology Library of Alaska, (ATLA) is a non-profit organization that celebrated its 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary in January. It was founded by five AT specialists as a lending library and demonstration center – a place where consumers, educators, service providers and parents could go to try out and borrow different types of technology, consult with AT specialists, and receive hands on training. ATLA received a small Tech Act grant the first year to establish a lending library and research the feasibility of consolidating other “tech closets” around the state. The lending library portion of ATLA was in existence three years; however, it was

not as successful or used as much as originally thought. It was expensive to continue purchasing new items, maintaining and repairing the devices, paying for shipping, and paying for space to store the equipment for limited loans. As a result it was decided to discontinue the loan program and focus on other AT activities such as training, outreach, demonstration and education.

Over the years ATLA evolved as a demonstration, consultation, educational, and vendor of technology devices in order to meet the needs of Alaskans. ATLA is located in Anchorage, Alaska, the largest city in Alaska with half the total population of the state. ATLA is the primary AT resource center in the state where an individual can get "hands on" support and training and purchase technology. ATLA has been able to leverage vendors around the country to provide technology at reduced prices for the demonstration centers. ATLA has conducted extensive outreach throughout Alaska. ATLA does not advocate or recommend pieces of assistive technology. Specific devices and vendor examples of different kinds of AT are available to individuals who come into the center so they can better understand what is available and make more informed choices.

ATLA has had the flexibility and the quality staff to provide AT services to most individuals who could benefit from technology. ATLA continues to provide AT services to the following: children of all ages, youth in transition, individuals in rural and remote locations in Alaska, senior citizens, community service agencies, individuals with no funding and/or no agency support, and employers and employees.

The mission of ATLA is to enhance the quality of life for Alaskans through education, demonstration, consultation, acquisition and implementation of assistive technologies.

ATLA's staff consists of six highly motivated and skilled professionals from diverse backgrounds. All have technical expertise with assistive technology and/or working with individuals with disabilities. Staff include:

- 1) Speech-language pathologist/ AT specialist with 36 years in the field of special education with 26 of those years focusing on assistive technology and augmentative communication for 3 years through 21 year olds. Fourteen of those years were as the assistive technology coordinator for a statewide special education service agency.

- 2) Assistive technology specialist / vocational rehabilitation evaluator with 24 years experience primarily with the adult and senior population. His expertise is in the area of employment and adult education using computer access (hardware and software), different types of learning disabilities, and blind / visually impaired.
- 3) Special education K-12 teacher with eleven years experience with assistive technology modifications and accommodations to access the curriculum, district and state presenter and district AT specialist for 8 years.
- 4) Assistive technology consultant with expertise in deaf / hard of hearing / visually impaired technology with many years of experience working with individuals with disabilities including several members of her own family. She is an active member of the deaf community and has forged new relationships between the deaf and hearing community. She has attended multiple AT courses and completed an AT certification program through California State University at Northridge (CSUN).
- 5) Public relations / marketing / web design / IT specialist with the last five years experience working for a statewide special education resource agency with lending library. Her expertise is in editing newsletters, designing websites, developing training videos and DVD, planning and coordinating trainings and workshops, and marketing assistive technology.
- 6) Administrative assistant has worked at ATLA since 1994 with ATLA's lending library and then as ATLA's information and referral person. Her skills with clients and her knowledge of ATLA, consumers and service providers is invaluable to the organization.
- 7) Other professionals, OT, PT, and vision specialists are available for consultation and technical assistance as needed.

Ongoing professional development is built into ATLA's strategic plan for all staff members to keep up-to-date on their technical skills and what is changing in the field.

ATLA addresses AT needs in the areas of life to include: employment, education, telecommunications and information technology. It provides consultation, training, and technical assistance in the following areas: augmentative communication, low-tech assistive technology (switches and software), computer access, environmental control, language and literacy, visually impaired /blind, and deaf/

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hard of hearing. ATLA will contract with other AT experts as needed. ATLA collaborates with other agencies in the state to provide consultation and training in mobility, Braille, home modifications, and independent living services.

During ATLA's 12 years it has developed relationships with schools, state and local agencies and organizations including: State Independent Living Centers, Center for Blind and Visually Impaired, Governor's Council on Disability and Special Education, various school districts, Department of Education and Early Development, Special Education Service Agency, Governor's Committee on Employment of People With Disabilities, First Health services Corporation, Medicaid, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and One-Stop Job Centers.

ATLA has Memorandums of Agreements (MOAs) with the following organizations for demonstration centers that will provide Alaskans with access to assistive technology, training and consultation:

- Alaska Center for Blind and Visually Impaired
- Stone Soup Group
- Special Education Service Agency (SESA)
- ACCESS Alaska Fairbanks
- Southeast Alaska Independent Living Center (SAIL)
- Kenai Peninsula Independent Living Center (KPILC)

MOAs describe how agencies work together and how individuals are referred to and receive services from each agency.

Additional MOAs between ATLA and other organizations will be signed in October (2006) with:

- Arctic Access Independent Living Center (Nome and Kotzebue area)

All of the above groups work with individuals with disabilities in a variety of capacities.

Over the next two years, DVR also will formally utilize its role as a leader in the "Alaska Job Center Network" (AJCN) system to directly facilitate some of these AT activities such as demonstration, training and education. This will also increase and promote coordination among state agencies while also increasing the awareness and knowledge of the benefits of assistive technology. This will ensure that programs are available locally to individuals with disabilities throughout our state through our 22 local job centers as described in this plan.

As the foundation for service delivery of AT throughout Alaska, the Governor's Committee on Employment and Rehabilitation of People with Disabilities will assist in the oversight and coordination of this program. They will serve as Alaska's AT Advisory Committee described in section III. This will ensure proper coordination to address the full spectrum of ages and huge geographic challenges associated with doing business in Alaska. Activities include direct coordination and collaboration with Alaska's school system, Independent Living Centers, specialized disability programs such as the Center for the Blind and Center for the Deaf, DVR and various community agencies working with persons with disabilities of all ages.

DVR will also ensure that Alaska's Statewide AT Program will utilize the "usable" AT equipment that came from Elks Help, an AT loan program that closed the end of April 2006. The AT loan & re-utilization program described in attachment 5 are moving forward. In addition, DVR will establish baseline data and recommendations relative to their on-going AT loan program which is currently overseen by DVR as described later in this plan.

In collaboration with the Governor's Committee, mentioned above and detailed in Attachment 3 of this plan, DVR will ensure that its program is consumer responsive through:

- on-site interviews with participants;
- follow-up surveys;
- consumer focus groups to seek specific guidance on many of its programs and services.

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

Not applicable. ATLA is the primary subcontractor for AT services via DVR but is not designated by the Governor as the "Implementing Entity".

**2.2 Identification and Description of the Implementing Entity - Identify and describe the Implementing E**

**2.3 Entity referred to in section 4(c)(1)(B) of the AT Act, if such an Implementing Entity is designated by the Governor.**

Not applicable.

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**2.4 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 re-designation.**

Not applicable.



**Attachment 3: State Advisory Council**

The Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation will serve as the lead agency for the statewide assistive technology program funded under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended. The Division established the Governor's Committee on Employment & Rehabilitation of People with Disabilities in 1997, with the requirement that at least 51% of the members be individuals who have a disability. This Committee acts as: the Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities; the State Rehabilitation Council for the Division; and, as the State AT Advisory Council for the Alaska statewide Assistive Technology Program (formerly known as the Tech Act).

The Governor's Committee will continue to serve as the AT Advisory Council as required under the new statute. They have revised their bylaws to allow one of the three existing Standing Committees within the Governor's Committee to become the Standing Committee on AT. That Standing Committee has recruited ad hoc members to meet the composition requirements of the AT Advisory Council as stipulated in the AT Act of 1998, as amended. Those ad hoc members are official members of the Standing Committee, but not official members of the Full Committee.

As stated in the Assistive Technology Act as amended, the Governor's Committee is responsible, for providing:

- consumer input
- advice to the State for planning and implementation of AT activities including the development of measurable goals; and,
- evaluation of AT programs and services

The Standing Committee on AT will work with Division staff to capture consumer input through:

- onsite interviews with participants at AT demonstration sites;
- mail out surveys to participants and,
- conducting consumer focus groups to seek specific guidance on AT programs and services.

Once the information has been gathered, the Standing Committee on AT will formulate recommendations which they will present to the Full Committee for approval. Upon approval, these recommendations will be provided to the Division in writing. These recommendations will also be included in the annual report to the Governor of Alaska.

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**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.

Currently there are 19 members on the Governor's Committee and the AT Committee, the majority of whom are people with disabilities. The Governor will continue to appoint new individuals to fill vacancies as terms expire and seats become vacant. The full Committee is comprised of over 51% of individuals with disabilities that use assistive technology or the family members or guardians of those individuals.

Current members who are individuals with disabilities that use assistive technology or family members or guardians of those individuals include:

Ruth L'Hommedieu, Ron Boynton, Jim Burton, Kristine Lewis, Cynthia Lynn, Cindy Olson, Teisha Simmons, Pam Stratton, Jocelyn Singson and Richard Webb.

The representative of the designated state agency is the Director of Vocational Rehabilitation, Gale Sinnott.

Representative of Centers for Independent Living is Jerry Kainulainen\* (\*Note: Unfortunately, Mr. Kainulainen died July 6<sup>th</sup> 2006 so we are in the process of re-filling this position. We'll update this replacement status once re-filled).

Representative of the State Workforce Investment Board is Mayfield Evans.

Representative of the State Educational Agency is Nancy Guthrie.

Representatives of other State Agencies, Public Agencies, and Private Agencies include: Jackie Bisbee, (Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Program Director), Terri Burke, (Manager National Education Association) Becky Simpson (Director Community Rehabilitation Program), Liza Paramore, (Owner/Operator Community Rehabilitation Program), and SueEllen O'Conner (State Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor).

Although several agency representatives have disabilities, they have not been counted toward the majority membership of people with disabilities.

**3.2** Members reside throughout Alaska and represent a broad range of disabilities. Diversity of members is also evident in race, ethnicity and

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

The Governor of the State of Alaska appoints members of the Full Committee after soliciting recommendations from citizens of the State, representatives of organizations representing a broad range of individuals with disabilities, and organizations that provide services to individuals with disabilities. As vacancies occur in the future additional members with disabilities who use AT will be recruited for the AT Committee

Within the Full Committee there are currently three Standing Committees and one Executive Committee. The Executive Committee has five members and is comprised of the Chairperson of each Standing Committee and the elected Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from the Full Committee.

The Full Committee meets face-to-face four times a year throughout Alaska. Each year one meeting takes place in a rural or remote area of the State. The Executive Committee meets telephonically on a monthly basis and outside of regularly scheduled quarterly meetings, has the power and authority to act on behalf of the Full Committee. The three Standing Committees develop annual goals and generally meet by telephone on a monthly basis to conduct business. Each Standing Committee also meets during the face-to-face quarterly meetings and delivers a progress report to the Full Committee. However, no action can be taken by any Standing Committee without the approval of the Full Committee.

The bylaws of the Full Committee have been amended to create the Standing Committee on AT as one of the three existing Standing Committees. The Standing Committee on AT is responsible for:

- addressing issues related to AT
- developing the AT State Plan,
- developing measurable AT goals and
- evaluation of AT programs and services.

On a quarterly basis the Division Director and other staff from the Division will provide information relating to the AT program to the Standing Committee on AT. The Standing AT Committee will deliver quarterly progress reports, which may include recommendations to the Full Committee.

Decisions by the Full Committee, Executive Committee and Standing Committees are made by consensus or by member vote. The Full

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Committee operates under bylaws which are reviewed and updated as needed on an annual basis. The Committee conducts their meetings following Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, or a modified version thereof. These rules prevail in all instances in which they are applicable and are not in conflict with the Committee's bylaws. Members of the Full Committee serve for a 3-year term and may be appointed to serve one additional term. No member of the Full Committee serves more than two consecutive full three-year terms with the exception of the Client Assistance Program Director, (or the designee) and the Section 121 (Tribal V.R. Program) representative.

Although members are reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of official duties, they are not paid for their services.

Public comment is taken during each quarterly face-to-face meeting at the meeting sites and through toll free teleconferences and is used to provide advice to the state and to develop state policy and aide in program direction. Public comment will be solicited regarding AT.

#### **Attachment 4: Measurable Goals**

ATLA will establish a baseline for each of the goals 4.1 through 4.7 during year two, and will submit after year two an amendment identifying the long term goal and short-term goals set to improve upon this baseline during year three of the State Plan. This 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: Improve Access to Assistive Technology in Education**

- Long-term goal
  - Short-term goal for Year 3:
  - Short-term goal for Year 2: A baseline will be established of the percent of targeted individuals who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for educational purposes as a result of the assistance they received.
  - Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A, formal data collection not established by RSA. (Note: ATLA has been collecting some relevant information on their own as noted in original plan).

**4.2 GOAL: Improve Access to Assistive Technology for Employment**

- Long-term goal:
  - Short-term goal for Year 3:
  - Short-term goal for Year 2: A baseline will be established of the percent of targeted individuals who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for employment purposes as a result of the assistance they received.
  - Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A, formal data collection not established by RSA. (Note: ATLA has been collecting some relevant information on their own as noted in original plan).

**4.3 GOAL: Improve Access to Assistive Technology in Community Living**

- Long-term goal:
  - Short-term goal for Year 3:
  - Short-term goal for Year 2: A baseline will be established of the percent of targeted individuals who will access device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for community living as a result of the assistance they received.
  - Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A, formal data collection not established by RSA. (Note: ATLA has been collecting some relevant information on their own as noted in original plan).

**4.4 GOAL: Improve Access to Information Technology and Telecommunications**

- Long-term goal:
  - 
  - Short-term goal for Year 3:
  - Short-term goal for Year 2: A baseline will be established of the percent of targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service that

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meets an information technology / telecommunications need as a result of the assistance they received.

- o Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A, formal data collection not established by RSA. (Note: ATLA has been collecting some relevant information on their own as noted in original plan).

#### **4.5 GOAL: Improve the Acquisition of Assistive Technology in Education**

- Long-term goal:
  - o Short-term goal for Year 3:
  - o Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish a baseline of the percentage of individuals with disabilities from early childhood through higher education and vocational education who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for educational purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.
  - o Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A, formal data collection not established by RSA. (Note: ATLA has been collecting some relevant information on their own as noted in original plan).

#### **4.6 GOAL: Improve the Acquisition of Assistive Technology in Employment**

- Long-term goal: percent of the appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for employment purposes would not have otherwise obtained the AT device or service.
  - o Short-term goal for Year 3:
  - o Short-term goal for Year 2: A baseline will be established of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and /or employers who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for employment purposes who would not have otherwise obtained the AT device or service.
  - o Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A, formal data collection not established by RSA. (Note: ATLA has been collecting some relevant information on their own as noted in original plan).

**4.7 GOAL: Improve Acquisition of Assistive Technology in Community Living**

- Long-term goal:
  - o Short-term goal for Year 3
  - o Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for community living purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.
  - o Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A, formal data collection not established by RSA. (Note: ATLA has been collecting some relevant information on their own as noted in original plan).

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## Attachment 5: State-level Activities

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

After consulting further with RSA, our plan is amended to reflect our AFP as a “comparable support” under section 6. Please refer to that section for details.

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.

### **Reutilization / Recycling of Equipment:**

Currently the IL Centers and various other non-profit organizations around the state have their own recycling of equipment, i.e. wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, etc. ATLA has initiated a discussion with the IL Centers and directors of other organizations and businesses to see interest and feasibility of a more centralized recycling center or putting items on an online database so anyone in Alaska can see if a particular item is available to borrow, to have, etc. There are still many items to be worked out but there appears to be high interest in this project. A barrier is currently space and the cost of the space and staffing. However, this barrier may be a “small one” once additional organizations become aware of the project and how beneficial it will become. ATLA is hoping to find an organization or several individuals who may want to take this on and “run with it.” ATLA has been in contact with Habitat for Humanity and the Re-Store – a recycling center in Anchorage that is willing to assist.

**“Swap Shop”** – ATLA, utilizes an internet based AT exchange program. This program is overseen by a web designer/administrator and will allow Alaskans from all regions of the state to access information regarding available AT for reutilization. As stated in the original plan, ATLA implements the program through the following activities:

1. Increase the public and private awareness of the exchange program through the following marketing activities:
  - a. Onsite community presentations at local population hubs
  - b. Videoconference presentations
  - c. Mailing and distribution of brochures describing the program



d. Presentations at Education, Employment and Industry Conferences

2. Develop the online exchange program through the use of a Web Designer / Media Specialist that will oversee the daily use of the program.
3. As noted above, collaboration with existing programs such as Independent Living Centers, School Districts and Rehabilitation programs to identify available AT for posting on the website for loan or for purchase.

If an individual has an AT device he or she no longer needs and would like to either sell or give away (a “seller”), he or she will contact ATLA through its accessible web site or a toll free line and request to post an ad. ATLA will respond to all requests by replying to the seller via email or letter and explaining the terms of the listing, which include:

- ATLA does not warrant the condition of the device
- ATLA accepts no liability that may result between the transaction of the buyer and the seller
- The seller agrees to provide ATLA with the original price and the sold price of the item and the contact information of the buyer
- The seller provides ATLA with a description of the device along with any special features.
- There will be an option for device loan or dispersement that will allow for distribution of AT to those in need when the owner is not interested in profiting from the sale of AT.
- No personal information is listed on the Swap Shop except for first name, city and borough.
- The seller must renew the listing every 90 days or the item will automatically be removed from the list.

Once the seller has provided the appropriate information, the device is listed in the area of ATLA’s website that is dedicated to the Swap Shop. Used AT devices will be listed by category and be accompanied by a brief description of the device and the asking price, or exchange terms. Recent Swap Shop items will be listed in the E-newsletter that is published every-other month and emailed to disability-related agencies/organizations and consumers who do not have access to the website.

If an individual with a disability or family member is looking for a used device (a “buyer”), he or she will contact ATLA using the same methods as the seller. If a buyer locates a device to purchase, he or

she will e-mail ATLA through its website or call ATLA directly. ATLA will then contact the seller and the buyer. The seller and buyer will negotiate the terms of exchanging the device, including price and shipping, between themselves without any involvement of ATLA. ATLA will contact the buyer and seller for a follow-up survey.

Anyone in the state will be able to sell or buy an AT device through the Swap Shop, and there will be no limitations on the type of AT device that can be listed in want ads. The program will only be limited by what devices the sellers themselves choose to make available.

The Swap Shop will help individuals with disabilities obtain AT devices in different ways. First, because the devices are used, sellers usually will offer them for free or at a low price, meaning they are more affordable. Second, individuals with disabilities do not need to meet eligibility criteria to obtain devices from the Swap Shop. Third, the Swap Shop will make available devices that are not covered by other private and public funding. Fourth, some devices made available will no longer be manufactured, so the Swap Shop is one of a limited source for this device. Fifth, individuals with disabilities often will get devices sooner through the want ads than if they waited for funding from public or private sources.

ATLA will continue working to expand and improve the Swap Shop over the next two years. Plans for expansion and improvement include continued work with:

- (1) Independent Living Centers, School Districts, the State Vocational Rehabilitation Program and other Human Services and Rehabilitation agencies on a campaign to encourage individuals with disabilities who have received AT that is no longer in use to recycle this equipment through the Swap Shop. This will increase the selection of equipment available.
- (2) AT vendors to develop a program to refurbish used devices. Some used AT devices cannot be recycled as is, but can be fixed and become useful again. ATLA will be facilitating accepting such devices through the Swap Shop and having vendors refurbish them so they can be used again.

### 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.

The privately funded AT Loan Program described in the initial grant closed in April 2006 and no longer provides loans. ATLA collected all the usable AT devices and software, cataloged all the items and

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recycled those items that were very out dated. ATLA will temporarily maintain the Loan Library but will be pursuing better ways to make the equipment available for loans around the state. ATLA has been working with all the agencies who have collaborated on demonstration centers about making some of the items available at their locations and have the centers loan out the equipment.

Another program, Special Education Services Agency (SESA) operates an AT loan program that serves Infant Leaving Program children from 0 – 3 years of age and low incidence disability K-12 students in remote communities throughout Alaska.

Additional AT loans are currently available through the State Independent Living Center programs, Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL), Kenai Peninsula Independent Living Center (KPILC) and Access Alaska.

Assistive Technologies of Alaska (ATLA) continues to loan demonstration equipment of vendors they retail for on a short term basis as funding allows.

In all of these programs, limitations exist including limited funds for:

1. Shipping/receiving of AT.
2. Maintenance and repair of AT.
3. Some of the equipment is outdated and not usable
4. Cataloging and marketing of AT available.

During the first year, ATLA met with school districts and programs across the state and offered to inventory their AT loan equipment into a single data base. As of the date of this writing no organization has agreed to the inventory; however, several organizations have expressed high interest in cataloging items into one database for online viewing. ATLA will continue to pursue discussions / partnering with other organizations to regionalize the equipment. Smaller communities are interested in having loan equipment closer to them rather than centralized in Anchorage.

When Elks Help closed and all of the AT equipment that was out to consumers was “given” to the consumer who had it last, thus many of the larger items will no longer be available for a loan library. Hopefully the consumers who received the AT will find it beneficial and appropriate. The contractor (ATLA) had no role in the giving away of the equipment but they will try to follow up to ensure proper application and implementation of the AT.

Where appropriate other agency representatives (IL, K-12, etc.) and professionals (OT's, PT's, Rehabilitation Professionals, etc.) will provide information on AT that lies within their fields of expertise such as independent living aids, durable medical equipment and other areas outside of the scope of services provided by the lead agency.

ATLA has Memorandums of Agreements (MOAs) with the following organizations for demonstration centers that will provide Alaskans with access to assistive technology, training and consultation:

- Alaska Center for Blind and Visually Impaired
- Stone Soup Group
- Special Education Service Agency (SESA)
- ACCESS Alaska Fairbanks
- Southeast Alaska Independent Living Center (SAIL)
- Kenai Peninsula Independent Living Center (KPILC)

Additional MOA's between ATLA and other organizations will be signed by the first quarter of 2007 with the following:

- Arctic Access Independent Living Center (Nome and Kotzebue region)

Under these agreements, demonstration sites have been established that provide a variety of the latest in AT for individuals with hearing, vision, cognitive, mobility and multi-sensory needs. These remote demonstration sites will have the ability to provide short term loan to local individuals, educators, rehabilitation professionals and health care professionals to ensure the AT is the proper "fit" for the individual's abilities and needs.

In years two and three, the participating loan entities will provide collaborative loan services for Alaskans of all ages and disability populations. Each site will be responsible for the flow of AT located in their facility and will submit loan information to the statewide database monitored by the lead agency. The collaborative agreements with these partners prohibit them from denying a loan based on the age, race, type of disability, income, or location in the state of the applicant. The only reason a loan would be denied is if the device is not in stock. If the device is currently in stock – meaning one of the partners has the device in its inventory and it is not currently being loaned, the partner will ship that device to any location in the state (if it is possible for the device to be shipped). If the device is not in stock, the requestor will be put on a waiting list; or, if none of the

partners has the device in its inventory, the requestor will be referred to the appropriate vendor.

The specifics of the loan programs are to be worked out to include length of loan, shipping cost (to and from the consumer), maintenance and repair of equipment and most important how to pay for the cost of new AT equipment. Tentatively the borrower may request a maximum of three devices at any one time. The length of the device loan may be from one to four weeks depending on the availability of the item and the length of the waiting list. The borrower will pay for shipping costs. A renter may choose to pick up and return the device from a loan closet partner in order to eliminate shipping fees. The partners will exchange devices from one location to another so that an individual can pick up the device at the nearest location. ATLA and it's partners are looking at different ways to get the loan equipment to consumers, i.e. meeting with trucking and airline companies for reduced shipping rates. Travel in Alaska is primarily by air (few roads in the state) , thus shipping is primarily via airplane which can be expensive.

Each individual site will be responsible for and prepare for device maintenance and repair of equipment housed at their site by establishing a yearly budget line item for this aspect. Additional funds will be supplied to sites as available through grants and fund raising activities.

### **Loan Library:**

In late April and early May ATLA acquired the entire "collection" of Elks Help Assistive Technology. Staff from ATLA, Anchorage School District and Special Education Service Agency (SESA) sorted all the equipment (many items were 15+ years old) and kept the devices and software that were usable and the remaining items were sent to an environmental recycling center.

During the next quarter staff will reevaluate the items that were kept, repair and clean items and log them into an online data base. ATLA, in conjunction with the IL Centers and several other organizations around the state are in the process of discussing how to handle the loaning of the equipment – a centralized location or items prepositioned in regions around the state.

- 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.

Demonstration of AT is currently provided by ATLA through the following activities:

1. Onsite demonstration at locations traveled to throughout Alaska. To demonstrate the scope of these activities, the following Alaskan communities sites have been provided AT demonstration presentations in the past two years:

Kotzebue	Nome	Anchorage
Fairbanks	Sitka	Juneau
Ketchikan	Bethel	Kodiak
Soldotna	Kenai	Seward
Dillingham	Wasilla	Palmer
Homer	Eagle River	Port Lions
King Salmon	Naknek	Metlakatla
Alukanuk		

A series of five 1-1/2hr hands on AT trainings / demonstrations have been presented during a summer “lecture series” at one Anchorage based non-profit. At all presentations, efforts are always made to locate educational professionals, parents and administrators that are interested in serving as a point of contact on A.T. issues within their area. This will continue through ATLA and communities will continue to be visited in a manner that serves both the population centers and the outlying “bush” areas of Alaska.

2. Videoconference demonstration training sessions. ATLA will continue to develop the ability to reach outlying areas that have existing videoconference facilities. This network presently extends from the population centers to the smallest villages in bush Alaska with centers being located generally in the school system.
3. Referral to existing AT demonstration sites. In year one the state lead agency has established two demonstration sites in the Anchorage area and in Southeast Alaska (Juneau), Southcentral Coastal Alaska (Soldotna) and Interior Alaska (Fairbanks). ATLA provides training and support to the staff at these sites.

ATLA will focus their AT demonstration related activities during the next two years by focusing on the following seven goals:

**Goal 1: Improving Access to Assistive Technology in education:**

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ATLA has sought to improve access to AT in education through the development of new marketing materials, increased AT Awareness presentations throughout the State, identifying key personnel in educational settings as “lead” AT resources and the improvement of our website as more of an educational and informative website.

When traveling the State, ATLA employees bring along new marketing materials to distribute at every location. These include new K-12 brochures, “rack cards” that list each employees area of expertise to be used as desk references, new ATLA general brochures and a host of items such as pens, sticky pads and other marketing items given to ATLA by our vendors.

ATLA will continue to do AT awareness presentations with educational professionals in attendance across the state. At these presentations, efforts are always made to locate educational professionals, parents and administrators that are interested in serving as a point of contact on AT issues within their area.

**Goal 2: Improving Access to Assistive Technology for Employment:**

ATLA has focused on the use of improved marketing materials, onsite visits to employers as requested, development and distribution of an Employer AT Handbook and marketing of the website.

Marketing materials have been distributed at Chamber of Commerce meetings in Anchorage and have resulted in employers calling with questions about AT onsite visits to their company for reviews of accessibility and assistance with incorporating AT into their work. Some visits have resulted in implementation of voice recognition technologies, aids for deaf and hard of hearing individuals and low vision aids for their consumers to use. In addition, the Employer AT Handbook has been completed and was introduced at a health fair being held at one of Alaska’s largest employers. It was well received and is ready for a large distribution at a Chamber event or similar event with a large number of human resource professionals for various companies. This will continue in year 2 and year 3.

Staff training and demonstration have been held at many One Stop Job Centers throughout the state (Kenai, Homer, Juneau, Bethel, Fairbanks, Dillingham, Kodiak, and Nome) in an effort to give staff a “refresher” course on what they currently have in place in terms of AT. The other purpose is to help them understand that these technologies provide more than mere access to their services and materials but also to assist job seekers with realizing their true employment potential

through the use of AT. Ongoing meetings and discussions are being held with the Division of Employment Security to determine needed upgrades and to refine how job center personnel can best use these technologies for their clients. This effort will also include making assessment and evaluation of AT needs throughout Alaska's one-stop job centers to build AT capacity at these centers by facilitating hands-on AT training sessions for one-stop staff and partners. AT funds may also be used, in conjunction with existing job-center partner resources, to purchase items to ensure adequate AT resources are available for the public at these sites. This will facilitate the ability to adequately demonstrate AT throughout Alaska as well as ensure AT access for the public at these job centers after the demonstrations are over. This will continue in year 2 and year 3.

### **Goal 3: Improving Access to Assistive Technology in Community Living**

In building upon recent success with the Independent Living Centers throughout the State, ATLA now has collaborative agreements with the Kenai Peninsula Independent Living Center (KPILC), the Southeast Alaska Independent Living Center (SAIL) and the Fairbanks branch office of ACCESS Alaska. Through a collaborative effort with the State Independent Living Council (SILC), ATLA was able to split costs of equipment in building an AT demonstration site at each location. ATLA will continue traveling to each site over the next two years to provide information and technical assistance in an Open House format so that their agency and their constituents are familiar with the equipment.

ATLA continues to work on two possible AT demonstration homes in the Fairbanks and Juneau areas. The purpose of which is to display working assistive technologies in a home setting that all residents of the community will have access to. These settings are more in line with the community living aspect of AT and include technologies that are designed to increase independence.

The hospitality industry has been targeted during year 2 and 3. ATLA sent letters and called hotels in the Anchorage area sharing information about AT and accessibility and offering assistance with enhancing their ability to serve individuals with disabilities. Additionally, ATLA has purchased an "ADA kit" and shown it to hotels and businesses so they are aware of simple accommodations that can be on hand when people with disabilities choose to stay at their facility. This has been met with some success and ACCESS Alaska has assisted by taking it to businesses outside of Anchorage when they travel. This has resulted in a request by a Fairbanks IL Center to



purchase more to show their local employers. In addition, information has been presented at the Anchorage Municipal Disability Council and they too are collaborating with ATLA and with other disability organizations in events for individuals with disabilities. Hundreds of brochures and desk reference cards have been distributed during these activities.

#### **Goal 4: Improve Access to Information Technology and Telecommunications**

The IT and Telecommunications within the Anchorage area have been targeted for these activities. ATLA's lead staff person that specializes in technologies for hearing and vision has approached Alaska Communications Systems (ACS), a statewide leader in telephone and computer communications and ongoing discussions are being held to assist them with better understanding the needs of deaf and hard of hearing individuals in using their systems. Future training for their front line staff is being sought to reduce the barriers that individuals face when attempting to obtain a phone that works for them. This has resulted in their company testing cellphones for hearing aid accessibility when introduced to the market. This process will continue during years 2 and 3.

#### **Goal 5: Improve Acquisition of Assistive Technology in Education**

ATLA has sought to reduce the barriers to acquisition of AT through providing information regarding funding sources, hosting a "Swap Shop" on our website and providing individuals across the state with marking materials that explain and steer them towards the Swap Shop. ATLA does Medicaid, Medicare, waivers and third party insurance filing for durable medical equipment, (primarily communication devices and closed circuit televisions (CCTV) as a "courtesy" so that individuals of all ages can acquire the technology they need. During years 2 and 3, ATLA plans to continue providing this service as well as provide individuals with other possible funding sources for non-speech generating devices and CCTVs.

Onsite discussions and calls to school administrators and instructors regarding the need for and use of AT in the classroom and use of the IEP to ensure its acquisition occurs regularly through ATLA's K-12 specialist. ATLA's E-newsletter also reaches a vast number of educators and administrators that have signed up with ATLA's listserv at conferences and onsite visits. This will continue through years 2 and 3.

**Goal 6: Improve Acquisition of Assistive Technology in Employment**

ATLA has developed a strong relationship with the State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Veteran's Administration Vocational Rehabilitation program and the State Department of Labor (Job Centers). By educating counselors and employment security specialists on the value of having the appropriate technology for their job seekers, the goal is to increase employment of their clients through the purchase of appropriate technology using agency funding.

Employers at Chamber of Commerce luncheons and at one-on-one meetings have been educated on statistics that show how low cost and no cost solutions can reduce their rate of losing long term employees. They are shown how simple solutions can allow them to keep valuable employees instead of having to hire inexperienced workers to fill the void left by the employee with the disability that could no longer do the job without accommodation. The success of this approach, however, seems to happen less frequently than desired given that many employers continue to see assistive technology as a "high costs" undertaking. ATLA will continue working on breaking down this barrier.

ATLA shares information regarding our website at all events and meeting with employers and employer related agencies. Completion of the Employer section of the website is slated for late July. From this site, links to Employer incentives, tax breaks, disability information and other helpful information will assist employers with the proper implementation of AT and the accommodation process.

The employer handbooks are completed and a second printing and CD format will occur within the next quarter as they are distributed. These handbooks contain much of the same information as will be on the website and will easily be transferred there to complete that section.

**Goal 7: Improve Acquisition to Assistive Technology in Community Living**

By setting up new demonstration centers in Juneau, Kenai / Soldotna, and Fairbanks in the Independent Living Centers and at the Stone Soup Group in Anchorage, individuals have more access to try out a variety of assistive technologies that can enhance their ability to decide if the technology will work for them. Within the AT process (Awareness / Selection / Trial / Acquisition / Implementation), the

ability to try out AT is often the determining factor whether or not individuals will ever obtain what they need. Now that they can access technologies closer to their home and ultimately purchase the technology. ATLA continues to train staff at the IL centers on proper use and selection with the hope that they (IL staff) will eventually have the skills to assist their client directly. ATLA also carries a 30 day money back guarantee on all technologies purchased through ATLA so that clients at these remote locations have a no-risk option should it be determined later that it is not a good fit for them. IL staff are also shown the Swap Shop so that they can assist their clients locally with finding AT across the state that may be appropriate. The Swap Shop has had thousands of "hits" since inception and through marketing it is hoped that this will be the first point of contact for many who need to either acquire a new technology or put a technology they can no longer use in a place where others can benefit.

Onsite demonstration at locations traveled to throughout Alaska. This will continue through ATLA and communities will continue to be visited in a manner that serves both the population centers and the outlying "bush" areas of Alaska. ATLA will continue to develop the ability to reach outlying areas that have existing videoconference facilities. This network presently extends from the population centers to the smallest villages in bush Alaska with centers being located generally in the school system. Eventually, ATLA imagines creating a network of these programs that work together across the state and work in collaboration with the One Stop and Independent Living AT demonstration centers, to exchange devices and knowledge.

In all of the above plans, ATLA is working toward establishing conveniently located device demonstration centers that individuals can easily reach. It is also working on plans for presenting device demonstrations that are "mobile" and take place in various locations throughout the zone. Regardless of how they operate, the demonstration programs will be designed to offer individuals with disabilities, their families, and professionals the opportunity to experience a number of different devices while being guided by experts. Allowing them to compare and contrast different devices will help them to make an informed decision about what device to purchase or whether to purchase a device at all.

## **Attachment 6: Comparable Support**

6.1 Source and Amount of Support – Identify the State-level activity for which there is comparable support, the source of this support, the

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amount of the support, and the project year for which this support is being provided.

**Alternative Financing Program (AFP):**

The State of Alaska's Assistive Technology AFP provides loans to individuals with disabilities and their families for the purchase of AT devices and services. This AFP became officially adopted as a state program through the passage of state legislation back in 1995 (AS 23.15). The program was then implemented by the State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in 1996 using funds provided under the AT federal grant and is called the Assistive Technology Loan Guarantee Fund (ATLGF). Since that time, the program has evolved into a self-sustaining state loan program. The AFP may solicit and accept available public and private money for distribution from the fund. The ATLGF had contributions of \$350,000 as of August 2006.

The States Assistive Technology Program administers the ATLGF with the assistants of a financial institution Northrim Bank. Northrim has agreed to provide and service financial loans to individuals with disabilities or their families for the purchase of AT. Individuals with disabilities or their families apply through Northrim Bank who works with the AT Coordinator to determine if the applicants have a disability and if an AT loan will benefit the applicant. Northrim Bank evaluates the applicant's credit risk. Most applicants for an AT loan are referred by Independent Living Centers and ATLA. The ATLGF has limited marketing due to the relative small funding balance but can be accessed across the state.

Northrim will review a loan application for the purchase of AT in the same manner it reviews other loan applications. Northrim will determine the level of assistance an applicant will need. Loan assistance includes either guaranteeing the loan so that Northrim will provide it or offering to buy down the interest on the loan so the individual with a disability can afford it.

The AT program will ensure that Northrim continues to enforce policies which prohibit them from denying a loan to an individual based on race, age, type of disability, type of device needed. The size of the loans is limited to a minimum of \$2,000. An applicant may be denied a loan based on credit history or financial consideration other than income that may limit the applicant's ability to pay the loan back. However, because of the guarantee, the ATLGF will support loans to individuals with credit scores below the standard for typical loans.

Over the next two years, the AT Program will work with Northrim to expand and improve the ATLGF. Plans for expansion and improvement over the next three years include:

1. Expand usage of these funds so more consumers across the state access these funds over the next 2 years.
  2. Work with the AT Advisory Committee to evaluate the loan ratio to available funds and reducing it from 100% to a lower amount to allow more loans to be issued.
  3. Increase marketing efforts to improve outreach to rural communities and general public
- 6.2 Comparability -- Demonstrate that this support is comparable in terms of funding and that the activities are comparable in terms of scope.

As described above, this program is in alignment with consumer targets and the overall scope listed under the current AT act relative to Alternative Financing Program (AFP). Regarding actual loan funding availability, our current AT loan program currently exceeds the amount we could allocate for this purpose under existing AT funds.

- 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.

Described above

**Attachment 7: State Flexibility**

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

Not applicable. Alaska is carrying out each state-level activity.

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

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

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

## **Attachment 8: State Leadership Activities**

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**

As described in section 5, over the next two years, the state lead contractor, ATLA will provide training to a variety of populations including the employment, human services, health services, educational, government and private sector. Training activities will include:

- Presentations on AT at professional conferences
- Videoconference training to local educators, employers and the public through the statewide videoconference network
- Onsite training seminars at remote and large communities
- DVD training modules
- One on one individualized training
- Audio conference training to individuals with AT
- WEB based training to individuals with AT
- Website assistance with AT assessment, identification, process, implementation and follow-up

These methods of training will be applied with a focus on the following sectors:

- Education professionals (special education teachers, speech therapists, occupational and physical therapists). The state lead contractor will present and provide an informational booth at conferences for the special education teachers, statewide directors of special education and state special education conference on a yearly basis. ATLA will enlist the services of renowned AT professionals across the nation as funding allows.
  - ATLA will seek to establish contracts with school districts statewide to provide AT research, consultation, device selection assistance, implementation and follow up services for educators, parents and students. Training will include overviews of AT, specific areas of AT, individual AT item

- demonstration and training and onsite/online assistance with students using AT. These contracts will be developed at a level comfortable for the individual school district and be renegotiated yearly based upon usage and future needs.
- Given the vast geographic challenges between Alaskan communities, ATLA will continue and expand upon using videoconference technologies to provide regular training to education professional linked to the statewide videoconference system. Presentations will be designed to take advantage of the technology by incorporating computer demonstration of software and use of multimedia in conjunction with face to face question and answer regarding the AT being demonstrated.
  - ATLA will work with individuals in the university system to develop an AT course for students at local universities enrolled into education majors. The course will be marketed to the statewide university system for inclusion as a requirement for students in a special education track. The course will be videotaped for possible use as a telecourse for future and outlying areas.
- Training for employment professionals. ATLA will continue to provide training to employers and perform outreach to Alaska's employers.
    - Outreach activities will include distributing marketing materials (brochures, rack cards, business cards, informational articles, etc.) and presentations at Chambers of Commerce, Rotary and Human Resource organizations.
    - ATLA will expand upon the Employer AT Handbooks developed and distributed in the previous year through updates / development of additional sections to be distributed at AT presentations around the state.
    - ATLA will expand upon the Employer AT Handbooks developed and distributed in the previous year through updates and development of more handbooks to be distributed at AT presentations across the state.
    - The new website of ATLA will have a section devoted entirely to employers. The information will include information regarding the ADA, funding of AT, employer tax incentives and forms and information regarding the benefits of



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providing AT to employees and customers for access to their products and services.

- Training for human services professionals.
  - ATLA currently provides training to the State Vocational Rehabilitation agency counselors and staff on an as needed basis. Formal trainings to specific regions will be provided as staff travel to various offices around the state. This is done on a paid contract and this contract is renegotiated yearly to meet the needs of VR staff and consumers. The lead contractor will expand this type of training through negotiation with other rehabilitation and human services providers to include the Veteran's Administration Vocational Rehabilitation Program, Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation, school district personnel, one stops, private rehabilitation agencies and other human services organizations through marketing via flyers, brochures, email notifications and posting training sessions on the website.
- Training for Centers for Independent Living.
  - ATLA has Memorandums of Agreement with three of the four Centers for Independent Living for AT demonstration sites that will include onsite training for IL staff on proper use and implementation of AT at their site.

ATLA will also customize training for organizations that request training on specific topics or for specific audiences.

### **Technical Assistance**

ATLA provides technical assistance on AT related to Augmentative Communication, Blindness and Visually Impaired, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Learning Disabilities, Cognitive Disabilities ,and Computer access. This assistance includes device awareness, selection, training, implementation and follow up assistance.

- The state lead contractor provides technical assistance on AT products and services per request from all populations. These services are provided via contract with human service agencies, private funding from individuals not covered under targeted underserved populations and through grant funding for those targeted populations (low income, no supports, youth, seniors, etc.) that have limited means with which to pay for services.

- Types of AT technical assistance provided by the contractor include:
  - Telephone Information and Referral
  - Research on devices and software
  - Device and software troubleshooting
  - Onsite visits to determine possible AT solutions
  - WebX training to individuals needing assistance with software
- ATLA will develop digital recordings of training sessions to be available upon request as a DVD or internet based file that can be accessed with media players. This will provide greater access to AT technical assistance and training across the state and maximize the efficiency of the AT specialists with the state lead contractor.

## **Transition**

ATLA recognizes the importance of AT for students with disabilities that receive transition services and for adults with disabilities who need assistive technology to maintain and/or transition to community living.

### Transition for Youth:

During the first year of this state plan, ATLA worked with State Transition grants and did training sessions for the Southeast Alaska Independent Living Center (SAIL) for students, educators, parents and care providers. ATLA will also present AT services at the Special Education Directors Conference, the Alaska Special Education Conference (ASSEC) and the Alaska Society for Technology in Education (ASTE) in years 2 and 3.

- ATLA established contracts with two school districts and will try to establish AT service contracts with additional school districts in Alaska with an emphasis on meeting the needs of students in transition. ATLA staff will seek to work with special education instructors and directors to identify students that can benefit from AT and assist with proper AT selection, demonstration, training and implementation of the AT into the student's curriculum and IEP.
- Training will be held onsite and through distance delivery for local educators throughout the year and will take advantage of

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videoconferencing to reach outlying districts and schools. This training will have an emphasis on students in transition and inclusion of AT into the curriculum where appropriate and necessary.

#### Adult Transition / Community Living:

ATLA has collaborative agreements with six community based organizations, Alaska Center for Blind and Visually Impaired, Stone Soup, Special Education Service Agency and three Independent Living Centers. They are completing an agreement with an additional Independent Living Center located in Kotzebue. ATLA will provide demonstrations, trainings, technical assistance, and assist in providing access to AT that will enable individuals with disabilities to remain in their communities or transition to community living.

- Trainings will be held at Independent Living Centers and Senior Centers around Alaska. Individuals and staff will be made aware of AT and will be able to try out the technology that will assist adults with independence and access in areas of living, specifically vision, hearing, and communication. Other professionals and organizations will collaborate with ATLA in the areas of mobility, transportation and activities of daily living.
- ATLA will continue to make presentations about the benefits of AT to individuals/family members, organizations, health fairs and at conferences. The hands on demonstration and information about the loan program will be a part of all presentations.
- ATLA has attended Health Fairs around the state and provided demonstrations of AT that can be used to keep individuals in their homes and/or communities.
- ATLA has worked directly with Senior Centers, independent living programs and developmental disability groups in Nome and Kotzebue sharing information, providing demonstrations and trainings related to AT. During the second year ATLA will help establish smaller, more personal demonstration centers in Nome and at the hospital in Kotzebue.
- ATLA will seek to establish AT services contracts and/or cooperative agreements with other public and private organizations and businesses including assisted living centers, senior centers, senior groups, eye doctors, audiologists, etc. that assist adults with

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disabilities. The emphasis will be to provide awareness, access to and training and support of AT in home and community settings

**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.

As described earlier, over the next two years, ATLA will engage in a variety of marketing and public awareness activities (mailings, Internet, exhibits, presentations, and trainings) to increase awareness about the benefits of assistive technology devices and services, their availability, funding for AT devices and services, and policies related to AT. ATLA employs a web designer and media specialist to provide marketing and dissemination of information regarding AT. This is primarily done through the lead agency website, brochures, cards, CD's, advertisements in local paper and radio, email announcements to interested individuals and through onsite visits.

The Division will require ATLA to negotiate cooperative public awareness activities such as demonstrations and presentations that include local employment, human services, health services and disability related service providers. The two-fold purpose is to increase awareness and knowledge of AT and to provide the opportunity for local providers to network on AT issues related to their clients.

**Information and Referral.** ATLA's toll free line provides free information and referral services on AT for people of all ages with all disabilities. Family members, services providers and others who work in fields related to disabilities or AT may also use this service. The staff provides information to those who call on the availability, benefits, appropriateness and cost of AT devices and services.

**Newsletter** – ATLA will continue to publish a bi-monthly E-newsletter and distribute it to over 600 individuals who provide their email addresses for direct distribution. The newsletter will contain areas for information on new AT, funding sources, local resources and advertise where upcoming training sessions will be held.

**Web site** – The website will contain an online swap shop for AT recycling and reutilization, listservers for specific areas of AT, device and software descriptions, links to nationally recognized AT websites, direct email links to ATLA staff for consultation and referral and will be accessible and user-friendly to screen reading technologies.

**Publications** – ATLA will expand upon the Employer AT Handbook and develop additional handbooks for state educators, human services professionals and health care professionals over the next three years.

**Onsite demonstrations** – When traveling, ATLA staff will conduct AT demonstration presentations and seminars at community centers. Staff will work with local human services organizations, one stop job centers, independent living centers and other helping organizations to advertise the seminars via radio, flyers and email to ensure awareness and attendance.

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.

In the past year, ATLA engaged in a campaign to develop collaborative agreements between the lead state agency and disability related organizations statewide in an attempt to increase both the knowledge and availability of A.T. devices and services in local areas. To date, six of the agreements have been signed and one more is slated to be signed by October 31, 2006.

As stated in section 5, the current programs involved in this effort include:

1. Alaska Center for Blind and Deaf Adults – Anchorage
2. Stone Soup Group – Anchorage
3. Access Alaska – Fairbanks
4. Kenai Peninsula Independent Living Center – Soldotna
5. Southeast Alaska Independent Living Center – Juneau
6. Special Education Service Agency – SESA – Anchorage (statewide services)

Over the next two years, starting with a baseline of 6 agreements ATLA will continue to seek out collaborative agreements with agencies and programs that serve the needs of individuals with disabilities. Within those agreements, the following areas are targeted:

- Cross training with staff at demonstration sites

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- Shared equipment loan tracking
- Shared financial assistance for demonstration AT
- Cross referral when appropriate
- Shared responsibility for maintenance of demonstration AT
- Joint efforts in assisting with Statewide AT Policy and the State Advisory Committee

By increasing the availability of AT in more communities through demonstration sites and increasing AT awareness in the human services, health care and rehabilitation fields through cross training, individuals should have their AT needs met in a more informed and comprehensive manner.

## **Attachment 9: Involvement of Public and Private Entities**

A variety of individuals were involved in the development of this State Plan for Assistive Technology. Members of the Governor's Committee (i.e. State AT Advisory Council) participated as did professional level staff who are experienced in AT and individuals who have a disability and use assistive technology. Weekly teleconferences were conducted for over two months to gain input into the development of this AT Plan.

- 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.

The Division which is the Lead Agency, will work closely with the lead contractor ATLA. Each year ATLA generates approximately \$125,000 from fees-for-service and puts these funds directly back into the AT program. These funds are used to pursue and accomplish the identified AT goals and objectives.

- 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.

Although the Division will not be appointing an implementing entity, ATLA will be the primary contractor and will ensure the delivery of a program that is statewide and comprehensive. The Division will develop and administer a contract to be awarded to ATLA. The contract will set forth the activities and goals that must be conducted by ATLA. The Division's Grants Administrator and the AT Program Director will monitor the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives. ATLA will provide fiscal reports to the Division on a quarterly basis and narrative and statistical reports biannually. The Grants Administrator will ensure that copies of the fiscal, statistical and narrative reports are submitted to the Standing Committee on AT. A review team, comprised of staff from the Division and specified members of the Standing Committee on AT will conduct an onsite evaluation of ATLA's AT Program following the first year of the contract, and every three years afterwards. Technical assistance from the Division will be available to ATLA on an ongoing basis.

- 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).

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The Governor's Committee has recruited ad hoc members to meet the composition requirements of the AT Advisory Council as stipulated in the AT Act of 1998 as amended. Members of the Governor's Committee, the Standing Committee on AT and Division staff have met telephonically on a monthly basis and participated in the development of this AT Plan. This group participated in setting general goals and providing feedback on how activities are to be carried out. Division staff formally met with the Full Committee during their face-to-face quarterly meeting and provided AT updates explained the purpose and responsibility of the AT Advisory Council.

As stated in attachment 3, the Standing Committee on AT will meet telephonically on a monthly basis and also during quarterly meetings of the Full Committee. The Standing Committee on AT will review and evaluate on a quarterly basis the progress made on AT goals and activities. They will also participate in developing additional measurable goals and objectives. Advice will be given to the Full Committee regarding any recommendations or necessary adjustments.



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**Attachment 10: State Support**

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

Not applicable for Alaska.

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.

Not applicable for Alaska

**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).

AT expenditures will be tracked in the State of Alaska's accounting system, which uses accounting structures to track expenditures by federal grant on either a state or federal fiscal year. The accounting structures keep track of line item expenditures for each grant. Majority of the AT funds will be granted to ATLA for the State Level and State Leadership activities.

ATLA uses Quick Books to monitor grant expenditures. Quick Books assigns grant codes to track specific funding source expenditures. ATLA's staff time working on AT activities will be tracked using Quick Books Time Tracker. ATLA will report AT financial activity quarterly to the State.

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

The following are proposed budget allocations for State Leadership and State Level Activities for Year 2 this State Plan.

<b>Proposed Allocation</b>	<b>Distribution</b>	<b>Total Award Amount</b> <b>\$376,000</b>
State Level	60%	\$185,500
State Leadership	40%	\$142,500
<i>Leadership Activities</i>	<i>95% (of 40%)</i>	<i>\$135,375</i>
<i>Transition</i>	<i>5% (of 40%)</i>	<i>\$ 7,125</i>
Personal Services		\$ 25,000
Indirect Costs (Rate 19% of Personal Services)		\$ 7,750
Travel		\$ 7,000
Commodities		\$ 3,000
Contractual		\$ 5,250
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$376,000</b>

Within the above budget, Alaska proposes to apportion funds for specific activities in the following manner for year 2.

State of Alaska, Revised AT Plan, July '06

<b>State Level Activities</b>	<b>Proposed Allocation</b>
State Financing Activities	\$18,000
Device Reutilization Program	\$18,000
Device Loan Program	\$77,500
Device Demonstration Program	\$72,000
<b>State Leadership Activities Allocation</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
Training and Technical Assistance Activities	\$60,000
Transition	\$12,350
Public Awareness Activities	\$52,150
Coordination and Collaboration	\$18,000